

POLI 381 (L1) Intro to International Relations

Pre/Co-Requisites: None

Instructor: Dakoda Trithara	Lecture Location: ENE 241
Phone: N/A	Lecture Days/Time: MWF 13:00-13:50
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Office Hours: W 14:00 – 15:00 or by appointment	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

It's a compelling time to study global politics. Issues including a worldwide pandemic, climate change, terrorism, regional conflict, mass migration, democratic decline, cyberthreats, and more present challenges for states and non-state actors. How do the entities that govern our lives meet these challenges? How do we, as individuals affected by these issues or as decision makers in our own communities, understand these matters?

This course will introduce students to the study of international politics. Students will be provided with conceptual tools to help them critically think about and evaluate what is happening around the world. While the course is not a survey of current world events nor a complete history of the international system, students will engage with such topics as they help students understand and explain what is happening globally today. The course will provide a thematic exploration of major theories and concepts in the study of international relations (IR).

The course will begin with an examination of why we study global politics and the history of IR as an academic discipline. Students will then be introduced to some of the major theoretical approaches to studying international relations including: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, International Society, theories of International Political Economy, Post-Colonialism, Feminist IR, and Foreign Policy Analysis. In the final sessions of the course, we will consider some of the central challenges of the 2020s including terrorism, disinformation campaigns, and regulating cyberspace.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The primary aims of the course are: to demonstrate how theory influences our explanations; to provide students with the theoretical tools, concepts, and frameworks to think about global politics and the social world we inhabit; for students to be able to identify key actors, events, and dilemmas in the international system; to familiarize students with some important issues in global politics; and to help students evaluate contemporary issues in world politics. In addition to developing competencies to assess international trends, events, and challenges from a variety of perspectives, students will improve their verbal and written analytical skills relevant to IR, political science, and the social sciences generally. After taking this course, students will be prepared to take higher-level courses in international relations and political science.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

Sørensen, G., Møller, J., & Jackson, R. H. (2022). Introduction to international relations: Theories and approaches (Eighth edition). Oxford University Press. (Can be purchased as physical copy or ebook from the university bookstore)

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Participation and TopHat	15%	Throughout course
News Article D2L Post	5%	Individually Assigned
Research Paper Outline	10%	Friday, Oct.14
Research Paper	30%	Friday, Dec. 2
Mid-Term Exam	20%	Mon, Oct. 17
Final Exam	20%	Scheduled by the Registrar (Dec. 10-21)
Total	100%	

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

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change) “Chapter” refers to Sørensen et al. (2022) textbook		
DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1 Sept. 7, 9	Introduction to Course. Syllabus Overview. Why Study IR?	Chapter 1, “Why Study IR?” Bragg, M. (Host). (December 6, 2018). The Thirty Years War [Audio podcast episode]. In <i>In Our Time</i> . BBC Podcast. https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0001fv2 .
Week 2 Sept. 12, 14, 16	IR as an academic subject: history, theory, and approaches.	Chapter 2, “IR as an Academic Subject”
Week 3 Sept. 19, 21, 23	Realism: Security, Power Politics, Conflict, and War	Chapter 3, “Realism”
Week 4 Sept. 26, 28 Sept 30.	Liberalism: Freedom, Cooperation, Peace and Progress National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No Class)	Chapter 4, “Liberalism”

<p>Week 5 Oct. 3</p> <p>Oct. 5, 7</p>	<p>Guest Lecture from Saaka Sulemana</p> <p>Feminist IR: Critical, Empowerment, and Gender</p>	<p>Chapter 8, “Post-positivism in IR,” pp. 235-240.</p> <p>Pearson, E. (2019). Extremism and toxic masculinity: The man question re-posed. <i>International Affairs</i>, 95(6), 1251–1270. https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiz177</p> <p>Helpful, but not required, multimedia resource: Tickner, A. (Lecturer). (June 22, 2016). ‘A Feminist Voyage Through International Relations’ [Audio podcast episode]. In <i>Politics and International Relations Podcasts</i>. University of Oxford. https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/a-feminist-voyage-through-international-relations/id381702823?i=1000410380426</p>
<p>Week 6 Oct. 10</p> <p>Oct. 12, 14</p>	<p>Thanksgiving Day (No Class)</p> <p>Post-Colonialism: Critical, Race, Self-Determination and Decolonization</p>	<p>Chapter 8, “Post-positivism in IR,” pp. 230-235.</p> <p>DuBois, W. E. B. (1925). Worlds of Color. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 3(3), 423–444. JSTOR. https://doi.org/10.2307/20028386</p> <p>Helpful, but not required, multimedia resource: Center for International & Area Studies. (July 29, 2020). Worldmaking After Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination – A Dialogue with Adom Getachew [VIDEO]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5NJw79xNJ0</p> <p>PAPER OUTLINE DUE Oct 14, 11:59pm</p>
<p>Week 7 Oct. 17,</p> <p>Oct. 19, 21</p>	<p>Midterm Exam</p> <p>Middle Way – International Society (English School): Order, Justice, Rules, and Institutions</p>	<p>Chapter 5, “International Society”</p>
<p>Week 8 Oct. 24, 26, 28</p>	<p>Middle Way - Constructivism: Ideas, Norms, and Intersubjective Awareness</p>	<p>Chapter 7, “Social Constructivism”</p>

Week 9 Oct. 31 Nov. 2, 4	International Political Economy: Welfare, Development, and Globalization	Chapter 6, “International Political Economy: Marxism, Mercantilism, and Liberalism” Chapter 10, “Major Issues in IPE”
Week 10 Nov. 7, 9, 11	TERM BREAK No Classes	
Week 11 Nov. 14, 16, 18	Foreign Policy Analysis: Multidimensional, Bureaucratic Structures, and Cognitive Processes	Chapter 9, “Foreign Policy” Mackinnon, A. (Host). (April 15, 2021). What was Saddam Hussein Thinking? [Audio podcast episode]. In <i>Foreign Policy Playlist</i> . Foreign Policy (FP). https://foreignpolicy.com/podcasts/foreign-policy-playlist/al-jazeera-hindsight-saddam-hussein/
Week 12 Nov. 21, 23, 25	Key Issues in Contemporary IR: Terrorism, Political Violence, Non-State Actors, and Media Representation	Chapter 11, “Key Issues in Contemporary IR,” pp. 325-331. Friis, S. M. (2018). ‘Behead, burn, crucify, crush’: Theorizing the Islamic State’s public displays of violence. <i>European Journal of International Relations</i> , 24(2), 243–267. https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066117714416 Helpful, but not required, multimedia resource: Poisson, J. (Host). (February 5, 2021). Proud Boys and the thorny definition of terrorism [Audio podcast episode]. In <i>Front Burner</i> . CBC News. https://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/209-front-burner/episode/15823000-proud-boys-and-the-thorny-definition-of-terrorism
Week 13 Nov. 28, 30 Dec. 2	Key Issues in Contemporary IR: Disinformation, Democracy, and Authoritarianism	Bennett, W. L., & Livingston, S. (2018). The Disinformation Order: Disruptive Communication and the Decline of Democratic Institutions. <i>European Journal of Communication</i> , 33(2), 122–139. https://doi.org/10.1177/0267323118760317 Lindsay, J. (Host). (March 6, 2020). The Rise of Digital Dictators, with Andrea Kendall-Taylor [Audio podcast episode]. In <i>The President’s Inbox</i> . Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/rise-digital-dictators-andrea-kendall-taylor

		RESEARCH PAPER DUE BY DEC 2, 11:59PM
Week 14 Dec. 5	Key Issues in Contemporary IR: World Order or World Chaos?	Chapter 12, "The Big Question: World Order or World Chaos?"
Dec. 7	Course Review & Final Exam Prep	

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

RESEARCH OUTLINE (10%) AND PAPER (30%)

Each student will write one formal research paper that is due by **Friday, December 2, 11:59pm**. The paper shall not exceed six double-spaced pages, excluding the title page and reference list. Students will select a research question from a list of questions provided by the instructor. To answer the question, students will provide relevant background information on the topic, and then apply two of the IR theories discussed in class to explain the international crisis, event, decision, or development. Students must use APA in-text or Chicago Footnotes to cite sources. Specific paper parameters will be discussed in class and posted on D2L.

By **Friday, October 14, 11:59pm**, each student will hand in an outline of their in-progress research paper. An outline template will be provided to students by the instructor and posted on D2L. The outline must include the selected research question, the two selected theories to be used in the final research paper, a breakdown of at least one of the two theories, some preliminary background information on the topic, and at least two primary sources and two secondary peer-reviewed sources.

Both the research outline and final paper must be submitted to Dropbox on the course D2L page in a .docx (Word) or PDF format.

NEWS ARTICLE POST (5%)

Each student will write a D2L discussion post covering a news article that discusses a current international crisis, event, decision, or development. Students will be assigned an individual due date at the beginning of the course. The post must cover the who, what, where, and when of the article, plus relate the news to a concept covered in class. Submissions are **due on the assigned date by 10:00am** as some articles will be discussed at the beginning of class.

PARTICIPATION (15%)

Students are expected to participate in in-class discussion and engage with news presentations posted on D2L. TopHat, an online response application available for free for all University of Calgary students, will also be used to assess student participation. Using a lap-top, tablet, or smartphone, students answer questions in real-time in class or as homework outside of class. Some questions generate participation points only (e.g., surveys), while most questions also generate points for correct answers. Questions will almost always be asked during class and be related to recently completed or upcoming assigned reading/topics.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (20%)

The midterm exam is scheduled for **Monday, October 17**. It will be administered in-person at the course’s assigned campus location. Students will have the full 50 minutes of class to complete the exam. The exam may include multiple-choice, true/false, matching exercises, and/or short answer questions. During the test, students are not permitted to use their textbook, notes, study aids, smartphone, laptop, or other electronic devices. Students must complete the test by themselves and are subject to the academic integrity terms discussed below under Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct.

FINAL EXAMINATION (20%)

The final exam will take place during the Registrar scheduled time slot (exam period is from December 10-21). It will be administered in-person at the location designated by the Registrar. The format will be similar to the midterm. The exam may include multiple-choice, true/false, matching exercises, and/or short answer questions. During the test, students are not permitted to use their textbook, notes, study aids, smartphone, laptop, or other electronic devices. Students must complete the test by themselves and are subject to the academic integrity terms discussed below under Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct.

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>.

TECHNOLOGY STATEMENT

Students are responsible for ensuring they are registered on the Top Hat system. For assistance, please see the University’s resource pages:

- IT Getting Started Guide – Students: https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031
- Getting Started with Top Hat: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/getting-started-with-top-hat/>

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

A late penalty of five percent (5%) will be applied to the research outline and paper for each 24 hours past their respective deadlines, including weekends and statutory holidays. If students need an extension, they must contact the instructor at least 48 hours in advance of the assignment deadline. Only in exceptional circumstances will extensions be granted when requested less than 48 hours in advance of the deadline.

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 email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

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.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

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.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

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>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance;

failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade for the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

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.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic 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. 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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

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) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

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

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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/>.