

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2I03: GLOBAL POLITICS

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Mark Busser
Email: bussermp@mcmaster.ca
eLecture: Mon. & Thurs., 3:30-4:20 p.m.
Room: Zoom, via Avenue to Learn

Zoom Discussions: Thursdays, 3:30-4:20p.m.
Office: KTH 135 (and on Zoom)
Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30-4:20 pm

Contents

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Materials and Texts	3
Class Format.....	3
Course Evaluation – Overview	4
Course Evaluation – Details.....	4
Social Reading (20%), Ongoing	4
Mid-Term (26%), Monday, October 22 nd	4
Essay (24%), Sunday, November 15 th	4
Final Exam (30%).....	4
Perusall & Social Reading.....	5
Getting Started with Perusall	5
Alternative Format	5
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings	6
Week 1 (Sept. 10 th).....	6
Week 2 (Sept. 14 th – 17 th).....	6
Week 3 (Sept. 21 st – 24 th).....	6
Week 4 (Sept. 28 th – Oct. 1 st)	6
Week 5 (Oct. 5 th – Oct. 8 th).....	6
Fall Break (Oct. 12 th to Oct. 18 th).....	6
Week 6 (Oct. 19 th – Oct. 22 nd)	6
Week 7 (Oct 26 th – 29 th).....	7
Week 8 (Nov. 2 nd – Nov. 5 th).....	7
Week 9 (Nov. 9 th – Nov. 12 th)	7
Week 10 (Nov. 16 th – Nov. 19 th)	7

Week 11 (Nov. 23 rd – Nov. 26 th)	7
Week 12 (Nov. 30 th – Dec. 3 rd)	7
Week 13 (Dec. 7 th).....	7
Course Policies	8
Expected Time Commitments.....	8
Submission of Assignments.....	8
Grades.....	8
Late Assignments	8
Absences, Missed Work, Illness	9
Late Submission Policy (for Situations Not Covered by the MSAF).....	9
Courses with an On-Line Element	10
Online Proctoring.....	10
Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection	10
Copyright and Recording	10
Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)	11
Academic Integrity Statement.....	11
Conduct Expectations.....	11
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.....	12
Course Policy on Accommodation and Exception	12
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy	12
Course Modification	13
Extreme Circumstances.....	13

Course Description

This course focuses on the study of the institutions and processes of the international political system. Students will gain familiarity with many of the major theoretical perspectives and scholarly approaches to the study of International Relations (IR), as well as some contemporary challenges to the traditional discipline. Students will gain experience in applying general 'theoretical' ideas and concepts to specific 'empirical' case studies.

Course Objectives

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

- Explain the basic ideas that underpin a variety of theoretical approaches to international relations (IR), including realist, liberal, constructivist and feminist approaches;
- Critically engage with arguments developed in scholarly works on IR;
- Use social science theories to frame and interpret a historical event or problem;
- Engage in thoughtful dialogue and discussion with peers in order to share reasoning and insights about ideas, examples, and how theories can be applied to world issues (and vice versa).
- Compose an argumentative paper applying social science theories to develop and support a reasoned position on a selected case study;
- Use and cite a variety of academic research sources using standard bibliographic methods.

Required Materials and Texts

- Baylis, Smith, and Owens, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 8th Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019). A [Table of Contents](#) available online. Note: this textbook will be required for completing the Discussions activity and testing will be based on the newest edition. Older editions will contain the essential concepts and cases, but will be missing the most updated chapters, and should be used at your own risk.
- This text will be available through the social reading app Perusall (see below).

Class Format

This class will be designed in a virtual classroom format, meaning that the intended student workflow will be based on the scheduled class and tutorial timeslots. The release of content (such as video lectures) will be timed to coincide with those timeslots in order to permit and encourage students to make use of the time dedicated to this course in their schedule. Some synchronous opportunities for engagement will also be available during class and tutorial timeslots via Zoom, with links accessible on Avenue. However, in order to respond to the unusual circumstances related to McMaster's shift online during the Fall 2020 semester, core elements will be available asynchronously in case there are occasions in which you are not able to participate synchronously.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Social Reading (20%)
2. Mid-Term (26%)
3. Essay (24%)
4. Final Exam (30%)

Course Evaluation – Details

Social Reading (20%), Ongoing

This Social Reading element of the course will be based on a regular and reliable pattern of online peer discussion focused on detailed engagement with the ideas and arguments in our course textbook. No synchronous meetings are required for this course element. Tutorials and online sessions will indirectly ease your participation in discussions, keep you engaged, and aid your learning, but are not a direct factor in this grade element. The grade for this component will be based on your overall pattern of engagement.

- This Social Reading component will be enabled using a web tool called Perusall, which allows you to highlight textbook chapters and engage in peer discussion with specific reference to certain passages. (See 'Perusall', below.)
- An alternative option is available for those who would prefer to access the textbook and engage in discussions another way. (See 'Perusall', below.)

Mid-Term (26%), Monday, October 22nd

A mid-term test will be held online on October 22nd. The testing period will be scheduled to make it possible to write the test during our class session. Students facing delays or difficulties will have flexibility to write it at an adjusted time on the 22nd. In the case of a documented illness or emergency, an alternate opportunity to write an adapted makeup test will be scheduled for November 2nd pending faculty documentation.

Essay (24%), Sunday, November 15th

The major essay for this course will be an independent argumentative essay with an original research component. (An assignment sheet explaining the major essay in detail will be distributed and discussed in class.) You will be asked to choose from a set of five (5) essay questions. The questions on these topics will be formulated in an open-ended way that requires you to: apply concepts and approaches from our lectures and readings to your topic; conduct additional independent and original research using academic journals and books; and compose an original argument in response to the question prompt. Due Sunday, November 15th at 11:59 pm via Turnitin.

Final Exam (30%)

A final exam will be scheduled during the exam period, completed and submitted online via Avenue to Learn. The exam will be cumulative, covering course-wide concepts.

Perusall & Social Reading

In this course we will be using an online 'social reading' tool called [Perusall](https://perusall.com) (<https://perusall.com>) where you can comment on, question, and discuss the readings right where you access them. This tool has two advantages: a) it allows you to receive course credit for active reading, in the place of an additional assignment or test; b) it allows students to participate in 'active learning' in a flexible and asynchronous environment. See 'Social Reading' in the Assignments section for details.

Perusall itself is free. Instructors can upload readings for free to Perusall, within the bounds of Canadian copyright law and fair use principles. Because whole books cannot be uploaded to Perusall under fair use principles, access to books can be purchased or licensed from the publisher, often at a far lower price than even used copies or eBooks.

Our course textbook will be available via Perusall; the cost of the textbook is the only required cost to you in this course. Note: Obtaining the textbook via Perusall is required to participate in this Perusall-based social reading. (See 'Alternative Format' below.)

Getting Started with Perusall

In advance of the course, you will receive an email with instructions on how to access Perusall. Once you access our course content via Perusall you will be prompted to access the textbook. You can order textbook access directly through Perusall, or you purchase a Perusall text redemption code through the Campus Store if you prefer. Non-textbook readings will be available during startup so you can try out Perusall.

Each week you will be asked to access the readings and engage in discussions by highlighting interesting points and commenting. You can also reply to peers and upvote their comments. You will be randomly matched with a different subset of our course participants for each reading. The Perusall system uses an intelligent system to differentiate between low-effort and high-effort engagements. In addition, a number of factors help to boost the score you receive: for example, spreading your comments out, encouraging replies, and receiving upvotes from peers. On-time contributions count for full credit, while late engagements receive partial credit on a diminishing basis.

Alternative Format

Students may elect to opt out of using Perusall and instead opt into an alternate series of weekly Avenue-based Discussions based on close reading, quotation, and citation of the same textbook chapters. If you would prefer this alternative assignment format, you can opt in using the Communication>Groups tool on Avenue. The deadline for opting into this alternative option is Friday, September 25th.

The textbook will be available for purchase via the Campus Store for students who opt into this method of assessment. (Note that because this grade component focuses on close reading, quotation and focused discussion, access to the textbook in some format is still required for this element of the course.)

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Sept. 10th)

Introduction and Groundwork

Readings:

- Sample Articles, via Perusall

Notes: Please use the Sample Articles to try out Perusall during startup

Week 2 (Sept. 14th – 17th)

Global Politics: Theories, Facts, and Values

Readings:

- Introduction from Baylis, Smith & Owens
- Chapter: Globalization and Global Politics

Notes: Last Day for Drop/Add: Wednesday, Sept. 16th

Week 3 (Sept. 21st – 24th)

History and Change in Global Relations

Readings:

- Chapter: The Rise of The Modern International Order
- Chapter: International History of the Twentieth Century

Notes: Deadline for Alternate Social Reading Forum opt-in: Friday, Sept. 25th.

Week 4 (Sept. 28th – Oct. 1st)

Conflict and Danger

Readings:

- Chapter: Realism
- Chapter: Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Week 5 (Oct. 5th – Oct. 8th)

Cooperation and Progress in International Society

Readings:

- Chapter: From the End of the Cold War to a New World Disorder?
- Chapter: Liberal Internationalism

Fall Break (Oct. 12th to Oct. 18th)

Week 6 (Oct. 19th – Oct. 22nd)

Class and Resistance to Empire

Readings:

- Chapter: Marxist Theories of International Relations

- Chapter: Postcolonial and Decolonial Approaches

Notes: Mid-Term Test: Thursday, October 22nd during class time.* (See above.)

Week 7 (Oct 26th – 29th)

National Identities and Social Construction

Readings:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens Textbook (2 Chapters)

Week 8 (Nov. 2nd – Nov. 5th)

Militarism, Power Relations, and Gender Dynamics

Readings:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens Textbook (2 Chapters)

Week 9 (Nov. 9th – Nov. 12th)

International and Global Security Issues

Readings:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens Textbook (2 Chapters)

Notes: Research Essay Due Sunday, November 15th at 11:59 p.m.

Week 10 (Nov. 16th – Nov. 19th)

The Global Economy: Production, Trade and Finance

Readings:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens Textbook (2 Chapters)

Week 11 (Nov. 23rd – Nov. 26th)

Ethics and Justice: Intervention, Aid, and Moral Responsibility

Readings:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens Textbook (2 Chapters)

Week 12 (Nov. 30th – Dec. 3rd)

Globalization and the Future of Global Politics

Readings:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens Textbook (2 Chapters)

Week 13 (Dec. 7th)

Course Wrap-Up

Readings:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens Textbook (TBD)

Notes: Last day for late work submission: Dec 9th.

Course Policies

Expected Time Commitments

This university class is based on the model of 3 hours of class/tutorial time per week, plus 3-6 hours of unscheduled study and review work per week. In our online atmosphere, the 3 hours of class/tutorial time will often consist of alternate formats such as video lectures and social reading activities. Nevertheless, students should budget approximately 6-9 hours per week for keeping up with course content, allowing for modest peaks during assignment and midterm season.

If you find yourself unable to work on this course for a period of a full week or more, please contact the instructor and/or your academic advisor.

Submission of Assignments

Assignments should be submitted through Avenue to Learn, using Assessments > Assignments area. Please note that some file types (e.g. .gdoc and .pages) are not compatible with Avenue to Learn. Other standard file types (i.e. .docx, .pdf, and .rtf) are compatible and work well.

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 written assignments such as essays will be accepted with a standard late penalty of 3% per day, including weekends, for the first seven days after the due date. Beginning on the eighth day, late written assignments will be accepted at the maximum late penalty (21%) until the last day of term.

The Social Reading component will involve a steady pattern of weekly engagements. Each response will have a due date for 'on-time' engagements, but will also have a two-

week late access period where submissions and follow-up contributions can still be made for partial credit on a diminishing basis (e.g. more credit during the early phase of the late period, half-credit half-way through the period, and minimal credit as the late period is ending.)

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): 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”.

Late Submission Policy (for Situations Not Covered by the MSAF)

Please note that the self-reporting MSAF tool cannot be used for assignments worth 25% or more, or for periods of absence exceeding 3 days. If you experience a medical, health or other personal emergency which complicates the submission of your assignment, and the MSAF does not apply, please take the following steps:

1. Seek support for your emergency issue.
2. As soon as you are safely able to do so, please submit your incomplete draft work, rough notes so far, etc. to [e.g. the assignments folder on Avenue] as a placeholder for your submission, and include a note explaining that it is an emergency placeholder submission.
3. Visit your Faculty Office (e.g. for Social Sciences Students at Kenneth Taylor Hall, Room 129); this is the place to bring medical or other confidential documentation and to arrange for the practical details (not private details) to be communicated to your instructor.
4. Contact the course instructor as soon as possible once you have visited your faculty office. Please note that according to University Policy, you are under no obligation to disclose private or medical details or documentation to your instructor or TA. Communicating practical information about your timeline and ability to complete work will help to make appropriate arrangements.

Based on the information available, your instructor will typically aim to use fair and sound professional judgment to determine whether late penalties can be waived altogether, 'flattened' to an amount, reduced by an amount, etc., and/or which new due date is appropriate. Several factors can often help your instructor to arrange greater leniency or room for academic discretion, such as:

- When specific guidance is available from academic advisors or other support professionals;
- When your placeholder submission shows evidence of diligent advance preparation before the emergency arose;
- When your timely correspondence throughout the problem-solving process helps to maximize the range of solutions that are practically available.

Courses with an On-Line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, 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 a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

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 details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

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 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.

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. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

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.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be

taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Course Policy on Accommodation and Exception

All students, please note: If you need to request accommodation or exception for any reason, please note that making your request as soon as possible will allow greater flexibility in making arrangements. Delaying your request will typically result in a progressively narrower range of options being available for accommodation.

Students registered with SAS are encouraged to note the guidance on the SAS Website:

“When your instructor reviews and acknowledges receipt of your accommodations, an auto generated email will be sent to you requesting you to communicate with your instructor. You are expected to communicate at the beginning of the term with each of your instructors for all courses with accommodations requested. SAS strongly recommends you meet with your instructors in person to discuss your accommodation plan and implementation.”

Early communication about whether, when and how your registered accommodations might apply to this course will help to identify options and make contingency plans. Please follow-up on the acknowledgment of your letter by making contact with the instructor, even if you do not yet wish to make requests based on your accommodations. Delaying this follow-up communication will typically result in a progressively narrower range of options being available for accommodation.

Similarly, when you need to make a specific request regarding a course assignment based on your registered accommodations, getting in touch as early as possible will help ensure that a greater range of options for accommodation are available. Delaying your request until close to (or after) the assignment or test date will typically result in a progressively narrower range of options being available for accommodation.

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.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.