



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 381 LO1

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Revised Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Rob Huebert
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OFFICE HOURS	By appointment only via Zoom
WEBSITE	http://d2l.ucalgary.ca
LECTURE LOCATION	ENE 239
LECTURE TIMES	10:00-10:50 AM M,W,F
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Myriam Tremblay

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this core course is to introduce the student to the theories, concepts and issues needed to interpret and understand the underlying dynamics of international relations. The nature of international relations has been undergoing significant transformation in the last twenty years, which has complicated our understanding of the subject. The security, economic and political elements of the system have all been in a continual state of flux since the end of the Cold War. This presents both challenges and opportunities to students who want to understand the subject. It means that there are not black and white answers to the many questions, but it also allows the student to develop their own thinking about the subject.

The end of the Cold War changed how international security is understood. The attacks of 9/11 further transformed this understanding. The end of the Cold War significantly reduced the risk of nuclear war between the major powers and a general decline of inter-state conflict. But the end of the Cold War has also seen a general increase in intra-state conflict. Ethnic Conflict, hybrid warfare, Peace-making and Humanitarian Intervention are all new terms used to describe new types of conflict in the post Cold-War era. Global climate change, pandemics and other such situations have transformed how we understand threats to the international system. At the same time, the international system is also transforming in terms of cooperative behaviour. New economic realities are reshaping the manner in which states interact. Some analysts contend that these new realities are fundamentally altering the structure and power of the state in ways that are not yet fully understood. The term “Globalization” is used to describe many of these processes, but even this term does not have universal acceptance as to its meaning.

In short, the international system is changing. The focus of this course will be to understand what the key issues are and how political scientists attempt to understand and give meaning to them. In order to assist students in understanding these changes and the forces that are driving them, the specific objectives of the

course will be as follows:

- 1) To think critically and thoughtfully about international relations;
- 2) To identify and understand the main forces shaping the current international system; and
- 3) To research and critically assess the specific elements of international relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall course objective is to provide the student the opportunity to develop the skills and abilities necessary to critically assess the field of international relations. This will include an examination of the concept of the field as well the main issue areas within the field. A related objective of the course is to provide students with the opportunity to further develop their critical research, writing and oral skills.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND OTHER MATERIALS

Text – John Baylis, Steven Smith, Patricia Owens, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* 7th edition (Oxford: University of Oxford Press, 2017).

Journals -The following list provides the names of some (but by no means all) of the principal journals in the field of international relations. Students should develop the habit of staying current in their debates.

Canadian Military Journal, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, International Affairs, International Journal, International Organization, International Security, International Studies Quarterly, Jane's, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Military and Strategic Studies, Journal of Peace Research, Strategic Review, Survival and World Politics

Library Search Engines - One of the most important electronic aids to research offered by the library can be found in their Research Databases. This page lists numerous databases, which focus on international relations and strategic studies.

[\[https://library.ucalgary.ca/az.php\]](https://library.ucalgary.ca/az.php).

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND DUE DATES

	Marks	Due Date
Paper Proposal	20%	February 14
Research Paper	50%	Midnight - March 30
Final Exam	30%	5:30 PM April 25
TOTAL	100%	

PAPER PROPOSAL

A paper proposal must be submitted in class **February 14**. The proposal (3-4 pages @ 1.5 line spacing) must include a clear identification of the question to be addressed in the paper, the methodology to be utilized, and a preliminary list of sources. It is to be submitted at the beginning of class in a paper format. Students must retain an electronic copy for their own records. The research paper will be evaluated in terms of both its academic and writing content. Proposals submitted late will be penalized .5 of a mark per day. (e.g., if the assignment is one day late and it receives an 18/20 it will be marked down to 17.5/20. If it is late a second day, it will be given a 17/20 and so forth).

RESEARCH PAPER

Students will be required to write one major research essay on a subject of their own choosing (suggestions will be provided) and is due at the beginning of class on **March 30**. This paper (10-15 pages) is to provide an analytical study of an aspect of international relations. Students will be given potential paper topics but are encouraged to develop their own ideas. The paper will be evaluated in terms of both its academic and writing content. It is to be submitted by Midnight (12:00 AM) March 30 through D2L Dropbox in a word file format. Students must retain an electronic copy for their own records.

FINAL EXAM

The last assignment is the final exam. This will be a take home exam and will consist of long-answer questions. You will be sent the exam through D2L at 11:00 am April 15. You must complete it by 5:30 PM April 25 and submit it by D2L Dropbox. This is an open book exam and you must cite all of your sources that you use. You do not need a bibliography, but must have proper footnotes/endnotes. The word count for the exam is no more than 3000 words (approximately 1000 words/question).

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, 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 (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADE SCALE

A+	=	90-100	B+	=	75-78	C+	=	65-68	D+	=	55-58
A	=	80-89	B	=	70-74	C	=	60-64	D	=	50-54
A-	=	79	B-	=	69	C-	=	59	F	=	49-0

CLASS PREPARATION & D2L

Lectures focus on the material presented in the textbook and general discussion relating to the topic(s) outlined in the lecture schedule. They will now be posted on your D2L. Students are expected to read the assigned text chapters and readings before class, and must watch each lecture. Important information and additional readings for Introduction to International Relations are posted on D2L. Students should regularly check the Announcements section of D2L for ongoing notices.

Your instructor may not necessarily cover all of the materials in the chapter, but it is the responsibility of the student to understand the concepts presented in the textbook and lectures. If you are unsure of any of the concepts, please take the initiative to ask the instructor or TA via electronic means.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to their instructor or TA during class or during office hours. Should you wish to meet with the instructor outside of office hours via zoom, please telephone or email the instructor 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.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

It should be noted that occasionally guest speakers become available at short notice. Also current international events such as the outbreak of conflict will require discussion in class. This means that sometimes not all elements of the outline will be covered. If this happens, students will not be responsible on the final exam for the material not covered in class. There are also times where the instructor may be absent due to research requirements. In such instances the lecture will be pre-recorded and played by the TA for viewing.

1. **INTRODUCTION** — These lectures will outline the major elements of the course. This will include a discussion of the modes of evaluation and other housekeeping requirements. Following this, a general overview of some of the main elements of international relations will be presented.

Core Issue: How can we *critically think* about International Relations?

- I) Overview and objectives of the course.
- II) Understanding international relations as a social science.
- III) Engaging in research in international relations.

Readings: Text Baylis et al.

Introduction Owen, Baylis, Smith, pp. 1-14

Chapter 1, McGrew, pp. 15-32

Chapter 2, Lawson, pp 18-51

Chapter 3, Scott pp 52-67

Chapter 4, Cox pp 68-82

Chapter 5, Hurrell pp 83-97

2. **NATURE OF FIELD** — The main focus of these lectures is to provide the student with an overview of the nature of the field. The end of the Cold War has brought about a substantial reevaluation of the main elements of the field of "international relations". Thus, our main focus will be on understanding the main forces shaping international relations. This will require a review of the development of the field since the end of the Second World War to the present.

Core Issue: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the foundations of the study of International Relations?

- I) Development of the Field of Study – why is this important?
- II) Nature of the Field – why should we care?
- III) What are the different theoretical ways of understanding international relations – why does this matter?

IV) The Development of the International System.

Readings: Text Baylis et al.

Chapter 6 Dunne, Schmidt pp 101-115

Chapter 7 Dunne pp 116-128

Chapter 8 Hobden, Jones pp 129-143

Chapter 9 Barnett pp 144-158

Chapter 10 Hansen pp 159-173

Chapter 11 Sylvester pp 174-188

Chapter 12 Kinsella pp 189-203

Chapter 13 Shapcott pp 204-218

3. CONFLICT: WAR, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MODERN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM The main challenge to the field of international relations has come in our understanding the key concepts of war, peace and security. When we talk of security, whose security are we talking of? What is the nature of this security? How can it best be attained? How do we understand what is peace and war? Has the end of the Cold War changed the nature of peace and war? A key objective of this section will be to undertake a critical evaluation and comparison of the different theoretical approaches to understanding these concepts and issues.

Core Issue: How can we understand War, Peace and Conflict?

I) Nuclear Deterrence – the Fundamental Security Policy.

II) War and Peace – interstate and intrastate.

III) Security – Traditional; Human; Environmental.

Readings: Text Baylis et al.

Chapter 14 Barkawi pp 223-237

Chapter 15 Baylis pp 238-252

Chapter 25 Kiras pp 402-418

Chapter 26 Greitens pp 419-433

Chapter 29 Evans, Thomas pp 464-479

Chapter 30 Acharya pp 480-496

Chapter 32 Bellamy, Wheeler pp 514-528

4. COOPERATION: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND GLOBALIZATION — While the last section would suggest that the international system is in a constant state of war and conflict, the reality is that there is also a tremendous degree of cooperation in the international system. Specifically the economic trade that occurs across international borders is one of the most important functions of the international system. These have created new pressures and opportunities known as “globalization.”

At the same time, the international system has also developed international organizations and institutions specifically for the purpose of improving international cooperation both for economic and international legal purposes. How are such organizations/institutions created and maintained?

Core Issue: How can we understand forms of cooperation in the international system?

I) The World Trading System.

II) International Political Economy.

III) Globalization.

IV) International Institutions/Organizations.

Readings: Text Baylis et al.

Chapter 16 Phillips pp 253-268

Chapter 19 Reus-Smit pp 301-315

Chapter 20 Park pp 316-330

Chapter 21 Curtis, Taylor pp 331-346

Chapter 22 Joachim pp 347-362

Chapter 23 Best, Christiansen pp 363-379

Chapter 24 Vogler pp 385-401

Chapter 28 Watson pp 450-463

Chapter 31 Donnelly pp 497-513

5. **SIMULATION** — Four classes will be based on a simulation exercise in which students will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge that they have gained throughout the course. It is designed to familiarize students with the difficulties involved in the protection of their security in the international system.

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](https://www.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](https://www.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>

Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.

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.

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>.

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.

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.

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-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

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.

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 www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students’ Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email 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] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Tower rm 116.

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

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:

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

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