

POLSCI 2103: GLOBAL POLITICS

Fall 2019

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Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays
2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.
Room: JHE 264

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Office Hours: By appointment via
[Calendly](#)

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Course Description

This course explores various ways of explaining conflict and co-operation at the global level. It is not intended to be a comprehensive survey of contemporary or historical world events, but rather an introduction to international relations theory as a lens through which to try to understand why states and other international actors behave the way they do in a given context.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand and employ key concepts in the study of international relations;
- Explain the core tenets of various theoretical approaches to international relations;
- Apply international relations theory to past and present dynamics of global politics;
- Critically evaluate competing arguments within international relations theory; and
- Develop and support reasoned arguments on issues related to global politics.

Required Materials and Texts

Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens: *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 7th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Participation (10%)
2. Case Study (30%)
 - a. Outline (10%) due by 11:59 p.m. EST on October 11, 2019
 - b. Short Essay (20%) due by 11:59 p.m. EST on November 1, 2019
3. Final Essay (35%) due by 11:59 p.m. EST on November 29, 2019
4. Final Examination (25%) as scheduled by the Office of the Registrar

Course Evaluation – Details

Participation (10%)

Participation will be evaluated on the basis of ongoing and active participation, for which attendance is a necessary but not a sufficient condition. Participation grades will be determined by your teaching assistant on the basis of the quality of your contributions to discussions and activities in tutorials and within Avenue to Learn. Both lectures and tutorials presuppose familiarity with the readings. Active and productive participation in this course is impossible in the absence of familiarity with the relevant readings.

Case Study (30%)

This assignment will ask you to analyze a foreign policy decision using specific concepts introduced during the course. The assignment is comprised of two deliverables: an outline of the argument you intend to present (**due October 11, 2019**) and a short essay that fully develops the arguments presented in the outline (**due November 1, 2019**). Both deliverables must be submitted via digital Dropbox on Avenue to Learn. The particular foreign policy decision that you will be asked to analyze and further details of the assignment will be made available on Avenue to Learn.

Final Essay (35%)

For this assignment (**due November 29, 2019**), you will be expected to compare and contrast competing theoretical explanations as they relate to a particular theme or issue in international relations. The essay is expected to be approximately 1,500 words in length and must be submitted via digital Dropbox on Avenue to Learn. Further details will be available on Avenue to Learn.

Final Exam (25%)

A final examination will be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during the regular December 2019 Exam Period.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Sept 4)

September 4 – Introduction

No readings

Week 2 (Sept 9, 11)

September 9 – Globalization and the State

Readings:

McGrew, Anthony, "Chapter 1: Globalization and Global Politics." In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 15-32.

Lawson, George, "Chapter 2: The Rise of the Modern International Order" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 37-51.

September 11 – Levels of Analysis

Readings:

Russett, Bruce, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella. [*World Politics: The Menu for Choice, 10th Edition*](#). Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2012, 3-20.

Notes: Add/Drop deadline.

Week 3 (Sept 16, 18)

September 16 – International relations from the Great War to the post-Cold War Era

Readings:

Scott, Len, "Chapter 3: International History, 1990-99" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 52-67.

Cox, Michael, "Chapter 4: From the end of the cold war to a new global era?" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 68-82.

September 18 – The New World Order

Readings:

Hurrell, Andrew, "Chapter 5: Rising powers and the emerging global order" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 83-97.

Week 4 (Sept 23, 25)

September 23 – Realism

Readings:

Dunne, Tim, and Brian C. Schmidt, "Chapter 6: Realism" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 101-115.

September 25 – Liberalism

Readings:

Dunne, Tim, "Chapter 7: Liberalism" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 116-128.

Week 5 (Sept 30, Oct 2) No lecture on Sept 30

September 30 – NO LECTURE

Tutorials scheduled for this date are not cancelled

October 2 – Marxism

Readings:

Hobden, Stephen, and Richard Wyn Jones, "Chapter 8: Marxist Theories of International Relations" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 129-143.

Week 6 (Oct 7, 9)

October 7 – Constructivism

Readings:

Barnett, Michael "Chapter 9: Social Constructivism" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 144-158.

October 9 – Post-Structuralism

Readings:

Hansen, Lene "Chapter 10: Post-Structuralism" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 159-173.

Notes: Case Study Outline to be submitted via digital Dropbox on Avenue to Learn by 11:59 p.m. EST on October 11.

Week 7 (Oct 14, 16) Midterm recess

No classes

Week 8 (Oct 21, 23)

October 21 – Post-Colonialism and Race

Readings:

Sylvester, Christine, "Chapter 11: Post-Colonialism" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 174-188.

Shilliam, Robbie "Chapter 18: Race in world politics" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 285-300.

October 23 – Feminism and Gender

Readings:

Kinsella, Helen M., "Chapter 12: Feminism" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 189-203.

Kirby, Paul "Chapter 17: Gender" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 269-284.

Week 9 (Oct 28, 30)

October 28 – War

Readings:

Barkawi, Tarak, “Chapter 14: War and world politics” In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 223-237.

Chestnut Greitens, Sheila, “Chapter 26: Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 419-433.

Kiras, James D., “Chapter 25: Terrorism and Globalization” In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 402-418.

October 30 – Security

Readings:

Baylis, John, “Chapter 15: International and Global Security” In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 238-252.

Acharya, Amitav, “Chapter 30: Human Security” In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 480-496.

Notes: Case Study Short Essay to be submitted via digital Dropbox on Avenue to Learn by 11:59 p.m. EST on November 1.

Week 10 (Nov 4, 6)

November 4 – Global Political Economy

Readings:

Phillips, Nicola, “Chapter 16: Global Political Economy” In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 253-268.

Watson, Matthew, “Chapter 28: Global Trade and Finance” In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 450-463.

November 6 – International Development

Readings:

Evans, Tony and Caroline Thomas, “Chapter 29: Poverty, hunger, and development” In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 464-479.

Week 11 (Nov 11, 13)

November 11 – International Organizations

Readings:

Park, Susan, “Chapter 20: International organizations in world politics” In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 316-330.

Curtis, Devon and Paul Taylor, "Chapter 21: The United Nations" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 331-346.

November 13 – Non-Governmental Organizations

Readings:

Joachim, Jutta, "Chapter 22: NGOs in world politics" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 347-362.

Week 12 (Nov 18, 20)

November 18 – Nationalism and Regionalism

Readings:

Breuilly, John., "Chapter 27: Nationalism, national self-determination, and international relations" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 434-449.

Best, Edward and Thomas Christiansen, "Chapter 23: Regionalism in international affairs" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 363-380.

November 20 – Human Rights

Readings:

Donnelly, Jack, "Chapter 31: Human rights" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 497-513.

Bellamy, Alex J., and Nicholas J. Wheeler, "Chapter 32: Humanitarian intervention in world politics" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 514-528.

Week 13 (Nov 25, 27)

November 25 – Climate Change

Readings:

Vogler, John, "Chapter 24: Environmental issues" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 385-401.

November 27 – International Law and Ethics

Readings:

Reus-Smit, Christian, "Chapter 19: International law" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 301-315.

Shapcott, Richard, "Chapter 13: International ethics" In *The Globalization of World Politics*, 7th ed., 204-218.

Notes: Essay to be submitted via digital Dropbox on Avenue to Learn by 11:59 p.m. EST on November 29.

Week 14 (Dec 2, 4)

December 2 – The End of History?

Readings:

Menand, Louis. "[Francis Fukuyama Postpones the End of History](#)." *The New Yorker* 3 (2018).

December 4 – Final exam review

Course Policies

Communication

Students are encouraged to use the [Discussion section of Avenue to Learn](#) to post questions about the course. Please consider posting your questions here rather than e-mailing your instructor or teaching assistant (to the extent that you feel comfortable doing so). This ensures that your classmates receive the benefit of the information provided in response to your inquiry. Engagement on Avenue to Learn will count positively toward participation marks.

Please review existing posts in Avenue to Learn before e-mailing the instructor or teaching assistant with questions about the course. Inquiries that have already been addressed on Avenue to Learn will not be reiterated via e-mail.

If you do e-mail the instructor or your teaching assistant, please ensure that you include "POLSCI 2103" in the subject line. E-mails without this specific inclusion in the subject line are unlikely to receive a timely response.

Submission of Assignments

Assignments should be submitted via digital Dropbox on Avenue to Learn unless otherwise indicated.

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

MARK	GRADE
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Late assignments that have not been granted an extension through the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF), Student Accessibility Services (SAS), or the Faculty advising office will incur a penalty of 5% per day, inclusive of weekend days, with a midnight cut-off for each day. Late penalties will continue to be incurred until the assignment is submitted to the appropriate drop box on the course webpage in Avenue to Learn space.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Absences due to illness or other documented or verified needs will be exempt from the late penalties described above. If a student uses the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) to report an absence from tutorial or for an assignment, the student *does not* need to email the professor. Please note that the MSAF may not be used for the essay. The assignment missed will be due exactly 3 days (72 hours) after the original due date and time. If the student would like credit for attending a tutorial session for which they used the MSAF, they should submit to their Teaching Assignment a 1-page summary of the assigned readings for that week within 72 hours of the end of the missed tutorial. While efforts will be made to return assignments in a timely fashion, there is no guarantee that late assignments will be marked before the end of term or before the final exam.

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 authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All

submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour 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 behaviour 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

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- 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.