



Course Syllabus

PS 104: Contemporary Global Issues

1. Class Information

Semester: Fall /Spring 2025-2026 School Year
Section ID: PS 104
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisite: None
Meeting Time: Daily, Period 6/7
Location: In-person WAJ ROOM 212

2. Important Dates

End of Interim 1: October 3, 2025
End of Quarter 1: November 7, 2025
End of Interim 2: December 12, 2025
End of Quarter 2: January 27, 2026
End of Interim 3: February 26, 2026
End of Quarter 3: April 2, 2026
End of Interim 4: May 15, 2026
End of Quarter 4: June 18, 2026

3. Instructor

Name: Kimberly Young
Office: WAJ
Location: 212
Phone Number 518-734- 3400
Email Address: kyoung@wajcs.org

4. Office Hours

By appointment afterschool/lunch/study hall

5. Course Description

- Wars, revolutions, human rights, terrorism, natural and man-made disasters, international trade and economic issues impact the entire global community. This course is designed to acquaint the student with the tools and methods to analyze the historical, political, and industrial precursors leading up to these events. With this practical and theoretical foundation, students will be able to understand and engage in informed discussions about the important global issues in the coming decades.

- *This course fulfills the SUNY General Education requirements for Diversity: Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice.*

6. Textbook

The following text will be used as a guide to this course but most of the readings in the course will be student generated from current world events.

Frieden, J, Lake, D, Schultz, K. (2010). *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. W.W. Norton. ISBN- 9780393927092

An array of primary and secondary sources will be used to supplement the textbook. These sources will be provided by the instructor.

Films (not an all inclusive list):

- Poverty, Inc.
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7. Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of a broad outline of world history through the study of major concepts of social, political, geographic and economic structures in international affairs
- Students will independently analyze and think critically about contemporary issues in global politics
- Students will problem-solve and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the concepts and theories that shed light on critical issues which humans face throughout the world

8. Tentative Course Schedule

- A. Media Literacy
- B. Energy and the Environment: Water, Oceans, Food, Climate Change, Atomic Energy. Frieden, Lake and Schultz: Chapter 12
- C. Economy: Globalization, Inflation, Recession, Volunteerism, Agriculture, Development, Taxation, Regulation, Population. Frieden, Lake, and Schultz: Chapters 6-7
- D. War: Terrorism, Peace and Security, Disarmament, International Law. Frieden, Lake and Schultz: Chapters 3 and 4
- E. Governance: Democracy, Human Rights, Decolonization, the Third World. Frieden, Lake and Schultz: Chapter 11

- F. Social Issues: Women, Immigration, Refugees, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans
- G. Health Care: Covid, AIDS, cancer, heart disease, lung disease, obesity, Aging

9. Course Assignments

- The following outlines assignments for this class:
 - Class Participation/Warmups - Students should come to class each day prepared with all necessary materials and participate fully in all class activities including warmups, discussion, etc.
 - Current Event Papers/Homework - ***Students will write a one page typed paper on a current news event bi-weekly.*** This one page paper should analyze historical data relevant to the development of the event. It should also address the perspective of the different parties involved as well as reliability and potential bias of the news source or sources. **A graphic organizer/guided questions for this assignment will be given.** In addition, other homework assignments may be given.
 - Research Projects- Students will complete several short and at least one longer-sustained research projects on a contemporary global issue of their choice, within given parameters.
 - Final Exam= 1/5 of final grade

A note on time management: since this is a college class, it is expected that students will complete assignments outside of class time. Students should begin assignments, especially writing and research based tasks BEFORE the night they are due to allow time to ask questions, research, and revise before turning in assignments.

10. Evaluation and Grading

Grades will be calculated using a point system. The larger the assignment, the more points. Research papers, extended writing assignments, and unit exams will be worth 100 points each. Discussion questions will be worth 30-100 depending on the unit.. Daily assignments/smaller hw will be worth less than 50 points each.

Below is the college's grade scale. For additional information please review the course grade scale policy in the [College Catalog](#).

Grades	Quality Points per Credit Hour	Numeric Equivalent
A	4.00	93-100
A-	3.67	90-92
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	83-86
B-	2.67	80-82

C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.00	73-76
C-	1.67	70-72
D	1.00	60-69
F	0	0-59
S^	Satisfactory. This grade is given to students who satisfactorily complete all course work in certain transitional courses.	
U	Unsatisfactory. This grade is given to students who do not satisfactorily complete all course work in certain credit or non-credit courses.	

11. Attendance Policy

1. Class participation will be assessed according to participation and conduct. Attendance will be taken, as required by the college. Of all the factors which contribute to success, the one which contributes most is showing up. If you must be absent, please meet with me upon returning, or send me an email so we can make arrangements to review class materials.
2. A late paper or a request to makeup a test will be considered only in the case of emergencies.
3. A student who arrives late to and/or leaves early from class disrupts the learning environment. A student who repeatedly disturbs class in such a manner will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for appropriate action.

12. Academic Integrity

All students must do their own work. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, impersonation, unauthorized use of AI, falsification of records, tampering with academic materials, misrepresentation, unauthorized access to exams. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty can have serious consequences under the student code of conduct. Judiciary procedures and consequences may include the following:

- The first offense will be reported to and documented with the Office of Academic Affairs. Consequences will be determined by the instructor.
- The second offense will require a meeting with the Office of Academic Affairs and may result in a 0 on the assignment and/or a failing grade in the course.
- Subsequent offenses may result in suspension or dismissal.

Examples of the above-mentioned forms of academic dishonesty can be found in the [College Catalog](#) with the full Academic Integrity policy.

13. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Columbia-Greene Community College is committed to creating a learning environment that upholds the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals. As part of this course, we strive to foster a climate of mutual respect, trust, and civility. In alignment with the College's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) vision and values, this course welcomes and supports students from all backgrounds and identities.

This course supports the College's efforts to build a more equitable, inclusive, and supportive academic experience. If you encounter any barriers, please don't hesitate to reach out so we can work together to create a positive learning environment.

14. Student Success Center

The Student Success Center (SSC), located in Suite 113 - Main Building, provides various services and programs to enhance students' academic experiences. These services include peer tutoring, academic coaching, study, testing spaces, student technology help, and numerous workshops.

The Student Success Center also provides students with computer and writing lab spaces, access to free printing, and calculator and laptop loans. Additionally, the SSC has a virtual course in Brightspace that provides tutoring and coaching information and scheduling, previous workshop presentations, and various educational resources.

You can reach staff at studentsuccesscenter@sunycgcc.edu or book an appointment to meet with a team member using this link: [Book an Appointment for The Student Success Center](#).

15. Accessibility Services

Columbia-Greene Community College is committed to providing a learning environment which allows ALL students to access and engage in the curriculum. If a student with a documented disability wishes to request academic adjustments, the student is encouraged to contact The Office of Accessibility Services by email at accessibility_services@sunycgcc.edu as early as possible.

16. Wellness Support

At Columbia-Greene Community College, your well-being is a top priority—physically, mentally, and socially. The Office of Health Services offers routine and emergency nursing care, as well as health education, while ensuring all services respect confidentiality.

Free Mental Health Resources are available through on-campus counseling with a Mental Health Counselor and/or Recovery Prevention Specialist, along with partnerships offering crisis support, screenings, substance-use services, conflict resolution, family planning services, and educational workshops (including NARCAN training).

Visit the [Health Services Webpage](#) for a full list of resources, including but not limited to prevention specialist support, on-campus mental health counseling, SUNY Crisis Text Line, and SUNY Tele-psychiatry Network. Resources are free of charge and can be accessed in person and virtually. Email HealthServices@sunycgcc.edu with questions or to receive more information.