

POLITICS OF PANDEMICS
POLSCI 3PA3
Winter 2023, Term 2

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Lecture: Fridays 11:30am – 2:20pm at
CNH_B107

Office: KTH 543
Office Hours: Office Hours by
Appointment

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of key institutions, actors, theoretical concepts and debates in global health governance and leadership. We begin with an overview of the politics of governance through historical international health institutions and contemporary global health institutions.

Then we look at a range of International Relations critical theories of power and agency with an emphasis on Political Economy, Critical Security Studies, and intersectional theories of racialization, gender, and economic status in the context of global health. We focus on key concerns in contemporary global health and Canadian healthcare in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic: labour conditions and essential workers; care economies; Canadian health infrastructure and policy on long-term care facilities; governance of science and technology innovations with emphasis on debates on intellectual property rights and vaccines; mental health and; misinformation and disinformation in news media and social media.

The assigned readings highlight academic and practitioner debates in global health governance and leadership as well as looking at how diverse global communities organize transnationally to articulate their own self-identified health priorities.

Course Objectives

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

- Describe the international and transnational politics that shape global health governance of pandemics
- Understand the historical role and current function of international health institutions and transnational health networks in the context of pandemics
- Analyze trends in Canadian health care services and policy in global contexts
- Evaluate the mechanisms of global health institutions and the strategies of global health leaders who collaborate to manage diseases that transcend state borders
- Apply critical theories that pose questions and provide concepts to understand how global power operates in health governance and leadership

Required Materials and Texts

There is no textbook to purchase for this course. Links to all of the readings (e-journal articles, e-book chapters, etc.) are provided on the Avenue to Learn website.

Class Format

Course Delivery:

The weekly lectures with the Course Instructor will take place in person at the classroom on campus beginning Friday January 13 at 11:30am. The accompanying weekly lecture power point presentation documents will be posted on Avenue to Learn.

There are no tutorials for POLSCI 3PA3. All course assignments will be graded by Teaching Assistant Cassandra Preece (preecc1@mcmaster.ca).

Avenue to Learn:

Students are responsible for checking the course page throughout the term as it hosts:

- Announcements and updates from the course director
- Power point presentations
- Links to the assigned readings
- 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 course announcements posted on Avenue to Learn. You should contact the course 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 “3PA3 Politics of Pandemics”. 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 before the assignment is due.

Course Evaluation – Overview

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Short Essay	Friday February 17 at 11:30am	25%
Research Paper	Friday March 31 at 11:30am	35%
Final Exam	Written during exam period	40%

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.

Short Essay due Friday February 17 at 11:30am (25%)

Select one of the assigned readings from “Week 3 Global Health Governance”. Your paper will be evaluated based on how you respond to the following three questions: 1) what is the author’s argument? 2) how does the author support their argument? (what theoretical concepts, historical events, etc. do they draw on) and 3) why does this matter for understanding the politics of pandemics? No research of any additional academic resources is required for this assignment. The essay will be 1250 words.

Research Paper due Friday March 31 at 11:30am (35%)

An assignment document with full details on the assignment questions will be posted on Avenue to Learn on Tuesday February 15. Students will select one of the questions as outlined on the assignment handout, which will be based on the lecture topics. 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 will be 2000 words.

Final Exam. Date to be scheduled during the exam period (40%)

The final exam will include two sections: short answers and essay responses. A study guide outlining all possible questions will be provided on Tuesday April 12. For the first section you will be required to identify the source of the short terms (which reading or lecture it appeared in), define the concepts, and discuss their significance for understanding globalization and the world order. For the second section you will be provided with a list of potential essay questions and for the exam you will write one essay response. The study guide will include the full list of possible short terms that will appear on the final exam, a shorter list will appear on the exam itself, and you will have choice in selecting which short terms to write about. The study guide will include the list of possible essay questions, a shorter list will appear on the exam and you will have choice in selecting which essay question you will respond to.

Grading Rubric for POLSCI 3PA3 Winter 2023 Assignment:

Criteria	80 – 100% A+, A, A- Excellent to Exceptional	70 – 79% B+, B, B- Good to Very Good	60 – 69% C+, C, C- Fairly Competent to Competent	50 – 59% D+, D, D- Marginally Passing to Passing
Communication 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
Analytical Skills 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
Application of Course Material 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 understanding the politics of pandemics	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 understanding the politics of pandemics	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. Friday January 13, 2023.

Welcome and Introduction to the course

- There is no assigned reading for this week
- Reading and discussing the syllabus
- Familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn course page, including the eReserves link where the weekly assigned readings are posted

Week 2. Friday January 20, 2023.

The Politics of Global Health Institutions

- Richard Dodgson, Kelley Lee and Nick Drager. 2002. *Global Health Governance: A Conceptual Review: Discussion Paper No. 1*. London: Centre on Global Change & Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the Department of Health & Development at the World Health Organization. Pages 5 – 24.
- Obijifor Aginam. 2003. “The Nineteenth Century Colonial Fingerprints on Public Health Diplomacy: A Postcolonial View.” *Law, Social Justice & Global Development Journal*. https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/elj/lqd/2003_1/aginam/
- Vincanne Adams. “Introduction.” In *Metrics: What Counts in Global Health*, edited by Vincanne Adams. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016. Pages 1 – 12.

Week 3. Friday January 27, 2023.

Global Health Governance

- Andrew Lakoff. 2010. “Two Regimes of Global Health.” *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism and Development* 1(1): 59 – 74.
- Matthew Sparke. 2016. “Chapter 20. Health and the embodiment of neoliberalism: Pathologies of Political Economy from Climate Change and Austerity to Personal Responsibility.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Neoliberalism*. New York: Routledge. Pages 293 – 305.
- Jeremy Youde. 2012. “Chapter Six. Civil Society Organizations.” In *Global Health Governance*. Malden, MA: Polity Press. Pages 99 – 114.

Week 4. Friday February 3, 2023.

Global Health Leadership: Establishing Norms and Protocols

- Sophie Harman and Simon Rushton. 2013. “Analyzing Leadership in Global Health Governance.” *Global Health Governance*. 2(2): 1 – 19.
- Oran R. Young. 2017. “Chapter 2. Conceptualization: Goal Setting as a Strategy for Earth System Governance.” In *Governing Through Goals: Sustainable Development as Governance Innovation*, edited by Norichika Kanie and Frank Biermann, 31 – 49. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

- Garrett Wallace Brown. 2014. "Norm diffusion and health system strengthening: The persistent relevance of national leadership in global health governance." *Review of International Studies* 40(5): 877 – 896.
- Heather L. Wipfli and Jonathan M. Samet. "Moving Beyond Global Tobacco Control to Global Disease Control." *Tobacco Control* 21, no 2 (2012): 269 – 272.

Week 5. Friday February 10, 2023.

Essential Workers and Precarious Labour

- Stromae. 2021. "Santé (Official Music Video)". YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3QS83ubhHE>
- Kimberlé Crenshaw. 2020. "Under the Blacklight: COVID and Disaster Capitalism." *Intersectionality Matters* podcast. 53 minutes and 55 seconds.
- Leah F. Vosko and Lisa F. Clark. 2009. "Chapter 2. Canada: Gendered Precariousness and Social Reproduction" in *Gender and the Contours of Precarious Employment*. Leah F. Vosko, Martha MacDonald, and Iain Campbell, Editors. New York: Routledge. Pages 26 – 42.
- Conference Board of Canada. *Valued Workers, Valuable Work: The Current and Future Role of (Im)migrant Talent*. Impact Paper: October 29, 2021.

Week 6. Friday February 17, 2023.

Political Economies of Care

- Anita Girvan, Baljit Pardes, Davina Bhandar, and Nisha Nath. 2020. "Poetics of Care: Remedies for Racial Capitalism Gone Viral" in *Feminist Studies*. 46(3): 717 - 728.
- Nancy Fraser. 2013. "After the Family Wage: A Postindustrial Thought Experiment" in *Fortunes of Feminism: From State-Managed Capitalism to Neoliberal Crisis*. New York: Verso Books. Pages 26 – 42.
- Danielle Mackenzie. 2014. "A Long History of Failure: Feeling the Effects of Canada's Childcare Policy". *Canadian Journal of Law and Society/Revue Canadienne et Société*. 29(3): 397 – 412.
- Elisabeth Prügl. 2020. "Untenable Dichotomies: De-gendering Political Economy" in *Review of International Political Economy*. 28(2): 295 – 306.

Week 7. Friday February 24, 2023.

Mid-term Recess, NO CLASS

Week 8. Friday March 3, 2023.

Canadian Health Policy and Infrastructure

- Kim Anderson. "Notokwe Opikiheet – 'Old-Lady Raised': Aboriginal Women's Reflections on Ethics and Methodologies in Health Research." *Canadian Women's Studies/les cahiers de la femme* 26, no. 3 – 4 (2008): 6 – 12.

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. “Chapter 2. Improving the Lives of People with Dementia.” In *Addressing Dementia: The OECD Response*, 19 – 28. OECD Publishing, 2015.
- Mackenzie, Isobel. *Caregivers in Distress: More Respite Needed*, 1 – 21. Victoria, B.C.: The Office of the Seniors Advocate British Columbia, 2015.

Week 9. Friday March 10, 2023.

Global Governance of Science and Technology Innovations

- John Krige and Kai-Henrik Barth. 2006. “Introduction: Science, Technology and International Affairs” in *Osiris*. Special Issue – Global Power Knowledge: Science and Technology in International Affairs. 21(1): 1 – 21.
- Rajshree Chandra. 2016. “The Making of Biotic Property.” In *The Cunning of Rights: Law, Life, Biocultures*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pages 1 – 5.
- Alan Ingram. 2009. “Chapter 4. The International Political Economy of Global Responses to HIV/AIDS.” In *Global Health Governance: Crisis, Institutions, and Political Economy*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Pages 81 – 101.

Week 10. Friday March 17, 2023.

Independent Study Week: Research and Writing the Final Research Paper

Week 11. Friday March 24, 2022.

Misinformation, Disinformation and Conspiracy Theories

- Sarah Evanega et al. “Coronavirus misinformation: quantifying sources and themes in the COVID-19 ‘infodemic’”. The Cornell Alliance for Science. October 1, 2020.
- Mark Fenster. 2017. “Introduction: The Transparent State We Want But Can’t Have” in *The Transparency Fix*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press. Pages 1 – 16.

Week 12. Friday March 31, 2023.

Final Exam Review.

- Study guide posted on course website and discussed at the lecture

Week 13. Friday April 7, 2023.

Good Friday Holiday. No classes today.

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 course announcements posted on Avenue to Learn. You should contact the course Teaching Assistant if you have a question about assignment requirements or a grade you have received on an assignment. If you have a question about your Letter of Accommodation or another matter, email the course instructor with the email subject line “3PA3 Politics of Pandemics”. 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.

Grades

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

Students who wish to request a reconsideration of their grade on an assignment must first talk with the course Teaching Assistant Marker/Grader over email or during office hours to discuss and clarify why the TA has assigned this grade. After this discussion has taken place, if a student still disagrees with the assigned grade, the student may email the Course Instructor to request a regrading of the assignment.

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

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

In the event of an absence or missed work 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". There are two aspects to the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) process to request an extension on coursework. If circumstances allow for it then the MSAF self-reporting tool on Mosaic should be used (for example if the assignment is worth less than 25% and submission of the MSAF is within 3 days of the assignment due date). Otherwise, if the circumstances meet the MSAF Exception Checklist (for example if the assignment is worth 25% or more of the final grade, etc.) then students need to contact their faculty office to provide the

documentation to support their request for relief for missed work. After the MSAF is submitted then email to course instructor to request consideration for an extension on the assignment deadline. <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/absence-form>.

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.

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.