

GLOBAL POLITICS Fall, 2018

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Course Description

In this course students will be introduced to the central concepts in, and theoretical approaches to, the study of world politics both in historical and contemporary contexts. The first five weeks will focus on the evolution of world politics as well as the concepts and predominant theoretical approaches used by students of international relations to understand and explain the field. The course then builds on this foundation as it turns in the remaining weeks to explore specific issues in, and forms of, international relations and global politics. These include: the study of foreign policy and decision-making; international ethics; causes of conflict, war and peace; new security issues; and issues of global governance. Throughout the course students will be challenged to think critically about global politics and hone specific academic skills. The course provides a foundation for further study of global politics.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should:

- Have a strong understanding of the core concepts and traditional/critical approaches used to understand and explain global politics. They should understand origins, foundations and the weaknesses/strengths of these approaches as well as the debates between them.
- Be able to use these concepts and theories as they apply to historical and contemporary international relations.
- Understand how international relations and global politics have evolved over time.
- Have a firm foundation for further study in international relations.
- Have been challenged to think critically about global politics.
- Have further developed core academic skills.

Required Materials and Texts

- John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (eds), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 7th edition (Oxford University Press: 2017).
- All other readings are available online. Most are available through the McMaster library webpage.

Class Format

This course uses a Lecture and Tutorial Format

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Mid-term Test - 20%, In class, October 22
2. Tutorial Participation - 10%, Tutorials as scheduled
3. Research Essay - 35%, due Nov 12
4. Final Exam - 35%, Scheduled by Registrar

Course Evaluation – Details

Mid-term Test (20%), 7:45pm-8:45pm, October 22

This is an in-class test. The test covers material discussed in lectures and readings from Weeks 1-5. A multiple choice and short answer format will be used. Further details will be provided in lecture.

Tutorial Participation (10%), ongoing in scheduled tutorials

A key component of this course is the participation of students in tutorial. Students are required to attend and make regular quality contributions to each tutorial. Students' participation is expected to demonstrate a high standard of critical engagement with the readings as well as high quality communication skills. Communication skills include, but are not limited to, the ability to convey complicated ideas in an organized manner; the use of appropriate professional language; the ability to listen and respond to other participants effectively. Students will need to complete a short task in preparation for each tutorial. Further details will be given in class and posted on the course webpage. The task will not be graded. However, the completion will go towards your final participation grade. 50% of your tutorial grade will be given for attendance and completion of any homework tasks. The other 50% will be given based on participation. Accommodation for absences will only be considered in serious cases and must be discussed directly with Dr. Irvine, not your TA. Absences in tutorial cannot be made up in any way. Please ensure that you have consulted the tutorial schedule and have read and prepared the material from the appropriate lectures. A complete tutorial schedule will be posted on the course webpage.

Tutorials will start in the second week of class (September 17-21). Please make sure you are aware of which weeks have tutorials.

Research Essay (35%), November 12, 11:59pm

This essay will respond to one of a selection of questions set by the Professor. The goal of the paper is to make strong links between the major themes of the course and a specific case study. Good scholarly work will, amongst other things, engage the existing literature critically (based on at least 8 academic sources); provide an original argument; use convincing evidence to support that argument; and use proper citation and bibliography styles. This paper should be between 2000-2400 words in length. Further details will be provided in class.

**Final Exam (35%), Held in the University scheduled examination period
December, 2018.**

This exam is cumulative, covering all topics from across the course. It will use a short answer and essay format. Further details will be provided in class.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Lectures

Lectures are an important part of this course. Many concepts and ideas introduced in the lecture are not found in the course readings. In order to succeed in the course students must attend lectures regularly. If you miss a lecture ask a reliable colleague to provide you with course notes. Lecture slides act only as a partial guide to lecture materials and will not be distributed to students

Required Readings

It is important that students read and think critically about the course readings. These readings have been selected to supplement lectures and provide the basis for the discussion held in class. They also assist in meeting a number of the key objectives of the course. These include providing: an overview of each topic; discussion of relevant approaches and critiques of those approaches; an introduction to key readings and authors in a particular field; and examples of the application of these approaches to key issues raised in the course. In addition to these readings students are encouraged to explore other material on the topics covered in the course and to keep up-to-date on relevant current affairs.

Week 1 (September 10)

Introduction & Critical Concepts in World Politics

Readings:

Textbook, Introduction - Steve Smith, Patricia Owens & John Baylis

Textbook Chap. 1 – Anthony McGrew “Globalization and global politics”

Week 2 (September 17)

Critical Concepts in Historical Context

Readings:

Textbook Chap. 2 – George Lawson, “The rise of modern international order”

Textbook Chap. 3 - Len Scott, “International History 1900-99”

Textbook Chap. 4 - Michael Cox, "From the cold war to a new global era"

Textbook Chap. 5 - Andrew Hurrell, "Rising powers and the emerging global order"

Week 3 (September 24)

Realist, Liberal and Marxist approaches to World Politics

Readings:

Textbook Chap. 6 - Tim Dunne and Brian C. Schmidt, "Realism"

Textbook Chap. 7 – Tim Dunne "Liberalism"

Textbook Chap. 8 – Stephen Hobden and Richard Wyn Jones, "Marxist theories of international relations"

Week 4 (October 1)

Constructivist and Critical Approaches to World Politics

Readings:

Textbook Chap. 9 – Michael Barnett, "Social Constructivism"

Textbook Chap. 11 – Christine Sylvester, "Post-colonialism"

Textbook Chap. 12 – Helen M. Kinsella, "Feminism"

Additional Reading:

Textbook Chap. 10 - Lene Hansen, "Post-structuralism"

Week 5 (October 8) NO CLASS

Mid-term Break

Week 6 (October 15)

Nationalism, Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy / Review

Readings:

Textbook Chap. 27 – John Breuilly, "Nationalism."

Week 7 (October 22)

Midterm Exam and Introduction to Issues in World Politics

Readings: No Readings – prepare for Midterm Exam

Notes: Midterm Exam

Week 8 (October 29)

Ethics, Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention

Readings:

Textbook Chap. 13 – Richard Shapcott, “International ethics”

Textbook Chap. 31 – Jack Donnelly, “Human rights”

Textbook Chap. 32 – Alex J. Bellamy and Nicholas J. Wheeler, “Humanitarian intervention in world politics”

Week 9 (November 5)

War and Peace

Readings:

Textbook Chap. 14 – Tarak Barkawi, “War and world politics”

Textbook Chap. 15 – John Baylis, “International and global security”

Textbook Chap. 26 – Sheena Chestnut Greitens, “Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”

Week 10 (November 12)

New Focus of Security

Readings:

Textbook Chap. 23 – James D. Kiras, “Terrorism and globalization”

Textbook Chap. 17 - Paul Kirby, “Gender” Read only “Gendering global security” pp.277-279.

Peter Andreas, “Illicit Globalization: Myths, Misconceptions, and Historical Lessons,” *Political Science Quarterly* 126:3 (Fall, 2011)

Notes: Research Essay Due, 11:59pm

Week 11 (November 19)

Human Security and Development

Readings:

Textbook Chap. 30 – Amitav Acharya, “Human security”

Textbook Chap. 29 – Tony Evans and Caroline Thomas, “Poverty, hunger and development”

Week 12 (November 26)

Global Governance: The UN, IOs and International Law

Readings:

Textbook Chap. 19 – Christian Reus-Smit, “International Law”

Textbook Chap. 20 – Susan Park, “International organizations in world politics”

Textbook Chap. 21 – Paul Taylor and Devon Curtis, “The United Nations”

Textbook Chap 22, Jutta Joachim, “NGOs in world politics”

Week 13 (December 3)

Review

Readings:

Review course material

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Written work should be presented in a scholarly fashion, double spaced with one inch margins using a 12pt. Times New Roman font or equivalent. Work must be submitted as both an electronic and hardcopy. Electronic copies must be submitted by midnight on the date the assignment is due. Papers submitted after this will incur late penalties. Late penalties will be based on the date and time of electronic submission through the correct drop box on the course webpage in Avenue to Learn (which will use Turnitin). A hardcopy, identical to the one submitted electronically, must be submitted as soon as possible – either through my mailbox in the department or in class, the next time we meet. Please keep a copy of all papers submitted for the course.

Succinct and lucid writing is a skill. Papers that substantially exceed the page limit will be subject to penalty.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

| MARK | GRADE |
|-------------|--------------|
| 90-100 | A+ |
| 85-90 | A |
| 80-84 | A- |
| 77-79 | B+ |
| 73-76 | B |
| 70-72 | B- |
| 67-69 | C+ |
| 63-66 | C |
| 60-62 | C- |
| 57-59 | D+ |
| 53-56 | D |
| 50-52 | D- |
| 0-49 | F |

Late Assignments

Late penalties for written work will be assigned at 2% (of the 100% value of the assignment) per day, including weekend days, with a midnight cut-off for each day. To stop late penalties you must submit work through the appropriate drop box on the course webpage in Avenue to Learn space. An identical hard copy must be submitted as soon as possible – either through my mailbox in the department or in class, the next time we meet.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Accommodations, including for emergencies, serious illness or religious observances will be made for both class attendance and written work. Documentation may be required. Where possible – such as in the case of religious observances - it is expected that I be notified in advance. Should you feel uncomfortable discussing the need for accommodation with me directly please feel free to contact Student Accessibility Services to discuss your situation. Accommodation cannot be arranged by your TA. Please do not provide supporting documentation unless requested. This documentation should be handed to Dr. Irvine in person, making him aware that you are providing it. DO NOT attach supporting documentation to submitted work.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

Communication:

An active McMaster e-mail account is required as a means of communication. Please ensure that your account is active and check it regularly. The course uses an Avenue to Learn webpage – important messages will be posted here. Students should be enrolled in the webpage and check it regularly. I encourage students to come and see me in office hours with specific questions or more general issues. If you require clarification on any aspect of the course please arrange to see me. Please also feel free to set up a meeting outside of regular office hours.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.