

POLI 381 (L01) Introduction to International Relations

Pre/Co-Requisites: None	
Instructor: Mark Macahcek	Lecture Location: TI FORUM
Phone:	Lecture Days/Time: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 – 9:50 am
Email: mark.machacek@ucalgary.ca	
Office: SS 721	Office Hours: Virtual office hours using Zoom (D2L) Monday 3:00 – 4:00 pm or by appointment
Instructor Email Policy: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday - Friday	Website: http://d2l.ucalgary.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this lecture-based course is to introduce and critically engage with the fundamental concepts, theories and issues that characterize contemporary international relations (IR). The course will outline the assemblages of both state and non-state actors, institutions and processes that constitute contemporary IR (or 'global politics') and highlight on-going international issues including security, development and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The course will begin with an introduction to the fundamental concepts in IR. It will then provide a historical review of the critical junctures that have shaped contemporary IR, from the creation of the inter-state system to the Covid-19 pandemic. Students will then be introduced to the main theories of IR. Using these theoretical insights, the remainder of the course will critically engage in prominent issues in contemporary IR, including international order and cooperation, war and peace, human rights and humanitarian intervention, race and gender, terrorism and environmental protection.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The objectives of this course are to:

- Introduce students to the core concepts and main theories of IR and provide in-depth insight into the sources and role of power at the global level;
- Acquaint students with the primary actors, institutions and processes involved in contemporary international relations as well as their historical antecedents;
- Facilitate theoretically-informed discussions and analysis of pressing issues in today's globalized world;
- Strengthen skills in analysis, discussion and academic writing

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Engage in informed discussions on real-world issues occurring at the international level;
- Understand the complexity of contemporary IR and critically analyse current events;
- Apply various theoretical perspectives to global issues;

- Conduct effective research and writing

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

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

E-text versions of the textbook can be purchased using this link:

<https://www.redshelf.com/book/1508750/the-globalization-of-world-politics-1508750-9780192559586>

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Mid-Term I	20%	February 13 th
Research Essay Assignment	30%	March 10 th
Mid-Term II	20%	March 17 th
Final Exam	30%	Scheduled by the Registrar (April 15 – 26)
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	READINGS
INTRODUCING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		
Week 1 Jan 9, 11, 13	Introduction: 'International' or 'Global' Relations? Overview of the course, syllabus, and student expectations and an introduction to the basic concepts in IR	Required: -Textbook Introduction and Chapter 1
Week 2 Jan 16, 18	From the Emergence of States to Contemporary Global Governance: The History of International Relations A select overview of critical historical junctures in the history of the inter-state system	Required: -Textbook Chapters 3, 4 and 5
Jan 20	Written Assignment Prep	
THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		
Week 3 Jan 23, 25, 27	Making Sense of it All: Theories of International Relations #1 Introduction and discussion	Required: -Textbook Chapters 6, 8 and 12

	of the realist, liberal and constructivist theories of IR	
Week 4 Jan 30, Feb 1, 3	Making Sense of it All: Theories of International Relations #2 Introduction and discussion of the critical, post-structural and feminist approaches to IR	Required: -Textbook Chapters 7, 9 & 11 Optional: -Textbook Chapter 10
GOVERNANCE & ORDER		
Week 5 Feb 6, 8, 10	War and Global Security Understanding the causes, consequences and forms of conflict and the global security system	Required: -Textbook Chapters 14 and 15
Week 6 Feb 13 Feb 15, 17	Mid-Term Exam I International Order: Institutions & Organizations Review of the sources of order and cooperation in global politics, including international law, organizations and global regimes	Required: -Textbook Chapters 19 and 20
Week 7 Feb 19 - 25	READING WEEK No class	
Week 8 Feb 27, Mar 1, 3	The United Nations Outline of the UN system, from its structure to its roles in global governance	Required: -Textbook Chapter 21
Week 9 Mar 6, 8, 10 Mar 10	The Global Political Economy & International Development Discussion of the actors, institutions and political dynamics involved in the global economy (including global trade and finance) Research Essay Due	Required: -Textbook Chapters 16 and 27
Week 10 Mar 13, 15 Mar 17	Race & Gender in Global Politics Considering gender and race in the organization of global politics Mid-Term Exam II	Required: -Textbook Chapters 17 and 18

GLOBAL ISSUES		
Week 11 Mar 20, 22, 24	Global Issues #1 & #2: Terrorism & the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Discussing the threats of terrorism and WMD proliferation and the responses of states and international organizations	Required: -Textbook Chapters 28 and 29
Week 12 Mar 27, 29, 31	Global Issues #3 & #4: Forced Migration & Climate Change Discussing the issue of environmental degradation and climate change and the responses of states and international organizations	Required: -Textbook Chapters 24 and 25
Week 13 Apr 3, 5	Global Issues #5 & #6: Human Rights & Humanitarian Intervention Outlining how human- centred concepts such as human rights and humanitarian intervention have challenged and shaped international relations	Required: -Textbook Chapters 31 and 32
Apr 7	Good Friday (no class)	
Week 14 Apr 10	Easter Monday (no class)	
Apr 12	Course Review & Final Exam Prep	-No required readings

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

MID-TERM EXAMINATION I (20%)

There will be two in-person mid-term exams worth 20% each. The first mid-term will consist of 3-4 **short-answer questions**. Students will have the full 50 mins of class on **Monday February 13th** to complete the exam. The exam will be closed book, with no study aids or notes permitted during the exam. The exam will cover all the material in the required readings and the lectures. Further information for the first mid-term will be provided in class on Monday February 6th.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION II (20%)

The second mid-term will consist of **multiple-choice questions**. Students will have the full 50 mins of class on **Friday March 17th** to complete the exam. This cumulative exam will cover all the material in the required readings and lectures. It will be closed book, with no study aids or notes permitted during the exam. Further information for the second mid-term will be provided in class on Monday March 13th.

Research Essay Assignment (30%)

Students are expected to conduct research using proper academic sources and write an **7-8 page paper** (double-spaced, 12-point font) that applies a theoretical perspective covered in class to a current international issue of the student's choice (can be an issue covered in class). Students should consult with the instructor regarding their issue of choice at some point before they begin their research and writing (not mandatory, but strongly recommended for the student's benefit).

Students are expected to collect relevant information for their paper through research of at least 10 sources (i.e. academic journals, books, reports, news articles). At least 5 of these sources must be academic journal articles or books/chapters. Sources are to be cited using the MLA citation style only. Papers are to be submitted in the D2L Dropbox (Word document) no later than **11:59 on Friday March 10th**.

The paper will be graded according to the student's demonstrated understanding of the chosen theoretical perspective, understanding of the chosen issue, clarity in theoretical application, the quality and application of research, paper organization, writing proficiency and proper citation.

Further information for the paper will be provided in class on Friday January 20th.

FINAL EXAMINATION (30%)

The cumulative final examination will be a **closed-book, in-person** exam and will be **180 minutes** long. The date of the exam will be **scheduled by the Registrar**. It will consist of 2 parts: 2-3 **short answer** and 1 **long answer** questions. All the material covered in the required readings and lectures throughout the course is eligible to be on the exam. Further information for the final exam will be provided in class on Wednesday April 12th.

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:

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

For the written assignment, late submissions will receive a grade penalty of 5% for each day they are late. The 5% per day penalty will also be applied to weekend days.

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.

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.

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/student-accommodation-policy>

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

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/>.