

**GLOBAL POLITICS**  
**POLSCI 2103-E**  
**Fall 2021, Term 1**

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**Lecture:** Monday asynchronous lecture posted on Avenue to Learn and Monday synchronous tutorial on Avenue to Learn

**Office:** KTH 522  
**Office Hours:** Virtual Office Hours by appointment on Zoom on Mondays 7 – 8:30pm.

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## **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to how International Relations (IR) theories explain and understand key concepts and dynamics in global politics. The core objective is to learn to identify, define and apply the distinct contributions of the main theoretical approaches of Realism, Liberalism and Critical Theories to debates on foundational topics such as sovereignty, security, and economies. Discussions of institutions and events in global politics will emphasize the distinction between the agency of *international* state actors (for example diplomats, generals, prime ministers and presidents) and *transnational* non-state actors working across political borders (for example political movements such as Black Lives Matter and Idle No More, Non-Governmental Organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders, and multinational corporations).

## **Course Objectives**

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

- Understand key components of the three schools of thought in IR theory (Realism, Liberalism, Critical Theories) and how they have evolved historically
- Apply these theories to IR debates on key concepts: sovereignty, democracy, security, political economy, development, migration, political movements, journalism and disinformation, and climate action in global contexts
- Understand that the *urgency* of contemporary dynamics (such as war, labour conditions, public health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, gender-based violence) are *not exceptional* to the present moment but emerge through historical institutions and networks of global power
- *Think critically* about course material you read and write about as well as engage in active listening and thoughtful conversations in tutorial discussions
- In the first textbook, *Global Politics: A New Introduction, Third Edition* (Edkins and Zehfuss 2019), each chapter title asks a *critical question* about the state of contemporary global politics in a way that invites you to reflect on your own worldview, your political subjectivity, and what you would identify as political priorities for collective action on important topics in global politics. We will investigate the contributions of a range of IR theories, concepts and debates through assigned readings in the second textbook *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity* (Dunne, Kurki and Smith 2020).

## **Required Materials and Texts**

There are two required textbooks to purchase for this course. The books are available to purchase through Campus Store:

- 1) Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, Editors. 2019. *Global Politics: A New Introduction, Third Edition*. New York: Routledge. (Campus Store print book price \$70.95)
- 2) Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith, Editors. 2020. *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity, Fifth Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Campus Store e-Book price \$45.00 and print book price \$99.95)

## **Class Format**

### **Course Delivery**

There are two components to this course. The first component is a package of asynchronous recorded lecture videos and accompanying power point presentations. The university schedule lists the lecture time as a Monday evening class, however this asynchronous material will be posted on the Avenue to Learn website on Mondays at 9am so that everyone will have an opportunity to view the lecture videos and read the power points before your Monday evening tutorial meeting. The second component of the course is a weekly synchronous livestream tutorial discussion scheduled to meet on Mondays from 6 – 7pm or 9 – 10pm. The first tutorial will take place on Monday September 13 and tutorials will meet weekly throughout the fall term. Teaching Assistants will facilitate tutorial discussions about assigned readings and lecture material. Details on how to access your weekly synchronous tutorial meeting will be provided on the Avenue to Learn when the course page is activated in September. The full class schedule of meeting dates and assigned readings is outlined below.

### **Avenue to Learn (A2L) Course Website:**

Students are responsible for checking the A2L website throughout the term as it hosts:

- The syllabus
- Announcements and updates from the course director
- Asynchronous recorded lectures and power point presentations
- The Zoom link to your weekly synchronous tutorial discussion group
- Turnitin links to upload your writing assignments

### **Email and Office Hours**

If you have a question about the course, your first step should be to read through the syllabus document and Announcements posted on Avenue to Learn. You should first contact your Teaching Assistant if you have a question about course material (lectures, readings, etc.), assignment requirements or a grade you have received on an assignment. If you have a question about academic accommodations or another matter, email the Course Instructor with the email subject line “2103 Global Politics”. Your question will receive an email response or if needed an appointment for office hours will be set up. Please note that emails will be answered during regular office hours on weekdays and emails sent 24 hours before an assignment deadline may not be answered in time.

### **Course Evaluation – Overview**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Percentage of Final Grade</b>
Tutorial Participation	Every week as outlined in the schedule below	20%
Reading Journal	October 25 at 7pm	25%
Research Paper	December 6 at 7pm	30%
Final Exam	Written during exam period	25%

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

NOTE: All assignments should include a separate cover page with your name, student number, and assignment title as well as a separate page at the end for your bibliography. All assignments should be double-spaced and in 12 point font. You can work with MLA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style citation method. Whichever style you use it is essential to be consistent with that method throughout your paper, to include page number and author name information for all direct quotes and paraphrased ideas from sources, and to include a bibliography/works cited.

### ***Tutorial Participation, every week (20%)***

Tutorial participation will be evaluated based on how you contribute to the class discussion about the weekly readings, asking questions, making connections between the readings and world events, and actively listening to your classmates and Teaching Assistant. To prepare for your participation, when you are doing the weekly readings before class you should be thinking about: what is the author's argument? What sources does the author draw on to support this argument (ie. historical events, theoretical concepts, technological developments, examining how an institution works)? Why does this matter to understand global politics today? In order to work through the course material together it is essential to keep up with the readings each week and come to class prepared to contribute your knowledge of the readings and questions you want to ask about the material. Your weekly reading journal entries will facilitate your preparation for weekly tutorial participation.

### ***Reading Journal. Due Monday October 25 at 7pm (25%)***

Students will keep a weekly reading journal and submit this in one document on Monday October 25 at 7pm. There will be one entry for each of the following dates: September 13, September 20, September 27, October 4, October 18, and October 25. The purpose of this assignment is to think critically about the assigned readings before participating in tutorial discussion. The purpose is not to provide a comprehensive summary that describes every detail of each reading. The purpose is not to provide a summary of tutorial discussion about the readings. Rather each entry should show that you have done the readings for that date and thought critically about them.

Each journal entry will be approximately 300 words. This writing is not argumentative. In other words, you do not need a thesis statement arguing your own position. The writing will be in paragraph format and follow standard academic citation style (ie. cite direct quotes and paraphrased key ideas). Your reading journal will be evaluated based on your analysis of the assigned readings in the context of that week's lecture theme: September 13 on International Relations, September 20 on Sovereignty, September 27 on Democracy, October 4 on the 'Imagined Community' of the Nation-State, October 18 on Global Security, and October 25 on Global Political Economy. The reading journal will also be a helpful resource for you when you are writing your research paper and studying for the final exam. Your Teaching Assistant will discuss the assignment at your first tutorial meeting.

***Research Paper. Due Monday December 6 at 7pm (30%)***

An assignment sheet with full details on the assignment questions will be posted on the course website well in advance of the due date. Students will select one of the questions as outlined on the assignment handout on the topic of: global security, global political economy, global development, global migration, transnational political movements, journalism and disinformation, or climate action. The research paper assignment requires students to apply their knowledge of course material to independent research. This requires demonstrating an understanding of theories and case studies in course readings and lectures and also independently researching academic sources on the essay topic. The final paper will include a clear thesis statement in the introduction that demonstrates your argument and analysis of the topic. The paper should be eight pages, double-spaced, which is approximately 2000 words.

***Final Exam. Date to be scheduled during the exam period (25%)***

The final exam will be an open book take home exam written and submitted online at the date/time scheduled by university registrar's office. The final exam will include two sections: 1) short term answers and 2) essay responses. For the first section you will be required to identify the source of the short term (which reading or lecture it appeared in), define the concept, and discuss its significance in global politics. For the second section you will write two short essays of 500 words each.

A study guide outlining all possible final exam questions will be posted on Avenue to Learn on December 6. The study guide will include the full list of possible questions that will appear on the final exam, a shorter list will appear on the exam itself, and you will have choice in selecting which questions you write about for the exam.

At the beginning of the scheduled exam time the exam document will be posted on the Avenue to Learn website. Students will then have three hours to prepare and submit the exam document on the Avenue to Learn website.

During the final tutorial meeting your Teaching Assistant will review the study guide document with you and answer any questions you have about the exam day.

**Grading of the short essay, reading journal and research paper will take into account:**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>80 – 100%</b> <b>A+, A, A-</b> <b>Excellent to Exceptional</b>	<b>70 – 79%</b> <b>B+, B, B-</b> <b>Good to Very Good</b>	<b>60 – 69%</b> <b>C+, C, C-</b> <b>Fairly Competent to Competent</b>	<b>50 – 59%</b> <b>D+, D, D-</b> <b>Marginally Passing to Passing</b>
<b>Communication</b> Clarity, organization, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, citation of sources	Technically flawless  Concise sentence structure and organization	Few technical errors  Clear sentence structure and organization	Many technical errors  Some sentence structure and organization is unclear	Significant technical errors throughout  Unclear sentence structure and lack of overall organization
<b>Analytical Skills</b> Grasp of meaning and ability to concisely synthesize individual insights with the course readings	Original analysis of course material  Author's voice comes through clearly (research paper)  Addresses all assignment requirements excellently	Demonstrates critical thinking skills applied to course material  Addresses all assignment requirements with some errors	Descriptive rather than analytical writing  Addresses most assignment requirements but with significant errors	No analysis or critical thinking skills demonstrated  Substantial aspects of assignment requirements are not addressed
<b>Application of Course Material</b> Understanding of the significance of authors' arguments, key concepts and case studies presented in the assigned readings and research material	Exceptional application of concepts and case studies to demonstrate original insights about their significance for global politics	Definitions of concepts and descriptions of case studies in course material is evident however further analysis is needed to demonstrate understanding of the author's main argument and/or demonstrate significance for global politics	Attempts to link course material to case studies however analysis and critical thinking are not demonstrated	No demonstration of ability to apply course concepts and case studies to other situations

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1. Monday September 13, 2021**

#### ***Introduction to International Relations (IR)***

- Veronique Pin-Fat. 2019. "Chapter 2. How do we begin to think about the world?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, Editors. Pages 20 – 37.
- Milja Kurki and Colin Wright. 2020. "Chapter 1. International Relations and Social Science" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 13 – 33.

### **Week 2. Monday September 20, 2021**

#### ***IR Theories and Worldviews of Sovereignty***

- Stuart Elden. 2019. "Chapter 11. Why is the world divided territorially?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, Editors. Pages 212 – 233.
- John J. Mearsheimer. 2020. "Chapter 3. Structural Realism" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 51 – 67.

### **Week 3. Monday September 27, 2021**

#### ***Democracy in Global Contexts***

- Lucy Taylor. 2019. "Chapter 14. Is democracy a good idea?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Pages 275 – 297.
- Bruce Russett. 2020. "Chapter 4. Liberalism" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 68 – 87.

### **Week 4. Monday October 4, 2021**

#### ***The 'Imagined Community' of the Nation-State***

- Michael J. Shapiro. 2019. "Chapter 13. Does the nation-state work?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, Editors. Pages 257 – 274.
- Shampa Biswas. 2020. "Chapter 12. Postcolonialism" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 219 – 235.

### **Week 5. Monday October 11, 2021**

#### ***Fall Term Break***



**Week 6. Monday October 18, 2021**

***Global Security***

- Thomas Gregory. 2019. "Chapter 23. What makes the world dangerous?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, Editors. Pages 477 – 499.
- J. Ann Tickner and Laura Sjoberg. 2020. "Chapter 10. Feminism" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 179 – 195.

**Week 7. Monday October 25, 2021**

***Global Political Economy***

- V. Spike Peterson. 2019. "Chapter 17. How is the world organized economically?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Pages 344 – 364.
- Mark Rupert. 2020. "Chapter 7. Marxism" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 127 – 144.

**Week 8. Monday November 1, 2021**

***Global Development***

- Mustapha Kamal Pasha. 2019. "Chapter 20. How can we end poverty?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Pages 408 – 429.
- K. M. Fierke. 2020. "Chapter 9. Constructivism" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 161 – 178.

**Week 9. Monday November 8, 2021**

***Global Politics of Migration***

- Roxanne Doty. 2019. "Chapter 10. Why is peoples' movement restricted?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, Editors. Pages 188 – 211.
- Jennifer Sterling-Folker. 2020. "Chapter 5. Neoliberalism" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 88 – 106.

**Week 10. Monday November 15, 2021**

***Transnational Political Movements and Agency***

- Annick T. R. Wibben and Olivia Rutazibwa. 2019. "Chapter 5. Who do we think we are?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Pages 79 – 101.
- David Campbell and Roland Bleiker. 2020. "Chapter 11. Poststructuralism" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 196 – 218.

**Week 11. Monday November 22, 2021**

***Truth in Global Politics: Journalism and Disinformation***

- Debbie Lisle. 2019. "Chapter 8. How do we find out what's going on in the world?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Pages 144 – 163.
- M.I. Franklin. "Chapter 9. How does the way we use the internet make a difference?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Pages 164 – 187.

**Week 12. Monday November 29, 2021**

***Climate Action and the Futures of Global Politics***

- Simon Dalby. 2019. "Chapter 3. What happens if we don't take nature for granted?" in *Global Politics*, Third Edition. Pages 38 – 56.
- Robyn Eckersley. 2020. "Chapter 14. Green Theory" in *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*, Fifth Edition. Tim Dunne, Milja Kuki, and Steve Smith, Editors. Pages 259 – 280.

**Week 13. Monday December 6, 2021**

***Final Exam Review***

- No assigned readings or lecture today
- Final Exam Study Guide will be posted on course website today
- Tutorial group meetings will focus on discussing any questions about the study guide and exam format

## **Course Policies**

### **Email and Office Hours**

If you have a question about the course, your first step should be to read through the syllabus document and Announcements posted on Avenue to Learn. You should first contact your Teaching Assistant if you have a question about course material (lectures, readings, etc.), assignment requirements or a grade you have received on an assignment. If you have a question about academic accommodations or another matter, email the Course Instructor with the email subject line "2103 Global Politics". Your question will receive an email response or if needed an appointment for office hours will be set up. Please note that emails will be answered during regular office hours on weekdays and emails sent 24 hours before an assignment deadline may not be answered in time.

### **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.

### **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 learning environment, the 3 hours of class/tutorial time will consist of asynchronous recorded video lectures and synchronous online tutorial group discussions. Further, 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.

### **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 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](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Submission of Assignments**

Assignments are to be submitted on the Avenue to Learn course website Turnitin applications and will be graded by the course teaching assistants. Assignments that are emailed to the instructor will not be accepted, unless specific accommodation arrangements have been made in advance. When you meet for your first tutorial group discussion your teaching assistant will let you know how they will return your assignment grades and feedback notes to you.

### **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 notify their teaching assistant at least two weeks before the deadline to make arrangements for how the assignment will be submitted electronically to the teaching assistant. 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](#).

### **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](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

## Grades

All assignment grades and final grades are unofficial until the final course grades are released by the Office of the Registrar.

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
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

Assignments are due at the dates and times outlined in this document. The penalty for late assignment submission is 3% per day including weekend days. No written assignments will be accepted ten days after the deadline, except in cases of accommodation.

## Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Your physical and mental health and your overall wellness during the challenging circumstances of the pandemic are top priority. If at any point during the term a situation arises where you or a member of your household become sick, please follow the steps to submit your 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".

## 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](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) 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 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.

### **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.