

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 1AB3**  
**POLITICS AND POWER IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD**  
**Winter 2020**

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**Contents**

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Materials and Texts .....	3
Class Format.....	3
Course Evaluation – Overview .....	3
Course Evaluation – Details .....	4
Tutorial Participation – 10%.....	4
Paper Proposal – 10%, due in tutorial the week of February 3-7.....	4
Paper Presentation – 10%, in February or March (as selected in tutorial the week of January 27-31) .....	5
Research Paper – 35%, due in tutorial the week of March 30 - April 3.....	5
Final Exam – 35%, to be held in the official examination period.....	6
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings .....	6
Topic 1 (January 7, 2020).....	6
Topic 2 (January 10, 2020).....	6
Topic 3 (January 14-17, 2020).....	6
Topic 4 (January 21-24, 2020).....	6
Topic 5 (January 28, 2020).....	7
Topic 6 (January 31, 2020).....	7
Topic 7 (February 4, 2020) .....	7
Topic 8 (February 7-11, 2020) .....	7
Topic 9 (February 14, 2020) .....	8
Reading Week: No Class (February 17-21, 2020).....	8
Topic 10 (February 25, 2020) .....	8
Topic 11 (February 28 - March 3, 2020) .....	8

Topic 12 (March 6, 2020).....	8
Topic 12 (March 10-17, 2020) .....	9
Topic 13 (March 20-24, 2020) .....	9
Topic 14 (March 27, 2020).....	9
Topic 15 (March 31, 2020).....	9
Topic 16 (April 3-7, 2020) .....	10
Course Policies .....	10
Submission of Assignments.....	10
Grades.....	10
Late Assignments .....	10
Absences, Missed Work, Illness .....	10
Avenue to Learn .....	11
Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO) .....	11
University Policies .....	11
Academic Integrity Statement.....	11
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.....	12
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy .....	12
Course Modification.....	12

## **Course Description**

This course will investigate the political and economic forces that shape our globalizing world. We will explore theories of war and peace, analyze the causes and consequences of human rights abuses, scrutinize global security issues like terrorism and nuclear proliferation, and examine the formal and informal rules and regulations written by global political actors. We will also use international comparisons to ask questions about why states resemble or differ from one another in their political and economic character. Why are some states democratic while others are autocratic? Why do some states develop economically while others remain mired in poverty?

## **Course Objectives**

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

- Understand current global issues in the light of larger social, political, economic, and historical forces
- Express ideas both orally and in written (essay) form
- Demonstrate solid research, writing, and presentation skills

## **Required Materials and Texts**

- Kavalski, Emilian, ed., *Encounters with World Affairs: An Introduction to International Relations*, London: Routledge, 2015.
  - This book is available in an electronic form (at no cost) through the McMaster University library catalogue. Please download a copy as soon as possible.
- I have included several articles (see the weekly schedule below) that are accessible on-line. Some of the articles will have a hypertext link that will bring you to the article directly. Those listed as “available on-line” can be obtained for free via the library catalogue.
- Several book chapters have been posted on Avenue to Learn

## **Class Format**

The key to doing well in this course is to attend all lectures and tutorials. *Please note that many of the concepts covered in lecture will not be covered in the required readings and vice versa.*

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Tutorial Participation – 10%
2. Paper Proposal – 10%, due in tutorial the week of February 3-7
3. Paper Presentation – 10%, in February or March (as selected in tutorial)
4. Research Paper – 35%, due in tutorial the week of March 30 - April 3
5. Final Exam – 35%, to be held in the official examination period in April

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Tutorial Participation – 10%**

Tutorial groups offer you the opportunity to have a spirited discussion about some of the main issues in global politics. They also provide you with a hands-on opportunity to develop key research skills.

Participation in tutorial groups accounts for 10% of your grade. Remember: participation is not synonymous with attendance. A successful grade is dependent upon your ability to actively, regularly, and intelligently contribute to discussion.

### **Paper Proposal – 10%, due in tutorial the week of February 3-7**

You will be writing a research paper this semester. This assignment represents the first step in that process. Write a **proposal** for your term research paper. What is your research question? Why is your question worth exploring? Discuss how you will answer your research question: What variables are you going to focus on and why? What case will you be looking at and why? If you are using the comparative method, what countries are you comparing and why?

Your proposal should include **5 peer reviewed** academic sources. For each source include a short (1 or 2 paragraphs) summary of the main argument (in your own words) and explain how that argument relates to your specific research question.

Your proposal should be 2 full pages in length – **plus** the annotated bibliography. It is due *in tutorial* on February 3-7.

Remember: The paper proposal is the **roadmap** for your research paper - the plan for your larger project rather than an anticipated summary of your research conclusions (see the Tutorial Guide for additional guidance on this assignment).

***Please note: This assignment is crucial to your success in writing the major research paper. It will allow your TA to provide you with feedback on your initial ideas, and guidance going forward. Furthermore, your final research paper will not be accepted if you do not first submit a paper proposal.***

You may select any research topic that is related to international relations or comparative politics. The following lists some of the research questions that were investigated in previous years: **Use it for inspiration if necessary but develop your own final research question.**

- What factors explain the recent emergence of 'populist' regimes in some liberal-democratic states?
- Are democratic states less likely to wage war than non-democratic states?
- Why did the Syrian civil war begin? What factors explain its subsequent trajectory?

- Is the global gap in wealth increasing or decreasing? Why?
- Has globalization ended?
- Is nuclear proliferation a global security threat?
- Has the US “war on terror” been effective? Are there other ways of responding to the threat of terrorism that might be more successful?
- Has the Trump presidency fundamentally altered the course of American foreign policy?
- Is American power in decline? If so, what effect will this have on the international system?
- Why does the international community forcefully intervene in some humanitarian emergencies but not in others?
- What role (if any) has the International Criminal Court played in protecting global human rights?
- Do international sanctions work?
- Has the World Trade Organization successfully leveled the field for global trade? Are “developing” and “developed” countries able to take equal advantage of the Organization and its rules?
- Is the World Bank an agent for development or underdevelopment?
- Does the Paris Agreement offer a robust solution to global warming? Why or why not?

**Further detail about this assignment is contained in the Tutorial Guide posted on Avenue.**

**Paper Presentation – 10%, in February or March (as selected in tutorial the week of January 27-31)**

You will be presenting your research findings (a solid draft of your **research paper** - not your paper **proposal**) to your tutorial in February or March (with dates to be selected in tutorial). This presentation will provide you with valuable constructive feedback from the class - feedback that can be incorporated into the final version of your paper.

For your presentation to be a success, a first draft of your paper should be written by the end of February (even though the final due date for the paper is not until the week of March 30 - April 3). Further detail about the paper presentation is contained in the Tutorial Guide posted on Avenue

**Research Paper – 35%, due in tutorial the week of March 30 - April 3**

Each student will prepare and submit an 8-page-minimum argumentative essay. This essay should be based upon your research proposal.

Please note that you are required to develop an **academic** argument for this assignment. This means developing a thesis and finding suitable evidence to support that thesis. The focus of your research should be peer-reviewed articles.

### **Final Exam – 35%, to be held in the official examination period**

The exam will cover material from lectures, tutorials, and the required readings.

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

### **Topic 1 (January 7, 2020)**

**Introduction: What does politics in a 'global' era look like?**

### **Topic 2 (January 10, 2020)**

**States, societies, and forms of government:**

**What types of political and economic systems have emerged in the modern era? Does the comparative method permit us to better understand those systems?**

Readings:

Dickovick, J. Tyler, and Eastwood, Jonathan, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, Second Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, Chapter 1 – posted on Avenue to learn

### **Topic 3 (January 14-17, 2020)**

**Is the state still the key actor in global politics? Has globalization eroded the state?**

Readings:

Chapter 1 (The History of Global Politics), in *Encounters with World Affairs*

Scholte, Jan Aart, "Defining Globalization," *The World Economy*, 31, 11, 2008, pp1471-1502 – available on-line

Saval, Nikil, "[Globalization: the rise and fall of an idea that swept the world](#)," *The Guardian*, July 14, 2017

### **Topic 4 (January 21-24, 2020)**

**Development:**

**What accounts for the tremendous disparity in wealth between states?**

**What causes development and underdevelopment? Should development be defined solely as an increase in GDP/capita?**

Readings:

Chapter 11 (Global Inequality), in *Encounters with World Affairs*

Stiglitz, J., et al., [Beyond GDP: Measuring What Counts for Economic and Social Performance](#), OECD Publishing: Paris, 2018 – Chapter 1, pp17-37

### **Topic 5 (January 28, 2020)**

**Democratic Political Systems:**

**What effect does national democracy have on international behaviour?**

Readings:

Rosato, Sebastian, "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory," *American Political Science Review*, 97, 4, 2003, pp585-602 – available on-line

### **Topic 6 (January 31, 2020)**

**Autocratic Political Systems:**

**How do authoritarian governments manufacture consent?**

Readings:

Mayer, Robert, "Strategies of justification in authoritarian ideology," *Journal of Political ideologies*, 6, 2, 2001, pp147-168 – available on-line

### **Topic 7 (February 4, 2020)**

**Transitional states:**

**Is there a global trend in the spread of democracy: expansion, consolidation, or deconsolidation?**

Readings:

Grugel, Jean, and Bishop, Matthew Louis, *Democratization: A Critical Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, p52-72 – posted on Avenue to learn

Foa, Roberto Stefan, and Mounk, Yascha, "The Signs of Deconsolidation," *Journal of Democracy*, 28, 1, 2017, pp5-15 – available on-line

### **Topic 8 (February 7-11, 2020)**

**Theories of international relations:**

**Does "anarchy" make a difference?**

Readings:

Chapter 2 (Theories of World Affairs), in *Encounters with World Affairs*

### **Topic 9 (February 14, 2020)**

**A short history of violence:**

**The Cold War is MAD. Did the threat of nuclear annihilation make the world safe for peace?**

Readings:

Chapter 10 (Conflict and In/Security in Global Life), in *Encounters with World Affairs*

Kroenig, Matthew, "The History of Proliferation Optimism: Does It Have a Future?" *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 38, 1-2, 2015, pp98-125 – available on-line

### **Reading Week: No Class (February 17-21, 2020)**

### **Topic 10 (February 25, 2020)**

**Nuclear deterrence continued**

Readings:

Krepinevich, Jr., Andrew F., "The Eroding Balance of Terror: The Decline of Deterrence," *Foreign Affairs*, 98,1, Jan/Feb, 2019, pp62-74 – available on-line

### **Topic 11 (February 28 - March 3, 2020)**

**The post-Cold War security environment:  
What is the political science of terrorism?**

Readings:

Huntington, Samuel, "Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, 72, 3, 1993, pp22-49 – available on-line

Hobson, John M., "Deconstructing the Eurocentric Clash of Civilizations: De-Westernizing the West by Acknowledging the Dialogue of Civilizations," in Hall, Martin, and Jackson, Patrick Thaddeus, eds., *Civilizational Identity: The Production and Reproduction of "civilizations" in International Relations*, Macmillan, 2007, pp149-165 – available on-line as an ebook through the McMaster Library catalogue

### **Topic 12 (March 6, 2020)**

**Terrorism and Policy**

Readings:

Mueller, John, and Stewart, Mark G, "Terrorism and Bathtubs: Comparing and Assessing the Risks," *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 2018 – available on-line



### **Topic 12 (March 10-17, 2020)**

#### **Human Rights:**

**What counts as a ‘human right’? How are human rights best protected given present political realities?**

#### Readings:

Chapter 14 (Imposing Internal Order on States), in *Encounters with World Affairs*

Paris, Roland, “The ‘Responsibility to Protect’ and the Structural Problems of Preventive Humanitarian Intervention,” *International Peacekeeping*, 21,5, 2014, pp569-603 – available on-line

Autesserre, Séverine, “The Crisis of Peacekeeping: Why the UN Can’t End Wars,” *Foreign Affairs*, 98, 1, Jan/Feb, 2019, pp101-116 – available on-line

### **Topic 13 (March 20-24, 2020)**

#### **International organizations and international law:**

**Do they have a significant impact on international outcomes?**

#### Readings:

Chapter 17 (Global Governance), in *Encounters with World Affairs*

Noack, Rick, [“Why does the Trump administration hate the International Criminal Court so much?”](#) *Washington Post*, April 5, 2019

### **Topic 14 (March 27, 2020)**

**Has the period of American hegemony come to an end?**

**What, if anything, does this mean for the international system?**

#### Readings:

Chapter 12 (Shifts in world power), in *Encounters with World Affairs*

Christopher Layne, “The US – Chinese power shift and the end of the Pax Americana,” *International Affairs*, 94, 1, 2018, pp89-111 – available on-line

### **Topic 15 (March 31, 2020)**

#### **The environment and global politics**

#### Readings:

Chapter 8 (Nature as an Actor in International Politics), in *Encounters with World Affairs*

Harvey, Fiona, and Ranking, Jennifer, [“Paris climate deal: world not on track to meet goal amid continuous emissions,”](#) *The Guardian*, December 4, 2019

## Topic 16 (April 3-7, 2020)

### Review of term

## Course Policies

### Submission of Assignments

Please submit a paper copy of your assignments in tutorial to your Teaching Assistant on the scheduled due date.

### 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

Please note: Late papers may be subject to a 2% per day grade deduction. For example, an 80% essay will be reduced to 78% if it is received one day late, 76% if two days late, etc.

### Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Requests for extensions should be submitted through the [MSAF process](#).

The expectation for this course is that all components (including tutorial participation and paper presentation) will be completed.

In the event of an approved extension for the Paper Proposal or the Research Paper, the assignment will be due one week from the original due date.

## **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

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

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

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.