Example Syllabus
Technology, Security and Insecurity in Global Politics
FIS 431

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Office: Interdisciplinary B, Room 366
Office Hours: MTWHF 0:00-0:00 or by appointment

Course description:

This course focuses on the international political aspects of technological change, and examines the impact of technological innovation and political change on the international political system. It is especially designed for students in Innovation and Society program, and students from other majors interested in the variable of technology in political systems. The overall goal is to create an awareness of and ability to analyze and synthesize world events, the particular role of technology, and consider the myriad of ways that globalization and technology as a main driver could be changing the international system of nation-states. As well, technological innovation often takes place within a political context, including international politics, as nation-states and other entities develop technologies within the context of competition and power. There are several issues that will run throughout the course as major themes. One is the role of technology in political and social change, and the impact of the latter on the former. The other focuses on ethical questions and considerations, of which there are many in all of the subjects we will cover. Another of our main goals, then, is to raise the interesting and important ethical questions with each topic and have broad discussions that will consider many different viewpoints.

Course objectives and learning outcomes:

Specifically, the objectives of the course are that you will:

- Understand how theoretical approaches help us understand the role of technology on the behavior of nation-states and other actors in the global arena.
- Identify significant trends and possible changes in the current dynamics of the international state system, particularly due to globalization and technological change.
- Discuss and analyze ethical considerations regarding technology and international politics.
- Research two contemporary issues related to the themes of the class and write two short papers describing, analyzing objectively, and then forming an opinion about the issues.

Course Requirements:

There are two short (5-7 pages, double spaced) papers that will be due during the semester as noted on the schedule. These papers are described in detail in the Papers section of the website. Three online quizzes will be given, one for each module, which may include multiple choice and short essay or answer questions, and be based on the reading materials and the lectures.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Lecture</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Seminar</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pop News Article Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>First Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Research Presentation</td>
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<td>Second Paper</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Barrett students interested in adding an **honors contract** to the class should contact the instructor in the first week of classes.

**Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A/-</td>
<td>90.0-92.4/</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/</td>
<td>92.5-97.9/</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A+/</td>
<td>98-100</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0-82.4/</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/</td>
<td>82.5-87.4/</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B+/</td>
<td>87.5-89.9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C/</td>
<td>70.0-77.4/</td>
<td>Average</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.5-79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0-69.9</td>
<td>Passing</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>Failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>XE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Failure due to Academic Dishonesty</td>
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[Note: in order to receive University Distribution requirement credit you must earn at least a “C.”]

**Course Calendar and Reading Assignments:**

- Choucri, N. (2012). *Cyberpolitics in International Relations*. MIT.
- Journal and media articles

The course is divided into three modules, each approximately 4-5 weeks. The first module will approach international politics in a traditional way, using the theories of realism and idealism to understand the potential impact of technology on the behavior of states and how they relate to each other. Since technology is usually assumed to be an element in a nation-state’s power, issues relating to warfare, such as nuclear weapons and the use of information and communications technologies will be examined. The second module will look at the unevenness of global technological development and the political discourse between the global north and global south. The third and final dialogue will deal with the status of the nation-state, addressing the current premise that the current era of globalization (inherently involving technology) is weakening the state, and potentially changing culture and political affiliations.

**MODULE 1:**

1 Readings: Chapters Herrera, and supplemental

- Introduction to the course
- Technology as a variable – definition of technology
- Theories of technology – hard and soft determinism
- Technological determinism as a cultural artifact in Western culture

2 Readings: Chapters from Boyer
- Concepts used in studying international politics
- Contemporary theories of international politics – realism, idealism, neoliberalism, neorealism, constructivism
- What the theories predict in terms of technology and international politics

3 Readings: Chapters from Boyer and Herrera, plus supplemental
- Nuclear technology and international politics
- Cold War and post Cold War politics of nuclear proliferation and non-proliferation
- Ethical questions and introduction to ethics
- Readings: NPT Treaty websites, current news

4 Readings: Chapters from Boyer and Browning
- Revolution in Military Affairs
- Asymmetric warfare and the rules of war
- Just and unjust war
- Hi-tech warfare and ethical issues

MODULE 2:

1 Readings: Chapters from Choucri
- Globalization and information technology revolution
- Information and communications technologies (ICTs)
- Cyber security and insecurity – securitization of cyber threats

2 Readings: Chapters from Choucri, Browning, and supplemental
- Uneven access to ICTs
- ICTs and power relations
- ICTS and diplomacy

3 Readings: Chapters from Boyer
- Politics of international aid and trade
- Politics of intellectual property

4 Readings: Chapters from Boyer, Browning and supplemental (Drori)
- Globalization and the distribution of power
- Cultural imperialism and the North-South discourse
- Local empowerment

MODULE 3:

1 Readings: Chapters from Boyer, and supplemental
- Origins of the Westphalian nation-state system
Current relevance of the Westphalian system

2 Readings: Chapters from Boyer, Herrera, Browning
- Globalization, transnationality and the nation-state
- Technology, Sovereignty, and impact on the nation-state
- Evolution of the system

4 Readings: Supplemental (Appiah)
- Ethnic and national identities
- Culture and cosmopolitanism

This syllabus is subject to change. It is your responsibility to read e-mail updates from the instructor and TAs as well as check the blackboard site for alterations made as events occur.

Incompletes: A mark of "I" (incomplete) can be given by the instructor when you are otherwise doing acceptable work but are unable to complete the course because of illness or other conditions beyond your control. You are required to arrange with the instructor for the completion of the course requirements. The arrangement must be recorded using the form at http://students.asu.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-request. Students should be proactive and discuss this with their instructor and TA before the end of the semester. Students who do not complete this form before the end of the semester cannot be given an incomplete and will be awarded a grade based on the work they have completed.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will have 1/3 of a letter grade deducted each day they are late. Advanced written or e-mailed notice that you will miss a class or have to turn in an assignment late could help your cause.

Grade Appeals: ASU has formal and informal channels to appeal a grade. If you wish to appeal any grading decisions, please see: http://catalog.asu.edu/appeal

Student Standards: Students are required to read and act in accordance with university and Arizona Board of Regents policies, including: The ABOR Code of Conduct: Arizona Board of Regents Policies 5-301 through 5-308: http://www.azregents.edu/policymanual/default.aspx

Professionalism in the Classroom: While learning happens throughout ASU, the classroom is a particularly important focal point. Students are asked to contribute to a collegial atmosphere where ideas can be exchanged, discussed, and debated freely by avoiding disruptions through their own behavior and the distractions of their technology. Disruptive, threatening or violent behavior will be dealt with according to the policies in the Student Services Manual, SSM 104–02. Students wishing to record lectures electronically must first get permission from the instructor.

It is impossible to learn from your fellow students when you or they are not there. As such attendance is required in this course. Should you have to miss a class, contact your instructor as far in advance as possible. Depending on the nature of the absence the instructor may elect to deduct points from your overall grade. Absences can be excused for religious observances or practices that are in accord with ACD 304–04 or university sanctioned events/activities that are in accord with ACD 304–02.
**Academic Integrity:** Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see [http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity](http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity).

If you fail to meet the standards of academic integrity in any of the criteria listed on the university policy website, sanctions will be imposed by the instructor, school, and/or dean. Academic dishonesty includes borrowing ideas without proper citation, copying others’ work (including information posted on the internet), and failing to turn in your own work for group projects. Please be aware that if you follow an argument closely, even if it is not directly quoted, you must provide a citation to the publication, including the author, date, and page number. If you directly quote a source, you must use quotation marks and provide the same sort of citation for each quoted sentence or phrase. You may discuss assignments with other students, however, all writing that you turn in must be done independently. If you have any doubt about whether the form of cooperation you contemplate is acceptable, ask the TA or the instructor in advance of turning in an assignment. Please be aware that the work of all students submitted electronically can be scanned using SafeAssignment, which compares them against everything posted on the internet, online article/paper databases, newspapers and magazines, and papers submitted by other students. Turning in an assignment (all or in part) that you completed for a previous class is considered self-plagiarism and falls under these guidelines. Any infractions of self-plagiarism are subject to the same penalties as copying someone else’s work without proper citations. Students who have taken this class previously and would like to use the work from previous assignments should contact the instructor for permission to do so.

**Prohibition of Commercial Note Taking Services:** In accordance with [ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services](http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity), written permission must be secured from the official instructor of the class in order to sell the instructor's oral communication in the form of notes. Notes must have the note taker’s name as well as the instructor's name, the course number, and the date.

**Student Support and Disability Accommodations:** In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Disability Resource Center (DRC) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. [Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible to receive academic support services and accommodations](http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity). Eligibility is based on qualifying disability documentation and assessment of individual need. Students who believe they have a current and essential need for disability accommodations are responsible for requesting accommodations and providing qualifying documentation to the DRC. Every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Qualified students who wish to request an accommodation for a disability should contact their campus DRC at: [http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/](http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/) If you are a student in need of special arrangements we will do all we can to help, based on the recommendations of these services. For the sake of equity for all students, we cannot make any accommodations without formal guidance from these services.

**Sexual Violence and Harassment:** Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at [http://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs/students](http://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs/students).
Drop and Add Dates/Withdrawals: Please refer to the academic calendar on the deadlines to drop/withdraw from this course. Consult with your advisor and notify your instructor if you are going to drop/withdraw this course. If you are considering a withdrawal, review the following policies: Withdrawal from Classes, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal.

Email Communications
All email communication for this class will be done through your ASU email account and the blackboard site. You should be in the habit of checking your ASU email regularly as you will not only receive important information about your class(es), but other important university updates and information. You are solely responsible for reading and responding if necessary to any information communicated via email. For help with your email go to: http://help.asu.edu/sims/selfhelp/SelfHelpHome.seam?dept_pk=822 and file a help desk ticket by clicking on “My Help Center.”

Campus Resources: As an ASU student you have access to many resources on campus. This includes tutoring, academic success coaching, counseling services, financial aid, disability resources, career and internship help and many opportunities to get involved in student clubs and organizations.
  - Tutoring: https://tutoring.asu.edu/tutoring
  - Counseling Services: http://students.asu.edu/counseling
  - Financial Aid: http://students.asu.edu/financialaid
  - Major/Career Exploration: https://cls.asu.edu/majorexploration
  - Career Services: http://students.asu.edu/career
  - Student Organizations: http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/mu/clubs/