



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 283 Lecture 01
Issues & Trends In World Politics
Winter 2021**

INSTRUCTOR: Tareq Y. Ismael
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EMAIL: tismael@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: R 14:30 – 15:30 or by appointment via Zoom
Office hours will be ‘open’, therefore in an effort to not conflict with other students please email prior to the scheduled start time (14:30) so as to secure a time slot within the hour
COURSE DAY/TIME: TR 15:30 - 16:45 (synchronous participation is required for those days marked as ‘lecture’, films may be screened at your leisure prior to their designated exam and mid-terms must be completed as designated)
DELIVERY METHOD: Web-Based
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None
TUTORIAL/SEMINAR: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Using case studies from contemporary world politics, including migration / refugees as well as non-state actors such as pirates off the coast of Somalia, the role of social movements, the advance of rights-based discourses, the emergence of radical political actors such as Islamists and the ‘alt-right’, an examination of Iraq following the 2003 Anglo-American invasion and occupation, this course will focus on the nature and trends found in contemporary world politics and their impact(s) on society. Over the course of fourteen weeks students will investigate patterns of international interaction in the world by focusing on issues of development, conflict and reconstruction, the utility of military intervention, illicit trade and the impacts of ecological change, the global political economy and mobility on refugees, migrants and stateless peoples as well as how we as Canadians make a difference in the world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Based upon the background materials presented through the course readings, lectures, and documentary films, students will be encouraged to join in class discussions to examine trends in international politics. In doing so, the objectives of the course are for students to begin to develop *habits of mind that exhibit critical thinking* about sources of information, assumptions within descriptions and analysis of global politics and to thereby question the agenda-setting and framing of politics by the mainstream media, academics, commentators and political actors. The course is meant to encourage a critical faculty towards politics and a mindfulness that allows students to begin their study of politics without being subsumed by any one perspective (see mentions of

critical thinking below, as well as how they are incorporated into any rubrics for the assessment of your assignments).

Upon completion of the course students should be familiar with and able to demonstrate an active interest in global politics, critically evaluate and distinguish media and other sources of information, as well as the confidence to discuss ideas freely within classroom discussions with the instructor and other students. In this experience the ability to demonstrate your own facility with critical thinking as a habit of mind should emerge. This will include an ability to analyze and debate political events in a coherent manner and form individual conclusions as well as an ability to think systematically in an effort to construct logical arguments about global politics.

Critical Thinking as a Habit of Mind

Critical Thinking skills and assessment of alternative sources is both of paramount importance for the student of politics and exceedingly difficult to assess in assignments of sufficient length in an undergraduate course setting. To exhibit the critical thinking skills indicated in the course objectives above you should attempt to demonstrate seven habits of thinking in your responses as time permits in class: i) identify and concisely explain the problem / question at issue; ii) identify the context this issue is found in, while also recognizing the influence of the context on different stakeholders, the positions they adopt and the issue itself; iii) present your own perspective and position related to the issue as well as how you relate to that of your sources; iv) acknowledge other perspectives salient to the issue (especially those provided in the course resources); v) identify and evaluate the key assumptions behind the claims and recommendations made; vi) evaluate the quality of supporting data/evidence (in a research project you could then provide additional data as needed); and vii) evaluate conclusions, implications, and consequences.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

Global Politics: A New Introduction (Third edition)

Edited by Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss

Routledge, 2019

<https://www.routledge.com/Global-Politics-A-New-Introduction/Edkins-Zehfuss/p/book/9781138060296>

(available in the bookstore or online vendors, all other readings are available via library reserve or freely at the provided url indicated in the reading list for each week)

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

Computer device with internet connection to allow access to D2L and Zoom applications.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	COMPRISED of readings from	SCHEDULED DATES
Mid-term Exam 1	20%	WK01 – WK04	February 09
Mid-term Exam 2	20%	WK05 – WK08	March 09
Mid-term Exam 3	15%	WK09 – WK12	April 06
Final Exam	45%	cumulative	scheduled by Registrar
Total	100%		

Each mid-term will be comprised of multiple-choice questions based on the required readings, associated class lectures and the documentary film(s) shown in the weeks as indicated above.

Each exam will be made available via D2L, on the date noted in the syllabus. Distribution online will begin at 12:01 a.m. and you may start the exam at any point thereafter, through 11:59 p.m. MST on the scheduled date. Students will have seventy-five (75) minutes to complete each exam, with an opportunity to extend this time to one-hundred-and-fifteen (115) minutes should you experience any problems with your computer once you have begun the exam. Once your 75-minute window has elapsed your exam will be assessed and your score made available in the grade book.

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible. Make-up exam(s) are only possible if a student has an acceptable reason (as outlined in the University of Calgary Calendar) and provides necessary documentation for their absence. Make up quizzes/exams are administered and scheduled by the department. Aside from illness or medical emergency, arrangements for a make-up must be approved by the instructor **prior to** the scheduled date for the exam. Any make-up assignment may (by necessity) adopt an alternative format (short answer ‘identify and define’ questions or an essay).

The Final Exam (45%) will be cumulative (assessing all the materials from the course) and comprised of 80 multiple-choice questions. The questions will arise from the required readings assigned, the lectures delivered in class and the documentary films screened.

*****All assignments must be completed in order to complete the course*****

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
WK01 January 12 (lecture)	Global Politics: contemporary challenges – What is Politics?	Stuart Elden, ‘Why is the world divided territorially?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 212-233. “Sovereignty,” <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> (Stanford, CA: 2003), http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/sovereignty/
WK01 January 14 (lecture)	Global Politics: contemporary challenges – The study of International Relations (IR) and its relevance to our daily lives	Simon Dalby, ‘What happens if we don’t take nature for granted?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 38-56. Jenny Edkins, ‘Why do we obey?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 124-143.
WK02 January 19 (lecture)	Global Politics: contemporary challenges – foreign policy – the exercise of statecraft	Paul Wilkinson, “States,” and “Non-States” from his <i>International Relations: A Very Short Introduction</i> . (Oxford Paperbacks, 2007). UofC Library: JZ1305 .W545 2007 [Available online and on reserve] https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=415446
WK02 January 21 (film)	Global Politics: contemporary challenges –	Film: All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and the Spirit of I.F. Stone (94 min.) Link: https://ucalgary.kanopy.com/video/all-governments-lie

WK03 January 26 (lecture)	Global Politics: contemporary challenges – Elements of International Relations - the state-centric system	Elena Barabantseva, ‘How do people come to identify with nations?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 234-256. “Nationalism,” <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> (Stanford, CA: 2005), http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nationalism/
WK03 January 28 (lecture)	Global Politics: contemporary challenges – international interaction	Michael J. Shapiro, ‘Does the nation-state work?,’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 257-274. Paul Cammack, ‘Why are some people better off than others?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. -407.
WK04 February 2 (lecture)	Iraq and wars of choice	Maja Zehfuss, ‘What can we do to change the world,’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 545-562.
WK04 February 4 (film)	Iraq and wars of choice	Film: ‘Saddam, America’s best enemy: a film’ (52 minutes) IMDB page: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0466326/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1a
WK05 February 9	Mid-term Exam 1	Comprised of WK01 – WK04 materials
WK05 February 11 (film)	Iraq and wars of choice	Film: Why We Fight (98 min) IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0436971/
WK06 February 16-18	Term Break, no classes	Term Break, no classes
WK07 February 23 (film)	Libya and wars of choice	Film: Lifeboat: Volunteer refugee rescue missions off the coast of Libya’ (34 mins.) Link: https://www.kanopy.com/product/lifeboat
WK07 February 25 (lecture)	Libya and wars of choice	Shahed Ezaydi, ‘What exactly is happening in Libya? Libya has become part of a geo-political proxy war, where everyone involved has their own personal interests in mind. But people have had enough.’ <i>openDemocracy</i> (29 September 2020). Link: https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/what-exactly-happening-libya/
WK08 March 2 (film)	Hollowed states and migration	Film: Stolen Seas (90 minutes) Homepage: http://stolenseas.com/ IMDB page: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1981690/
WK08 March 4 (lecture)	Hollowed states and migration	Joanna Bourke, ‘Why does politics turn to violence?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 454-476. Thomas Gregory, ‘What makes the world dangerous?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 477-499.
WK09 March 9	Mid-term Exam 2	Comprised of WK05 – WK08 materials
WK09 March 11 (lecture)	Popular protest and global regimes - populism and the media	Duncan McDonnell and Stefano Ondelli, ‘We compared the language of populist leaders with their mainstream opponents – the results were unexpected,’ <i>The Conversation</i> (November 2, 2020) Link: https://theconversation.com/we-compared-the-language-of-populist-leaders-with-their-mainstream-opponents-the-results-were-unexpected-148343

WK10 March 16 (film)	Popular protest and global regimes - populism and the media	Film: Media Theorized: Reading Against the Grain (a series of shorts of top media theorists) Link: https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2017/the-listening-post-media-theorised/index.html Debbie Lisle , ‘How do we find out what’s going on in the world?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 144-163.
WK10 March 18 (lecture)	Popular protest and global regimes - populism and the media	M. I. Franklin, ‘How does the way we use the Internet make a difference?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 164-187.
WK11 March 23 (lecture)	Popular protest and global regimes - inequality and the 1%	Roxanne Lynn Doty, ‘Why is people’s movement restricted?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 188-211. Film: The Corporation https://thecorporation.com/film/about-film https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/mtt0p8/01UCALG_ALMA21582814280004336
WK11 March 25 (lecture)	Popular protest and global regimes - inequality and the 1%	V. Spike Peterson, ‘How is the world organized economically?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp.
WK 12 March 30 (film)	Tension Areas in world politics - technology and contemporary media	Film: Disinformation (94 min.) Link: https://www.kanopy.com/product/after-truth-disinformation-and-cost-fake-n IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11615038/
WK 12 April 1 (lecture)	Tension Areas in world politics - technology and contemporary media	Chris Hedges, ‘Rolling Stone’s Matt Taibbi: Old media sold false objectivity to manufacture consent — but new media ‘packages anger just for you’,’ <i>Truthdig</i> (May 27, 2019). Link: https://www.alternet.org/2019/05/rolling-stones-matt-taibbi-old-media-sold-false-objectivity-to-manufacture-consent-but-new-media-packages-anger-just-for-you/
WK13 April 6	Mid-term Exam 3	Comprised of WK09 – WK12 materials
WK13 April 8 (lecture)	Tension Areas in world politics – the rise of China	Nick Bisley , ‘The China-US rivalry is not a new Cold War. It is way more complex and could last much longer,’ <i>The Conversation</i> (August 26, 2020). Link: https://theconversation.com/the-china-us-rivalry-is-not-a-new-cold-war-it-is-way-more-complex-and-could-last-much-longer-144912
WK 14 April 13 (lecture)	Tension Areas in world politics - decline of the United States	Roland Bleiker and David Shim, ‘Can we move beyond conflict?’ <i>Global Politics</i> , pp. 500-523.
WK 14 April 15 (lecture)	Tension Areas in world politics - decline of the United States	How capitalism is destroying democracy 'Authoritarian capitalism is where the U.S. is heading,' says Yale historian CBC Radio · Posted: Nov 02, 2020 https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/how-capitalism-is-destroying-democracy-1.5786136

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

A note on grades: I do not negotiate grades; however, I will be available for clarification designed to aid your learning and support improvement. If you believe that your grade does not accurately reflect the quality of your work, you are advised to initiate the Faculty's formal appeal process.

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)

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.

Email Policy: Email should be treated as a professional communication. Basic rules of grammar and etiquette apply. Emails that do not follow this spirit will not be answered. Emails will be answered in due time, but not always immediately (especially with the congested course schedule). If you have questions regarding class material please raise them in class, it is often to the benefit of others. Office hours are for questions relating to the course mechanics and should not be seen as an opportunity for a private 'tutorial'. Moreover, grades will not be discussed over the phone or by emails.

CURRENT EVENTS

Students are expected to stay up to date with current affairs as such events relate to the course content. The topics examined in class will be investigated in a scholarly manner using concepts, theories and tools associated with the social sciences broadly and political science in particular. With the fast-moving events of contemporary global politics, especially with regard Iraq and the greater Middle East region and the emergence of non-state actors, the empirical material for your analytical exploration and learning of political science will always be expanding. Therefore, it is a good habit of mind to become acquainted and knowledgeable with credible information sources that challenge assumptions and bring new data and insight(s) to your attention in a timely manner. Students should pay attention to the nature of media coverage by comparing Western reports on current affairs with Middle Eastern and non-Western coverage (even if English language sources are all that are accessible to you).

With no preference or endorsement, the following list may serve as a starting point:

Al-Jazeera: <http://english.aljazeera.net>
Al-Monitor: <http://www.almonitor.com/>
Haaretz: <http://www.haaretz.com/>
Jordan Times: <http://www.jordantimes.com>

Japan Times Online:
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>
BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca/>

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>
Fox News: <http://www.foxnews.com/>
The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/>
The Guardian (UK):
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk>

The Independent (UK):
<http://www.independent.co.uk/>
Toronto Star: <http://www.thestar.com/>
RT: <http://rt.com>

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). 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).

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>.

Appeals

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

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.

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/.

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

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. You can also visit 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, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: 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/>.