



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 381 LO1
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Winter 2021**

INSTRUCTOR:	Rob Huebert
EMAIL:	Rhuebert@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday 11:00-12:00 and/or by appointment by email
COURSE DAY/TIME:	1:00-1:50 PM M,W,F -synchronous participation required
DELIVERY METHOD:	Web-Based
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:	None
TEACHING ASSISTANTS:	Gershon Adela

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

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.

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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Text – John Baylis, Steven Smith, Patricia Owens, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* 8th edition (Oxford: University of Oxford Press, 2020).

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>].

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](https://d2l.ucalgary.ca)).

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

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

- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Paper Proposal	30%	February 12
Research Paper	40%	March 31
Final Exam (registrar-scheduled)	30%	TBA (between or on April 19-29)
Total	100%	

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

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC
Jan 11-29	Introduction
Feb 1-12	Nature of Field
Feb 14-20	Reading Week (no classes)
Feb 22-March 19	Conflict: War, Peace and Security in the Modern International System
March 22-April 12	Cooperation: International Political Economy, International Institutions, and Globalization
April 14	Exam Review

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

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. 5-18
Chapter 1, McGrew pp. 19-34
Chapter 2, Lawson pp 40-53
Chapter 3, Scott pp 54-69
Chapter 4, Cox pp 70-83
Chapter 5, Hurrell pp 84-99

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 pp 103-114
Chapter 7 Hobden, Jones pp 115-129
Chapter 8 Dunne, Schmidt pp 130-144
Chapter 9 Kinsella pp 145-159
Chapter 10 Sabaratnam pp 160-176
Chapter 11 Hansen pp 177-191
Chapter 12 Barnett pp 192-206
Chapter 13 Shapcott pp 207-221
Chapter 17 Kirby pp 271-286
Chapter 18 Shilliam pp 287-302

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 225-239
- Chapter 15 Baylis pp 240-255
- Chapter 25 Estevez pp 404-418
- Chapter 28 Kiras pp 449-465
- Chapter 29 Greitens pp 466-480
- 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 256-270
- Chapter 19 Reus-Smit pp 303-318
- Chapter 20 Park pp 319-333
- Chapter 21 Curtis, Taylor pp 334-348
- Chapter 22 Joachim pp 349-364
- Chapter 23 Best, Christiansen pp 365-382
- Chapter 24 Vogler pp 382-403
- Chapter 27 Watson pp 435-448
- Chapter 31 Kapur pp 498-513

ASSIGNMENTS

1) PAPER PROPOSAL

A paper proposal must be submitted in class on February 12 at the beginning of class through D2L. The proposal (3-4 pages) 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. The overall evaluation will consider both the content and writing of the assignment. Proposals submitted late will be penalized .5 of a mark per day. (eg. if the assignment is late and it receives an 20/30 it will be marked down to 19.5/30. If it is late, a second day it will be given a 19/30 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 31 to be submitted through D2L**. This paper (10-15 pages) is to provide an analytical study of an aspect of strategic studies. Students will be given potential paper topics but are encouraged to develop their own ideas. The overall evaluation will consider both the content and writing of the assignment. Papers submitted late will be penalized 1 mark out of 40 per day. (e.g. if the assignment is one day late and it receives a 30/40 it will be marked down to 29/40. If it is two days late, it will be given a 28/40).

FINAL EXAM

The last assignment is the final exam and will be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. It is an open-book exam that will consist of 3 long answer essay based questions and once completed to **be submitted to the D2L Dropbox**. Students will have 3 hours to complete the exam (2 hour exam with an additional 1 hour for technological issues for a maximum of 3 hours) and they will have access to the exam for the 24-hour block (as scheduled by the Registrar).

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

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

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

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

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). 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/>.