

**PSCI 2601B**

**International Relations: Global Politics**

Lecture: Wednesday 2:35 – 4:25; Theatre B, Southam Hall

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian C. Schmidt  
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**Office Hours:** Monday 10-12  
Thursday 12:30-2:30

**I. Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of international politics. Students are introduced to the subject matter of international politics as well as to some of the important theoretical and analytical approaches that are used to study the subject. The course covers a variety of issue areas including peace and security, international political economy, the United Nations, nuclear proliferation, human rights, gender, and poverty and development. In addition to emphasizing the role of theory to understanding international politics, the importance of history is also accentuated. A historical approach is needed in order to understand the phenomenon of globalization that is one of the core themes of the course.

**II. Course Objectives**

Although the course is introductory in nature, the material that we will be examining is very complex. One of the core objectives of the course is for students to develop the intellectual sophistication that is necessary to comprehend contemporary international politics. In addition to acquiring an appropriate amount of factual knowledge about international politics, students are expected to develop the capacity to make their own critical judgements about the events unfolding in the international realm. By the end of the course a student should be familiar with the study and practice of international politics and possess a basic foundation for advanced study in the field of international relations. More specifically, you should be able to

- discuss the major theories in the field
- describe the main features of contemporary international history
- identify and evaluate the important issue areas of international politics
- critically assess international structures and processes
- discuss the phenomenon of globalization.

**III. Required Course Materials**

John Baylis & Steve Smith eds., *The Globalization of World Politics, 3rd ed.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

\*Students should utilize the excellent website that was developed for this text. The website includes review questions, case studies, a glossary, and Web links. The web address is [www.oup.com/uk/orc/bin/0199271186/](http://www.oup.com/uk/orc/bin/0199271186/) In addition to reading the course text,

students are responsible for keeping abreast of current international events. During the course of the semester you are strongly encouraged to read a quality newspaper such as the *New York Times* ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) or the *Globe and Mail* or *Toronto Star*.

#### IV. Course Requirements

You are strongly advised to attend all lectures. The content of the lectures will not necessarily be identical to the content of the readings, and thus regular attendance is crucial for achieving success in the course.

Your final grade will be determined on the following basis:

Participation in discussion groups	15%
Paper Assignment (due March 29)	20%
Mid-term Exam (February 15)	25%
Final Exam (scheduled during formal exam period)	40%

#### V. Explanations

**1. Participation:** Attendance in discussion sections is mandatory. Your participation grade will reflect your attendance at each discussion section meeting and the quantity and quality of your participation in the discussion section meeting. You should come to each discussion section prepared to discuss the week's lectures and readings. You should strive to make a meaningful contribution to each class session. To earn a top grade, you must participate verbally and demonstrate that you have completed the assigned reading and that you are able to engage the material. You must also show respect for the course TA and the other students in your section. Disrespectful, rude, and intimidating behavior will not be tolerated. Please be aware that there is no way to make up your participation grade at the end of the term; if you chose to miss seminars and/or not participate in the discussion without explanation, you will forfeit this mark. You should notify your TA immediately if there are legitimate reasons (health, family emergency) why you are unable to attend a discussion section.

**2. Paper Assignment:** You are required to write a 5-page paper that is due on **March 29**. You are asked to select one of the discussion questions listed at the end of the course outline and construct a five page (typed and double-spaced) response (please be sure to indicate the question that you are answering). You are not required to undertake additional research, but you may if you wish. The material from the course text is sufficient to help you answer the question that you have selected. In addition to the material from the text, you may also utilize a pertinent newspaper article to address the question that you have selected to answer. Your task is to demonstrate your understanding of the course material. The questions provide you with a framework to engage the material that we are covering in the course.

All direct quotations must be properly documented. Any sources that you use must be included in a bibliography. Of course spelling, punctuation, organization, and all other rules of composition are important and will be taken into account when your TA evaluates your essay.

Late papers will be downgraded one letter-grade category per day. For example, a B+ paper, one day late, will receive a B.

**3. Mid-term Exam:** The mid-term exam is scheduled for **February 15**. The exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. You are responsible for all of the material covered in the lectures and the assigned readings.

Those students who miss the mid-term exam must present a medical or counseling certificate to the instructor in order to avoid receiving an F. You should contact me immediately to arrange a make-up exam in the event that you have a valid excuse for missing the mid-term. There will be a very short time frame for a make-up, and after that it will not be a possible to take the exam.

**4. Final Exam:** The final exam is comprehensive in nature, but will emphasize the material that has been covered since the mid-term exam. The final exam will include short answer and essay questions. The exam will take place during the university-scheduled exam period (April 10-29).

## **VI. Other Guidelines**

Assignments sent by fax to the Department of Political Science will not be accepted.

It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.

To obtain credit in this course, students must meet all of the course requirements. Failure to complete all of the assignments will result in a failing grade for the course.

## **VII. Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
1	Jan. 4	Course Introduction/Globalization	Introduction, Ch. 1
2	Jan. 11	Realism and Liberalism	Chs. 7,8,9
3	Jan. 18	Critical IR Theory	Chs. 10, 11, 12
4	Jan. 25	International History: The 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Chs. 3, 4
5	Feb. 1	The Post-Cold War Era	Chs. 5, 6
6	Feb. 8	International Security and Terrorism	Chs. 13, 21
7	Feb. 15	Mid-term Exam	
8	Feb. 22	Winter Break – No Class	A good novel

9	March 1	International Political Economy and Regimes	Chs. 14, 16
10	March 8	United Nations and Human Rights	Chs. 18, 31
		<b>March 10 is the last day to withdraw from winter-term courses</b>	
11	March 15	Humanitarian Intervention, International Law, and Nuclear Proliferation	Chs. 15, 22, 25
12	March 22	No Class	
13	March 29	Development, Environment, and Gender	Chs. 20, 29, 30
14	April 5	Globalization and the Post-Cold War Order	Chs. 1, 32, 33





## **VIII. Discussion Schedule**

**Week 1 (Jan. 4)      No discussion sections**

**Week 2 (Jan. 11)      Westphalia, Globalization, and Realism and Liberalism**

Discussion questions:

1. Has globalization eroded the Westphalian states system?
2. Is there a timeless wisdom of realism?
3. How do realists and liberals account for the globalization of world politics?
4. Does the contemporary practice of international politics correspond better to the realist or liberal theory of international relations?
5. Is democratic peace theory valid?

**Week 3 (Jan. 18)      Critical IR Theory**

Discussion questions:

1. With the end of the Soviet Union, are Marxist theories of international relations still relevant?
2. What are the main ideas behind constructivism? Evaluate the usefulness of constructivist approaches for thinking about world politics.
3. Evaluate the contributions of critical theory (feminist, postmodernist, constructivism, etc) in providing a critique of realism.

**Week 4 (Jan. 25)      International History**

Discussion questions:

1. Could either World War One or World War Two have been prevented?
2. Why was the Treaty of Versailles unable to keep the peace?
3. Is it fair to describe the cold war as a "long peace"?
4. Who, if anyone, won the cold war?

**Week 5 (Feb. 1)      Post-Cold War Era**

Discussion questions:

1. Is the world a safer or more dangerous place since the end of the Cold War?
2. Is the United States a global hegemon and how does this impact the practice of international politics?
3. Did September 11, 2001 change the practice of international politics as we knew it?
4. What caused the cold war to come to an end?

**Week 6 (Feb. 8)      International Security and Terrorism**

Discussion questions:

1. How should we understand the concept of 'security' in the study of International relations? (i.e. national, international, global)
2. Does terrorism pose a serious threat to the sovereign state system?
3. What is the relationship, if any, between globalization and terrorism?

**Week 7 (Feb. 15) Mid-term, no discussion section**

**Week 8 (Feb. 22) Winter Break**

**Week 9 (March 1) International Political Economy and Regimes**

Discussion questions:

1. Does the free trade agreement (NAFTA) benefit Canada?
2. Is globalization transforming international politics?
3. Has the Bretton Woods system been a success or failure?

**Week 10 (March 8) United Nations and Human Rights**

Discussion questions:

1. Should the protection of human rights take precedence over the norm of non-intervention?
2. Is the United Nations a relevant international organization today?
3. How effective has the UN been in maintaining international order?
4. Are human beings entitled to universal human rights?

**Week 11 (March 15) Humanitarian Intervention, International law, and Nuclear Proliferation**

Discussion questions:

1. Does Canada have a duty to protect strangers?
2. Does international law really matter in world politics?
3. Does the proliferation of nuclear weapons pose a threat to international peace and, if so, what should be done about it?
4. Is it possible to construe the current war in Iraq as a case of humanitarian intervention?

**Week 12 (March 22) Open Discussion/Paper Consultation**

**Week 13 (March 29) Development, Environment, and Gender**

Discussion questions:

1. Is the study of international politics gendered?
2. What can explain the persistence of world hunger?
3. Why and how have environmental issues been placed on the global agenda?
4. What is the significance of the concept of sustainable development?

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## Academic Accommodations

**For Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **November 7th, 2005** for fall and fall/winter term courses, and **March 10, 2006** for winter term courses.

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: [www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf)

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, *subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean*.

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam

will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure – No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.