

HONOURS ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY

Course Code: POLSCI 3B03

Term: Fall 2022

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Course Description

This course provides students with theoretical and analytical grasp of contemporary issues in international relations and global politics. We will explore the underlining rationale and motivation for states and non-states' actions within the international arena with a focus on international security, geography, and the balance of power. The general objective of this course is to introduce and equip you with general geopolitical knowledge and skills required to navigate the global arena personally, academically, and professionally. Hence, the course aim to develop your understanding and appreciation of the global society as well as your understanding of yourself within the global space.

Course Objectives

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts and theories of International Relations as a mode of analysis.
- Relate the concepts, processes, models, and practices in relation to the practical realities of the international system
- Analyze events in the international arena to draw vital conclusions, recommendations, and lessons from them.
- Explain global, regional, and national power dynamics in relation to geopolitics.
- Make sound geopolitical decisions vis a vis historical and contemporary global, regional, national, and local affairs trends.

Required Materials and Texts

There are no required textbooks for this course. However, the following are recommended texts to help you better understand the topics to be covered.

- Heywood, A., 2014. *Global Politics*. 2nd Edition. Houndmills, Basingstoke Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Nye Jr, J.S., 2019. The rise and fall of American hegemony from Wilson to Trump. *International Affairs*, 95(1), pp.63-80.
- Baylis, J., 2020. *The globalization of world politics: An introduction to international relations*. Oxford university press, USA.
- Nye Jr, J.S., 2021. China and the United States: Looking Forward 40 Years. In *Consensus or Conflict?* (pp. 365-373). Springer, Singapore.
- Patrick, H.O; Khalema, E; Abiolu, RTI; Mbara, G., 2021. National Interest and Collective Security: Assessing the 'Collectivity' of Global Security in the Covid-19 Era. *Humanities and Social Sciences Review*. Vol. 9 No. 2. Pp 499-507.
<https://doi.org/10.18510/hssr.2021.9248>
- Nye Jr, J.S., 2022. Soft power: the origins and political progress of a concept. *The Journal of International Communication*, pp.1-7.

***Activities To Promote Learning**

To succeed in this module, you are encouraged to follow local and international news channels, access newspapers online and in print (available in the libraries) to read widely about current affairs and reflect on their impact on your life and the life of your community.

Class Format

The course involves **3 sessions of 1 hour each per week**. The delivery method is a combination of self-study, in-person seminars, audio-visual engagement, and interactive discussion forums. Attendance at all **classes** and completion of all assessment tasks is crucial to your success in this module. Students must come prepared for every lecture by accessing the readings and preparing summaries of the readings. The lecture will follow an interactive format.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Topic statement and research proposal -10%. (Topic statement due September 16; Research Proposal due September 23)
2. Research paper (3500-4000 words)- 20% (Due October 21)
3. Mid-term Quiz – 20%
4. Class discussion on ASL – 10%
5. Final exams, to be scheduled by registrar -40%. December 2022

Course Evaluation – Details

Topic statement and research proposal (10%)

The topic statement is a short and precise summary of what you intend to research upon for your research paper. This is to ensure that the topic fits into the central themes for the course and is doable within the timeframe of the semester as assigned. Your topic statement should have a topic, its relation to any of the course themes and its significance as a contributor to knowledge.

The research proposal is a detailed extension of your topic statement. Here, you are expected to provide an introduction and background to your topic based on relevant readings from the literature, problem statement (in terms of explaining the phenomena, arguing why it is worthy of consideration, and setting out hypothesis/arguments), potentially useful questions or puzzles that are worthy of your attention. Additional details will be discussed in class.

Research paper (3500-4000 words) (20%)

The research paper builds on your topic statement and proposal. Here, a detailed and well research paper is expected as you expand on all the sections of the proposal. You are expected to have the following

- Introduction (Provides a clear statement of purpose/aim of the research, gives a general background to the topic and restate the significance/gap of the research)
- Methodology adopted (In terms of data collection and how it was synthesized. Details on this will be discussed in class)
- Theoretical framework (explanation of the main arguments of a theory adopted, and its relevance to the topic adopted)
- Analysis (Discuss on the topic in relation to the theory adopted, contemporary realities and implications vis a vis the course themes)
- Conclusion (Summary of what was done and major findings and recommendation if any)
- Reference (full list of all literature used)

Research papers will be graded according to the following criteria. (a) Is a thesis or argument clearly stated at the beginning of the paper and is the paper organized around that? (b) Does your paper address course themes? (c) Are the counter-arguments to your own position acknowledged and addressed at some point in your paper? (d) Have you drawn on good scholarly and non-scholarly sources in your paper? (e) Is your writing clear, engaging, and adequately proofread? The paper should be between 3400 – 4000 words (not including bibliography).

Mid-term Quiz (20%)

There will be 2 quizzes during the semester. These quizzes will be administered in person and in class. The idea is to have a formative and summative evaluation of your understanding of the course so as to identify at risk students and areas that needs more teaching and guidance. The first quiz will be administered upon resumption from the mid-semester break (Week 7: Friday, October 21), and the second quiz will be on the revision week (Week 13: Friday, December 2)

Class discussion on A2L (10%)

Students are expected to participate in the weekly class discussion forum that will be conducted on A2L starting from week 1 (September 6). Topical issues will be posted on a weekly basis in relation to the week's topic. You are expected to comment on the topic and also respond to a comment made by any of your colleague in relation to the topic for discussion. To receive full marks, you are expected a minimum of 2 detailed posts per week (1 as response to the topic and the other as response/reaction to the comment made by another student). Each post should be longer than a short paragraph.

Final exams, to be scheduled by registrar (40%)

The final examination will be for a duration of 2 hours. It will include a mix of short answer and essay questions based on the themes covered.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (September 6-9)

Introduction to International Relations and Global public policy (Subject Overview, Definitions, and Introductory ideas)

Readings:

- Heywood, A., 2015. *Key concepts in politics and international relations*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Heywood, A., 2014. *Global Politics*. 2nd Edition. Houndmills, Basingstoke Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Week 2 (September 12-16)

Authority, Sovereignty, State and Non-State actors

Readings:

- Kamel, L. ed., 2017. *The frailty of authority: Borders, Non-state actors and power vacuums in a changing Middle East*. Edizioni Nuova Cultura.
- Reinalda, B., 2016. Non-State actors in the international system of states. In *The Ashgate Research Companion to Non-State Actors* (pp. 15-30). Routledge.
- Heywood, A., 2015. *Key concepts in politics and international relations*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Stephen, M.D. and Zürn, M., 2014. *Contested World Orders: Rising powers, non-state actors, and the politics of authority beyond the nation-state* (No. SP IV 2014-107). WZB Discussion Paper.
- Heywood, A., 2014. *Global Politics*. 2nd Edition. Houndmills, Basingstoke Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Higgott, R.A., Underhill, G.R. and Bieler, A. eds., 2000. *Non-state actors and authority in the global system*.

Week 3 (September 19-23)

Establishing a Framework for Understanding international relations (Explanatory Devices: Levels of Analysis; Global North-South Divide)

Readings:

- Asal, V., Miller, I. and Willis, C.N., 2020. System, state, or individual: Gaming levels of analysis in international relations. *International Studies Perspectives*, 21(1), pp.97-107.
- Mingst, K.A., McKibben, H.E. and Arreguin-Toft, I.M., 2018. *Essentials of international relations*. WW Norton & Company.
- Kiely, R., 2016. *The rise and fall of emerging powers: Globalisation, US Power and the Global North-South divide*. Springer.

- Temby, O., 2015. What are levels of analysis and what do they contribute to international relations theory?. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 28(4), pp.721-742.
- Atapattu, S. and Gonzalez, C.G., 2015. the North-south divide in international environmental law: framing the issues. *International Environmental Law and the Global South*, 1, pp.1-20.

Week 4 (September 26-29)

Central Theories of International relations (Realism and Liberalism)

Readings:

- Burchill, S., Linklater, A., Donnelly, J., Nardin, T., Paterson, M., Reus-Smit, C., Saramago, A., Haastrop, T. and Sajed, A., 2022. *Theories of international relations*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Ripsman, N.M., Taliaferro, J.W. and Lobell, S.E., 2016. *Neoclassical realist theory of international politics*. Oxford University Press.
- Heywood, A., 2015. *Key concepts in politics and international relations*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Heywood, A., 2014. *Global Politics*. 2nd Edition. Houndmills, Basingstoke Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Note: September 30- No class (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)

Week 5 (October 3-7)

Theories of International relations (Critical Perspectives)

Readings:

- Heywood, A., 2021. *Political ideologies: An introduction*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Heywood, A., 2015. *Key concepts in politics and international relations*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Heywood, A., 2014. *Global Politics*. 2nd Edition. Houndmills, Basingstoke Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Week 6 (October 10-14)

Date – Mid-term recess, No Class

Week 7 (October 17-21)

Anarchy, Power, and War

Readings:

- Slaughter, A.M., 2017. The return of anarchy?. *Journal of International Affairs*, pp.11-16.

- Schmidt, B.C., 2016. *The political discourse of anarchy: A disciplinary history of international relations*. suny Press.
- Johnson, D.D. and Thayer, B.A., 2016. The evolution of offensive realism: Survival under anarchy from the Pleistocene to the present. *Politics and the life sciences*, 35(1), pp.1-26.
- Waltz, K.N., 2015. The origins of war in neorealist theory. In *Conflict After the Cold War* (pp. 110-116). Routledge.
- Mearsheimer, J.J., 2014. Anarchy and the Struggle for Power. In *Realism Reader* (pp. 179-187). Routledge.
- Morrow, J.D., 2014. *Order within anarchy: The laws of war as an international institution*. Cambridge University Press.
- Kaplan, R.D., 2014. The coming anarchy. In *Geopolitics* (pp. 195-202). Routledge.

Notes: **Quiz 1 week. Friday, October 21**

Week 8 (October 24-28)

International Security and Balance of power

Readings:

- Andersen, M.S. and Wohlforth, W.C., 2021. Balance of Power: A key concept in historical perspective. In *Routledge Handbook of Historical International Relations* (pp. 289-301). Routledge.
- Spykman, N.J., 2017. *America's strategy in world politics: the United States and the balance of power*. Routledge.
- Smith, M.E., 2017. *International Security: Politics, Policy, Prospects*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Luard, E., 2016. *The balance of power: The system of international relations, 1648–1815*. Springer.
- Dannreuther, R., 2014. *International security: The contemporary agenda*. John Wiley & Sons.

Week 9 (October 31 – November 4)

Globalization and International Law

Readings:

- Klabbers, J., 2020. *International law*. Cambridge University Press.
- Dunne, T. and Reus-Smit, C. eds., 2017. *The globalization of international society*. Oxford University Press.
- Roberts, A., 2017. *Is international law international?*. Oxford University Press.
- Bethlehem, D., 2014. The end of geography: the changing nature of the international system and the challenge to international law. *European Journal of International Law*, 25(1), pp.9-24.

Week 10 (November 7-11)

International Organization

Readings:

- Hooghe, L., Lenz, T. and Marks, G., 2019. *A theory of international organization*. Oxford University Press.
- Lenz, T., Bezuijen, J., Hooghe, L. and Marks, G., 2014. Patterns of international organization. Task specific vs. general purpose. *Task Specific vs. General Purpose (December 2014)*. Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies Research Paper No. RSCAS, 128.
- Moore, J.A. and Pubantz, J., 2017. *The new United Nations: International organization in the twenty-first century*. Routledge.
- Knudsen, T.B. and Navari, C. eds., 2018. *International organization in the anarchical society: the institutional structure of world order*. Springer.

Week 11 (November 14-17)

Human Security (Global Environmental change)

Readings:

- Tanaka, A., 2019. Toward a theory of human security. In *Human security and cross-border cooperation in East Asia* (pp. 21-40). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.
- Hama, H.H., 2017. State security, societal security, and human security. *Jadavpur Journal of International Relations*, 21(1), pp.1-19.
- Adger, W.N., Pulhin, J.M., Barnett, J., Dabelko, G.D., Hovelsrud, G.K., Levy, M., Oswald Spring, U. and Vogel, C.H., 2014. *Human security*. Cambridge University Press.
- Martin, M. and Owen, T. eds., 2014. *Routledge handbook of human security*. London: Routledge.

Week 12 (November 21-25)

Human Security (Pandemics politics)

Readings:

- Patrick, H.O; Khalema, E; Abiolu, RTI; Mbara, G., 2021. National Interest and Collective Security: Assessing the 'Collectivity' of Global Security in the Covid-19 Era. *Humanities and Social Sciences Review*. Vol. 9 No. 2. Pp 499-507. <https://doi.org/10.18510/hssr.2021.9248>
- Albert, C., Baez, A. and Rutland, J., 2021. Human security as biosecurity: Reconceptualizing national security threats in the time of COVID-19. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 40(1), pp.83-105.
- Delanty, G. ed., 2021. *Pandemics, politics, and society: Critical perspectives on the Covid-19 crisis*. Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG.
- Kamradt-Scott, A., 2020. The politics of pandemic influenza preparedness. In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Health Politics*.

Week 13 (November 28- December 2)

Individual Reading and Catch-up

No Readings:

Notes: Quiz 2, Friday, December 2.

Week 14 (December 5-8)

Revision Week

No Readings:

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Except otherwise stated in class or official instruction by the instructor, all assignment will be submitted via the Avenue to Learn site for this course.

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

Extensions will only be made to students unable to submit in time due to extraordinary circumstances. If you anticipate requiring an extension, please contact me as early as possible. In cases where you have not discussed alternative arrangements with me, extensions will be made to students based on McMaster University's Student Absence Form Policy (MSAF) <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/absence-form>. Please submit a Student Absence Form within 3 days of missing your assignment. Also, please note that if the assessment is worth 25 % or higher or you have not submitted an MSAF form for assignments worth less than 25% after 3 days, students must present supporting documentation to their Faculty Office. Otherwise, late assignments will be penalized by 5% per day including Saturday and Sunday to a maximum of 5 days, after which they will not be accepted and a mark of 0 will be recorded. In the interest of fairness to all students, there will be no exceptions to this unless you have arranged in advance for an extension or have submitted an MSAF.

It is your responsibility to make contingency plans for unforeseen problems such as computer failures.

All requests for deadline extensions longer than one week must be made in advance of the assignment's original deadline, and must be accompanied by a documented justification for why a deadline extension of longer than a week is needed

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”.

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.

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.

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.

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.