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International Futures

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Title:	International Futures
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Course Generalization: One statement that describes the primary take-away of the course	In International Futures students will acquire knowledge of international affairs as well as a set of analytical tools that will enable them to understand the complexity of current international political situations and forecast future scenarios. With these tools students will survey the main issues facing the international political system in the near future and the key forces that will influence their direction.
Course Objectives:	
Course Overview:	Will the world's nations uphold the commitments made in the Paris Agreement that set ambitious new targets for limiting global warming? What will be the impact whether they do or don't? What direction will the price of oil take and, equally important, what will be its effect on the economies and politics of Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the countries in their spheres of influence? Will

	<p>nation states continue to draw together in communities such as the European Union or be fragmented by the nationalist forces that divide them? These are just a few of the many questions on the minds of policy makers around the world. The decisions they make today require forecasting the trajectory of situations, with and without interventions of various kinds.</p> <p>Significant forces shape the socio-political world such as information, communication, and other technologies; demographic/agricultural transitions; financial globalization; the energy transition from fossil fuels; climate change and its effects on the weather; and global democratization. Serious analysis of global affairs requires an understanding of these forces, the primary issues to which they give rise, and the debates over country-specific and multilateral policy responses to the issues.</p> <p>In PSC 373 International Futures we will put ourselves in the position of international policy makers and get directly involved in the process of international political forecasting and analysis. In International Futures we will acquire and use a set of analytical tools both for understanding the complexity of current international political situations as well as for forecasting future scenarios. With these tools we will survey the main issues facing the international political system in the near future and the key forces that will influence their direction.</p> <p>Prerequisite(s): Any 100-level or higher level International Politics course. This course assumes you are familiar with the basic historical and theoretical foundations of international relations.</p>
Topic Outline:	See Syllabus and Course Schedule
Resources:	<p>Required Reading and Resources</p> <p>Required Texts:</p> <p>World Politics Trend and Transformation, 2016-2017 Edition By Shannon L. Blanton and Charles W. Kegley ISBN-10: 1305504879 ISBN-13: 9781305504875 Best prices for the textbook are on BarnesandNoble.com or as an ebook from the publisher.</p> <p>The Post-American World: Release 2.0 By Fareed Zakaria, W. W. Norton & Company (May 21, 2012) ISBN-10: 0393340384</p> <p>“Framework foresight: Exploring futures the Houston way,” by Andy Hines and Peter Bishop, Futures, 07/01/2013, Volume: 51, Page: 31-49.</p> <p>Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds By Mathew Burrows, US National Intelligence Council (December 9, 2012) Free download: http://www.dni.gov/index.php/about/organization/global-trends-2030</p>

	<p>Optional Supporting Text:</p> <p>Thinking about the Future: Guidelines for Strategic, 2nd Edition by Andy Hines and Peter Bishop, Hinesight (November 24, 2015) Available on Amazon.com</p> <p>Additional sources in the form of readings, video, podcasts, etc. are assigned throughout the semester will and are made available in each module folder in Blackboard Learns</p> <p>Current Events in the News Media:</p> <p>Throughout the course you will be expected to follow current world events through the New York Times or another reliable news source.</p> <p>The New York Times Students at Buffalo can get free digital access to the New York Times. Here is a short video with the login instructions http://youtu.be/M32a_XyRMSY.</p> <p>Farred Zakaria GPS is CNN’s flagship world affairs program offering in-depth interviews with world leaders, newsmakers, and analysts who break down the world's toughest problems. New shows are broadcast every Saturday night and Sunday on CNN or on CNN International. Or listen to the Podcast: https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/fareed-zakaria-gps/id377785090?mt=2</p> <p>Other News Sources: The Economist magazine, BBC News, Aljazeera News, The Guardian (UK), the Washington Post, Univision, CNN, or National Public Radio (NPR), Vice on HBO. Though they are presented as entertainment, I also find it interesting to supplement my primary news sources with news from The Daily Show, The Nightly Show, Real Time with Bill Maher, This Week Tonight with John Oliver, and documentaries by VICE on HBO and Frontline on PBS.</p>
<p>Assessment & Reflection:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes based on the chapters in World Politics Trend and Transformation • Class discussions (see Discussion topics below) • International Futures Forecasting Assignment using the worksheet (see more details below)