

PALOMAR COLLEGE  
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR  
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

X  Transfer course       X  A.A. degree applicable course

(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** Political Science 125: Contemporary World Problems

**UNIT VALUE:** 3

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:** 48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:** Appropriate language skills

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:** None

**PREREQUISITE:** None  
**COREQUISITE:** None  
**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

Focus is on three issue-areas: war and group conflict; population growth and movement; and change and cultural values. Other current issues may also be examined. CSU; UC

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The successful student will be able to:

1. identify and objectively evaluate the causes of wars, based on an examination of the major 20th century wars.
2. analyze and discuss such phenomena as nationalism, terrorism, religious conflicts, and foreign policies deterring conventional and nuclear war.
3. evaluate demographic trends, focusing especially on environmental policies, "bio thresholds", energy use, and possible climatic change theories.
4. examine the impact of change—economic, cultural, and technological—on human values and institutions, especially the manner in which perceptions and consciousness influences how we identify and understand global "problems."

**CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I. Differing interpretations of "problems", cycles, and trends.
- II. War and group conflict
  - A. Causes and consequences of World War I, II, and Cold War
  - B. Nationalism and foreign policies of modern states
  - C. Weapons: deterrence strategies; nuclear proliferation

- D. Terrorism: causes, tactics, possible "solutions"
- III. Population: growth and movement
  - A. Birth rates in world regions
  - B. Refugees and migrations: economic and political causes
  - C. Impact on environment: food, energy
  - D. "Bio-thresholds": species extinction, climate change, international cooperation and organization
  - E. International economics: trends, trade, "sanctions"
- IV. Change and cultural values
  - A. Communications and the future
  - B. "Future shock"
  - C. Consciousness and individual perceptions
- V. Identifying current Issues

**REQUIRED READING:**

Jackson, Robert M. (ed.) *Global Issues* (current annual edition). Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing.

Articles in reputable newspapers and magazines, such as *The Economist*, *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*.

Articles placed on instructor reserve in library

**SUGGESTED READING:**

Students will be encouraged to subscribe to a weekly news magazine such as *Time* or *Newsweek*.

Students will be encouraged to read a local newspaper daily.

**REQUIRED WRITING:**

One-half of the three exams will be essays. Also, students must maintain and submit a news journal or a 6-10 page research paper.

**OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

Articles on library reserve, journal or research papers, and readings in required periodicals. Three to six hours weekly of outside study necessary for successful completion of course.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

Classroom lecture with group discussions, supplemented with videotapes and maps.

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes  No

If yes, check all that apply. (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
- mediated instruction
- computer assisted instruction

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes  No  Number of times course may be taken for credit: one

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

CONTACT PERSON: Michael Newbrough

<b>SIGNATURES ON FILE</b>
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