

## Draft Outline

*A final course syllabus will be available on the first day of class.*

### UC Washington Program

#### Researching World Politics in Interesting Times Fall Quarter/Semester 2020

Michael Danielson, PhD

Pronouns: he, him, his, himself

Why pronouns matter : <https://lgbt.ucsf.edu/pronounsmatter>

michael.danielson@ucdc.edu

#### **COURSE INSTRUCTOR**

I have taught at UCDC since 2014. I am also a Research Fellow at the American University Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and have taught courses in Latin American politics at various universities in Washington, DC. My book *[Emigrants Get Political: Mexican Migrants Engage Their Home Towns](#)* (Oxford 2018) examines the ways in which Mexican migrants engage with and shape the politics of their home towns. I have also studied the politics of indigenous rights movements in Latin America and am co-editor of *[Latin America's Multicultural Movements and the Struggle Between Communitarianism, Autonomy, and Human Rights](#)* (Oxford 2013). My current research includes projects on the climate–migration nexus, migration and refugee studies, violent democracies in Mexico and Central America, and migrant mayors. When not teaching, I work as an expert consultant on social science research methodology, migration and displacement, and Latin American politics and society. Additionally, I regularly serve as an expert witness on country conditions in Mexico and Honduras in US immigration courts. I am a political scientist by training (PhD 2013, American University) with training in comparative and international politics and hold an MA in International Policy Studies from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) and Spanish and Philosophy degrees from Santa Clara University.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This seminar is designed to help you to critically engage with the dizzying array of problems faced by human societies today and to guide you through the process of developing a significant research paper on a topic of your choice related to world politics. This is *not* a field seminar in international relations. Through a combination of pre-recorded presentations, live lectures and discussions via weekly zoom meetings, required and recommended readings will provide you with theoretical and historical frameworks to identify, diagnose, and devise solutions to problem of world politics. To help you develop your own research, readings, lectures, and discussions will also focus on principles of social science and policy research. To help bring theoretical discussions to life, a central component of the course will involve your participation in the on-line *Statecraft* simulation (<http://www.statecraftsim.com/>). In the simulation students will represent nation-states in a fictitious world, take on the roles of foreign policy decision-makers, and grapple first-hand with the sorts of tradeoffs and responsibilities that characterize world politics. The issues and problems covered during class discussions and that you read and write about will be driven by your own

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geographical and substantive interests. The course is also designed to help you to connect your academic pursuits with your professional development through your internships and experiences immersed in the broader political ecosystem of Washington, DC, albeit remotely.

### REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Engagement	15
Research Question	5
Literature Review	20
Oral Presentation	10
Final Paper	30
Statecraft Simulation Manual Quizzes	5
Statecraft Simulation Memos	10
Statecraft Simulation Performance	5
<u>Total Points Possible</u>	<u>100</u>

1. **Research Question [5 points].** posted to Canvas by **9:00 pm EST on the day before our Week 4 meeting.**
2. **Literature Review [20 points]:** Submission by **9:00 pm EST on the day of our Week 7 meeting** of a 2,000 - 3,000-word review of the literature relevant to your research question to turnitin.com (class id: **TBD**; password: **TBD**).
3. **Oral Presentation of Research Project [10 points].** All students will give a short (5 minute) live, virtual presentation of their research via zoom. Presentation guidelines will be circulated and discussed later in the term.
4. **Final Policy Proposal or Research Paper [30 points].** Submission by **11:59pm EST** on the final day of class of a ~4,000 to 5,000-word paper via turnitin.com (class id: **TBD**; password: **TBD**).
5. **Statecraft Simulation Manual Quizzes [5 points]:** During the first two weeks of the simulation (turn 0 and turn 1) you must complete two short on-line quizzes based on the student manual for the simulation.
6. **Statecraft Simulation Memos [10 points].** You must post a 300-word memo on *Statecraft* **BEFORE** each weekly simulation turn ends.
7. **Statecraft Simulation Performance [5 points].** Performance points are given to each country based on a range of competitive (e.g., healthiest country), cooperative (e.g., global peace), and country development (quality of life) goals.

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### SCHEDULE

- Week 1**     *Introduction: What World Are We Living In?*
- Week 2**     *Framework 1: Violence and Conflict: Hot and Cold, Great and Small*  
→Activities: Statecraft Turn Zero and Manual Quiz
- Week 3**     *Framework 2: International Institutions: Democracy and Global Governance*  
→Activities: Statecraft, Turn 1
- Week 4**     *Research Question Discussions*  
→ASSIGNMENT DUE: Research Question (Night before class meeting)  
→Activities: Statecraft, Turn 2
- Week 5**     *Framework 3: Political Economy: Poverty, Inequality, Development*  
→Activities: Statecraft, Turn 3
- Week 6**     *Framework 4: Identity: Nationalism, Ethnicity, Race, Religion, Ideology*  
→Activities: Statecraft, Turn 4
- Week 7**     →ASSIGNMENT DUE: Literature review  
→Activities: Statecraft, Turn 5

**NOTE: WE WILL USE THE FINAL THREE WEEKS FOR INDEPENDENT WORK ON YOUR RESEARCH, COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH EACH OTHER, ONE-ONE ONE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH PROJECTS.**

- Week 8**     →Activities: Statecraft, Turn 6
- Week 9**     **THANKSGIVING WEEK—  
NO LIVE MEETING, POSSIBLE STATECRAFT TURN**
- Week 10**    →Activities: Statecraft, Turn 7
- Week 11**    **FINAL PAPERS DUE FOR ALL STUDENTS BY 11:59 PM**