



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 283 Lecture 01  
Issues and Trends in World Politics  
Spring 2021**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Saira Bano  
**EMAIL:** sban@ucalgary.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Friday: 1:00-2:00pm or by appointment (I will be available on Zoom)  
**COURSE DAY/TIME:** Asynchronous (there will be no live online classes. Each week's topic information will be available on D2L)  
**DELIVERY METHOD:** Web-Based  
**COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This lecture-based course seeks to understand the nature and trends found in contemporary world politics and their impact(s) on society. The field of world politics can span the continuum from open warfare to peaceful cooperation. Some countries fight wars against one another or spend significant resources preparing to fight, while other countries have managed to live in peace by engaging in economic cooperation. On the one hand, globalization seems to have reduced the relevance of the nation-state and creating opportunities of international cooperation through institutions (multilateral organizations such as the UN, IMF, and WTO as well as NGOs such as Amnesty International) for the well-being of human society. On the other hand, globalization is fueling the rise of nationalism and other challenges including global terrorism, environmental degradation, nuclear and other WMD proliferation, population growth, massive refugee flows, pandemic disease, and cyber vulnerabilities. Understanding this varied landscape of conflict and cooperation is task of this course.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Have a comprehensive understanding of the most salient issues and trends in contemporary world politics.
- Have not only a firmer grasp of important core concepts (e.g., anarchy, sovereignty, development, sustainability, security etc.) but also greater awareness of alternative perspectives to interpreting and resolving global dilemmas (e.g., population growth, environmental degradation, transnational crime flows).
- Develop critical reading, thinking, research, and analytical skills to apply towards the complexities of contemporary global politics.

**Note:** Students are expected to listen the recorded lectures and complete the reading assignments from the textbook, cited in the reading list, for each week. It is expected that students will follow the coverage of news stories that are related to the various topic areas.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)**

Steven L Spiegel, Elizabeth G. Matthews, Jennifer M. Taw, Kristen P. Williams, *World Politics in a New Era*, 6th edition, (Oxford: OUP, 2015).

**REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY**

To successfully complete this course, students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Broadband internet connection.

**COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
<b>Research Essay Assignment</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>May 31</b>
<b>Mid Term Exam</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>May 27</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>Scheduled by Registrar (June 21-23)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible.

**COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS**

Please note that PowerPoint slides, written explanation and recorded lectures for each week's topic will be uploaded on D2L at the start of every week.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1 (May 5-7)	Introduction, Basic Concepts and Theory	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 1 & 2
Week 2 (May 10-14)	Westphalia to the Cold War	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 3 & 4
Week 3 (May 17-21)	Imperialism and New World Order	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 5 & 6
Week 4 (May 25-28)	Security Theory and Contemporary Security Issues <b>Mid Term (May 27)</b>	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 7 & 8

Week 5 (May 31- June 4)	Trade and Development <b>Research Essay Assignment Due (May 31)</b>	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 9 & 10
Week 6 (June 7-11)	Demographic and Resources Issues	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 11 & 12
Week 7 (June 14-17)	International Law and Organizations	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 13

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

### **RESEARCH ESSAY ASSIGNMENT**

The research essay assignment is an analytical exercise intended to strengthen the capacity of students to develop and support focused arguments on key issues. They are not a test of everything a student knows on a given subject; nor are they simply an exercise in opinion journalism. Your paper must convey your analytical and scholarly skills expected of university students.

Choose one of the following research questions:

- Which theory (Realism or Liberalism) provides the best explanation for global politics?
- Does globalization make the state obsolete?
- Is the United States a hegemon in decline?
- Will China's rise be peaceful?
- Can International trade and environmental protection ever be compatible?

The research essay should be 5-7 pages long (excluding references and bibliography, size 12 times new roman, 1.5 spaced). All papers must utilize citation rules. Papers with no citation will get an F. This is what we call plagiarism. Any citation style is acceptable. Papers will be submitted electronically via D2L Dropbox. Papers may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Papers must be submitted by 11:59pm on May 31<sup>st</sup>. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

### **Grading Criteria for the Paper**

**A: Excellent**—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.

- Clear and insightful main thesis.
- Consistent and logical argumentation
- Well thought out structure and paragraphs.
- Examples and sources used to buttress main points.
- Counter-arguments addressed.
- Excellent spelling, grammar and punctuation.

**B: Good**—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.

- Promising but unclear thesis.
- Generally strong but somewhat wandering and unclear structure.
- Not all evidence is appropriate or well thought out.
- Counter-arguments not properly addressed.
- Occasional lapses in grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**C: Satisfactory**—basic understanding of the subject matter.

- Unclear or unoriginal thesis.
- Wandering and unclear structure.
- Many points are not fully substantiated by evidence.
- Logic may fail or be unclear.
- Problems with grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**D: Minimal pass**—marginal performance; insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.

- No clear thesis or no thesis of any interest/substance.
- Weak or missing use of substantiating evidence.
- No clear structure or logic.
- Serious problems with grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**F: Fail**—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

- Lack of comprehension of the topic.
- No identifiable thesis.
- Severe problems with grammar, spelling and punctuation.

### **MID-TERM EXAMINATION**

The mid-term exam will be done online on D2L on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. The exam will comprise 80 multiple-choice questions (0.5 for each question). The exam will be of 2 hours\* duration and will be available on D2L for 24 hours from 11am May 27<sup>th</sup> to 11am May 28<sup>th</sup>.

\*An additional time of one hour will be given to deal with any technology issues that may arise. This will make the duration of the mid-term exam 3 hours in total.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final exam will be comprised of two parts. The Part I will be comprised of 60 multiple choice questions (30%) and the part II will have one essay question (10%). The final exam will be of 2 hours\* duration. The exam will be available on D2L for 24 hours before the end of a Registrar-scheduled exam time. The final exam will be cumulative for the whole course.

\*An additional time of one hour will be given to deal with any technology issues that may arise. It means the total duration of the final exam will be of 3 hours.

### **Grading Criteria for the Part II Final Exam:**

**A: Excellent** — Superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.

**B: Good** — Good. Clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.

**C: Satisfactory** — Basic understanding of the subject matter.

**D: Minimal pass** — marginal performance; insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.

**F: Fail**—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Both the Mid-Term Exam and the Final Exam will be closed book exams with no external aids available (e.g., no notes, textbook etc.). Please note that the mid-term exam, the final exam and the research essay assignment are an individual, not a collective, exercise and you are responsible for ensuring that the exams and the assignment you turn in are your own work. A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

### **WRITING STATEMENT**

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

**GRADING SCALE:** The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

### **LATE PENALTIES**

Late papers, those without an extension granted by the instructor, will be docked 5 % per day (including weekends). Papers, which are more than 7 days late, will not be marked and shall receive zero mark.

### **INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments. All meetings will be held virtually.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours, to be held virtually.

### **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

#### **Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration**

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are

encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

### **Absence From a Mid-term Examination**

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

### **Deferral of a Final Examination**

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

### **Reappraisals**

The University Calendar states that for reappraisals of graded term work:

“A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work reappraised as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor **within ten business days** of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall take the matter to the head of the department offering the course **within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor**, who

will arrange for a reappraisal of the work **within the next ten business days**. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected." See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/archives/2020/i-2.html> for additional information.

With regard to reappraisal of academic assessments (final grades) [I think we should use the terminology in the calendar here], I suggest the following:

The University Calendar states that for reappraisal of academic assessments (final grades):

“In the reappraisal of a final grade, the only element that will be considered is the final assessment(s) that makes up the final mark (e.g., final examination, final project, and final paper). The exception is when a grade for a piece of graded term work is made available to students after the last day of classes for the term in which the course is scheduled; that grade may also be considered in a reappraisal of the final grade.”

“A student seeking a reappraisal of a final grade should first attempt to review the final assessment with the department or faculty offering the course. After which the student shall obtain a Reappraisal of Final Grade form from [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar) (under Student Forms). The student must indicate exactly what error was made in marking the final assessment and/or in computing the final grade. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” More information is available at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/archives/2020/i-3.html>.

### **University Regulations**

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

### **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

### **Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

### **Required Access to Technology**

Please see the University's resource page at [https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb\\_article&sys\\_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031](https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031)

### **Copyright Legislation**

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, "students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy."

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)**

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625].

### **Important Contact Information**

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

### **Campus Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

*SU Wellness Centre:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

*Student Wellness Services:*

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

*Campus Mental Health Strategy website:* <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.