

## **POLI 381 L02 – Introduction to International Relations**

**Pre/Co-Requisites:** None

**Instructor:** Chris W. J. Roberts

**Lecture Location:** ST 141

**Phone:** (403) 870-9241

**Lecture Days/Time:** Tuesdays 1700-1945

**Email:** christopher.roberts@ucalgary.ca

**Profile:** <https://profiles.ucalgary.ca/chris-w-j-roberts>

**Office:** SS 702

**Office Hours:** Tue Noon-1300 / Wed 1500-1600 or by appt

**Instructor Email Policy:**

Always put Poli 381 in the subject line or your email will not be answered. If you have not received a reply within 24 hours, please resend.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The term “international relations” reflects a general observation that states interact with other states, but since the early part of the 20th Century, International Relations (IR) has emerged as a discipline that attempts to understand and explain state behaviour, the causes of war, and, ultimately, the whole range of global politics and economic exchange that occurs beyond the confines of state borders. States themselves are products of and not just actors in international relations, and they are also not the only actors in the study of IR.

This course will provide an intensive introduction to the vocabulary, concepts, theories, assumptions, and methods applied in the study of IR. Tensions between theoretical frameworks (e.g., neorealism versus liberal interdependence, or Western versus postcolonial approaches) and methodological assumptions (e.g., appropriate levels of analysis; rationalist versus reflectivist starting points) will be illustrated throughout our historical and contemporary examination of the substantive and process aspects of IR, including the state and other actors; international society, international system, and globalization; foreign policy; security and war; global political economy; international law and organization; and ethical dilemmas centred around the tension between state sovereignty and human rights.

Considerations of some of the central challenges of the 2020s – including climate change, nuclear and autonomous weapons, trade friction, development and inequality, mass human displacement, terrorism, pandemics, and, of course, war – will provide opportunities for the application of different analytical frameworks to real-world events.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, students will ...

- be able to employ the basic vocabulary, concepts, and theories in the study of IR.
- understand the variation, roles, origins, capabilities, and interactions of various actors in IR.
- understand, in at least a preliminary way, different methodological approaches available in the study of IR, including their strengths and weaknesses.

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- understand the historical foundations which shape the contemporary world (dis)order as well as the historical evolution of IR as a discipline, including key thinkers, ideas, and influences.
- develop competencies to assess current international trends, events, and challenges from a variety of perspectives.
- improve their verbal and written analytical skills relevant to IR, political science, and the social sciences generally.
- be prepared to advance into more specialized courses in international politics, including international law and organizations, global political economy, strategic studies and the law of armed conflict, human rights, nuclear non-proliferation, terrorism, etc.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Robert Jackson, Geog Sorensen, and Jorgen Moller, *Introduction to International Relations: theories and approaches* (8th ed.) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022). The textbook is available in hard or digital versions from the UCalgary Bookstore.

### **COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
TopHat Quizzes & Surveys	10%	Regularly throughout the course, (1) as homework between classes related to readings, and (2) as questions or surveys during class. Note: once TopHat questions are closed, they cannot be reopened.
Mid-Term Exam	25%	Tuesday, Oct. 25th (90 minutes)
Research Paper Part 1 – RQ/Case Proposal Part 2 – Applying and evaluating different explanatory frameworks	10% 25%	Each student will develop a research question related to a contemporary IR puzzle within guidelines provided. Part 1 will be a research proposal including an open-ended research question (RQ) and some basic facts of the case. Part 2 will be a formal research paper where different IR frameworks are applied in an attempt to answer the RQ (expected range 3000 words). Part 1 will be due on Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> , and Part 2 will be due on Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> (uploaded to D2L Dropbox).
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam (2 hour exam)	30%	Scheduled by Registrar during the exam period between Dec 10-21.
<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**

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1 Sept 6	<b>Course Introduction</b> Syllabus & Assignments D2L & TopHat usage Class background survey  <b>IR: states, sovereignty, &amp; systems</b>	Chap 1, "Why Study IR?" <b>Links on D2L:</b> Peace of Westphalia (1648) General Act of the Berlin Conference on West Africa (1885) Wilson's Fourteen Points (1918) Montevideo Convention (1933)
Week 2 Sept 13	<b>IR as an academic subject: history, theory &amp; method overview - Part 1</b>	Chap 2, "IR as an academic subject" <b>Links on D2L:</b> UN Charter (1945) UN Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (UNGA Res 15/14) (1960) UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNGA Res 61/295) (2007)
Week 3 Sept 20	<b>IR as an academic subject: history, theory &amp; method overview - Part 2</b>	<i>(Con't from above)</i> Carolina Kenny (2015), "Hugo Grotius: The Law of War and Peace," <i>Classics of Strategy and Diplomacy</i> [online].
Week 4 Sept 27	<b>Anarchy, Power, &amp; Security: Realism</b>	Chap 3, "Realism" Melian Dialogue (Thucydides)
Week 5 Oct 4	<b>Anarchy, Cooperation, &amp; Progress: Liberalism</b>  <b>Paper Part 1 (Proposal):            Uploaded to D2L Dropbox before            Fri, Oct. 7 (11:59pm)</b>	Chap 4, "Liberalism" Robert Jervis (1978), "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma," <i>World Politics</i> (30, 2): 167-214.
Week 6 Oct 11	<b>Competition, Cooperation, &amp; Class: Economic Liberalism &amp; its Challengers</b>	Chap 6, "IPE: Marxism, Mercantilism, Liberalism"
Week 7 Oct 18	<b>Anarchy, Order, &amp; Justice: International Society (or English School)</b>	Chap 5, "International Society"
Week 8 Oct 25	<b>Mid-term: 90 minutes</b>  <b>Setting the Stage for Foundational Challenges to the Traditional,</b>	After the exam and a break, class will resume 1845 for the last hour. This will be a quick

	<b>Rationalist Approaches to IR</b>	introduction to Chapters 7 & 8. Alexander Dugin [yes, <i>that Dugin</i> ] (nd), “A review of the basic theories of IR – Part 2 [post-positivist theories]” [online].  Niigaan Sinclair (2017), “Indigenous nationhood can save the world. Here’s how,” <i>The Globe &amp; Mail</i> [online].
<b>Week 9 Nov 1</b>	<b>Constructivist, critical, post-positivist, &amp; post-colonial/non-Western approaches</b>	Chap 7, “Social Constructivism”  Chap 8, “Post-Positivist Approaches” (pp. 220-234)  Kelebogile Zvobgo and Meredith Loken (2020), “Why Race Matters in International Relations,” <i>Foreign Policy</i> online (19 June 2020).
<b>Week 10 READING BREAK</b>	<b>No classes</b>	
<b>Week 11 Nov 15</b>	<b>IR reframed through a gendered lens</b>  <b>Paper Part 2 (Complete): Uploaded to D2L Dropbox before Friday, Nov. 18 (11:59pm)</b>	Chap 8, “Post-Positivist Approaches: Feminism” (pp. 235-245)  Melanie Richter-Montpetit (2018), “Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Sex (in IR) But were Afraid to Ask: The ‘Queer Turn’ in IR,” <i>Millennium</i> (46:2): 220-240.
<b>Week 12 Nov 22</b>  <i>(Canada’s 1<sup>st</sup> game at World Cup Nov 23!)</i>	<b>Foreign Policy Analysis</b>	Chap 9, “Foreign Policy” Valerie M. Hudson, “Foreign Policy Analysis Beyond North America,” Chapter 1 in Klaus Brummer and Valerie M. Hudson, eds., <i>Foreign Policy Analysis Beyond North America</i> (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc., 2015).
<b>Week 13 Nov 29</b>	<b>Contemporary Issues in IPE</b>	Chap 10
<b>Week 14 Dec 6</b>	<b>Contemporary Issues in IR &amp; Security</b>	Chaps 11 & 12
<b>Exam Period Dec 10-21</b>	<b>Registrar Scheduled Final Exam (2 hours)</b>	<b>Date, Time, Location TBA</b>

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

**TOPHAT QUIZZES & SURVEYS (10%)**

TopHat is an online response application available for free for all University of Calgary students. Using a lap-top, tablet, or smart phone, students answer questions in real-time in class or as homework outside of class. Some questions generate participation points only (e.g., surveys), while other questions also generate points for correct answers. Some questions will be available between classes as homework, related to recently completed or upcoming assigned reading/topics. Other questions or surveys will be done during class. If by the end of the term your TopHat average is 92% or greater, you will receive 10/10 weighted points. This takes into account technical glitches and the occasional missed question. Once TopHat questions are closed after a deadline or put into “review” mode, they cannot be reopened.

**MID-TERM EXAM (25%)**

One 90-minute, closed book mid-term exam will be taken in class on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. It will comprise a mix of multiple choice, true-false, matching, and short written answer questions.

**RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT ASSIGNMENT: Two parts (10% & 25%)**

Each student will complete a two-part research essay assignment during the term. Part 1 is a 3-4 page research proposal including bibliography following a structure and topic choice guideline that will be discussed in class and posted on D2L. You will identify a contemporary IR puzzle of your choice, develop an open-ended research question (RQ), and provide some basic facts of the case using primary and secondary research. This is worth 10% and will be due on Friday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> (11:59pm on D2L Dropbox). Your topic/RQ must be approved prior to submitting the full research paper.

The full research paper will attempt to answer the RQ established and approved in Part 1. Students will incorporate some of the research they did for Part 1 and then illustrate their understanding of *at least* two specific IR analytical frameworks that might be applied towards answering the RQ. Thus, part of the paper will include delineating the historical foundations, appropriate theorists, and fundamental assumptions of these specific theories or frameworks. Which theory, then, provides a better answer to your RQ, that is, provides more insights into understanding or explaining the IR puzzle you’ve identified? Perhaps combining frameworks provides a clearer picture, or perhaps one approach doesn’t provide much insight at all. Papers will be approx. 3000-3500 words, although well-written papers can be longer without penalty. This is worth 25% and will be due on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> (11:59pm on D2L Dropbox).

There will be a 5% per every 24 hours late penalty, including weekends, for each part.

**Rubric for Part 2:**

- Research: 7 – Good mix of primary and secondary sources, properly cited & referenced
  - Execution: 5 – Covers style, spelling, grammar, punctuation, & attn to detail (proofread!)
  - Structure: 3 – Title page with great title; complete introduction, logical structure
  - Thinking: 10 – How well have you answered your RQ while evaluating different approaches?
- 25% of final grade**

**FINAL EXAMINATION (30%)**

Final Exam	Yes
Length	2 hours
Format	Registrar scheduled between Dec 10-21
Type	Multiple-choice, T/F, matching (computer scored) plus written section; weighted heavily towards the content of Weeks 12-14.
Aids	Closed book

**Note:** To be eligible to pass the course, students need to take the mid-term, submit at least Part 2 of the research paper assignment (for an approved topic), and take the final exam.

**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:

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

**LATE PENALTIES**

There will be a 5% per every 24 hours late penalty, including weekends, for each part of the research paper assignment.

**INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

Poli 381 is a heavy reading and writing course. Students are advised that they will be examined on all lectures as well as on all required reading from the textbook and otherwise listed. Because lectures do not repeat the required readings verbatim and because students will be examined on whatever is discussed in class, students are advised that regular attendance in class is highly recommended.

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.

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. **Given the volume of emails received, always put POLI 381 in the subject line or your email will not be answered.** If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, please resend. It is imperative that students regularly check their UCalgary email accounts and D2L for course related information and announcements.

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. Recording of lectures is permitted for accommodation purposes. Any other use of recording constitutes Academic Misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. Both the student and the instructor must sign the appropriate form(s) to facilitate recording lectures.

## **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](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](mailto: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



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may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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.

### **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](mailto: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](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/>.