

**PSCI 4801B**  
**Selected Problems in Global Politics**

**Seminar:** Wednesday 11:35-2:25 **Room:** SP 415

**Instructor:** Professor Glen Williams  
**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 9:45 am to 11:15 am  
Thursdays 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm  
**Email:** [gwilliam@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:gwilliam@connect.carleton.ca)

**Office:** D687 Loeb  
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**Web Page:** <http://webct.carleton.ca>

**Purpose:**

This seminar investigates the relationship between sovereignty and power in the international system from 1000 A.D. to the present. Special emphasis is placed on understanding the role played by ideas, economic wealth, political and social structures, military power, and war in building explanations for the dominance of Europe and Europe's colonies of settlement in international affairs during the last half of the surveyed millennium..

**Requirements:**

Requirements for evaluation will be as follows.

(a) oral participation (35% of final grade) in the form of your comments on, and criticisms of, the reading assignments - along with your weekly contributions to class discussions, participation in the Final Review Session is required and will be considered here.

(b) four short review papers (each 1750 words (no more!) and each worth 16.25% of the final grade) - the first due at the beginning of the class of January 25<sup>th</sup> (analytically surveying the literature assigned for the three 'Westphalian Societas' seminars); the second due at the beginning of the class of February 15<sup>th</sup> (analytically surveying the literature assigned for the three 'Wealth, Power and Ideas' seminars); the third due at the beginning of the class of March 8<sup>th</sup> (analytically surveying the literature assigned for the two 'Fall of the European Great Powers' seminars); and, the fourth due at the beginning of the class of March 22<sup>nd</sup> (analytically surveying the literature assigned for the two 'America: Last Remaining Superpower' seminars). Late review papers, without documented medical leave, will be penalized at the rate of one grade point per day (e.g. B+ to B- for two days late). Failure to submit a review paper will result in a Grade of F for the course.

**Texts:**

Required: Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*

Recommended: Rodney Hall, *National Collective Identity: Social Constructs and International Systems*; John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*

The wide scope of our subject makes it impossible to restrict our discussions to a small number of sources or texts. The instructor will do his best to ensure that all course materials (excepting serials which can be accessed online through the Library proxy servers) remain on two hour Reserve in the Library - please advise him **immediately** by email if you encounter difficulties. In general, my advice is to plan well ahead in making notes and copies of relevant materials. Relevant information and documentation for PSCI 4801 will be posted from time to time on our course web page accessed through <http://webct.carleton.ca>

### **Email communication:**

All email communication to me should have the following words in the subject heading: PSCI 4801, SPGP from [your name].

## **Topics and Reading List**

January 4: Introduction

Robert Jackson. "Sovereignty in World Politics: a Glance at the Conceptual and Historical Landscape." *Political Studies* 1999.

Daniel Philpott, "Westphalia, Authority and International Society," *Political Studies* 1999.

January 11: The Westphalian Societas I

Rodney Hall, *National Collective Identity: Social Constructs and International Systems*, Chapters 1-2. JZ1251.H35

Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*, Chapter 1. D210.K46

Stephen Krasner, "Compromising Westphalia," *International Security*, Winter 1995/96

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapters 1-3. D397.M38 2001

January 18: The Westphalian Societas II

Markus Fischer, "Feudal Europe 800-1300, communal discourse and conflictual practices," *International Organization*, Spring 1992.

Rodney Bruce Hall and F.V. Kratochwil, "Medieval tales: neorealist 'science' and the abuse of history," *International Organization*, Summer 1993.

Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power: A history of power from the beginning to A.D. 1760*, Volume I, Chapters 12-13. HN8.M28 v. 1

Hendrik Spruyt, *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors: An Analysis of Systems Change*, Chapters 3-5. JC327.S65

January 25: The Westphalian Societas III

Mann, *The Sources of Social Power*, Volume I, Chapters 14, 15.  
Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Chapter 2.  
Daniel Philpott, *Revolutions in Sovereignty: How Ideas Shaped Modern International Relations*,  
Chapters 5-7 JZ4034.P48  
Spruyt, *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*, Chapter 8.

February 1: Wealth, Power and Ideas I

Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Chapter 3.  
Hall, *National Collective Identity*, Chapters 4-5.  
Mann, *The Sources of Social Power: The Rise of Classes and Nation-States, 1760-1914*, Volume II, pp.  
6-10, 36-41, 214-240, 246-247, 249-251. HN8.M28 v. 2  
Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, pp. 83-85, 135-137, Chapter 5.

February 8: Wealth, Power and Ideas II

Niall Ferguson, *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global  
Power*, Chapter 5. DA16.F47 2002  
Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Chapter 4.  
Hall, *National Collective Identity*, Chapter 6.  
Mann, *The Sources of Social Power*, Volume II, Chapter 8.

February 15: Wealth, Power and Ideas III

Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Chapter 5.  
Hall, *National Collective Identity*, Chapters 7, 9.  
Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapter 6, pp. 234-304

February 22: Reading Week

March 1: Fall of the European Great Powers I

Eric Hobsbawm, *Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century*, Chapters 4-5. D421.H582  
Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Chapter 6.  
Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, pp. 305-359

March 8: Fall of the European Great Powers II

Ferguson, *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order*, Chapter 6.  
John Gaddis, *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History*, Chapters 8, 9. D843.G24  
Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Chapter 7.  
Philpott, *Revolutions in Sovereignty*, Chapters 8, 11.

March 15: America: Last Remaining Superpower I

Niall Ferguson, *Colossus: The Price of America's Empire*, Chapter 7 JZ1480 .F47 2004  
Charles Kupchan, *The End of the American Era: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Geopolitics of the Twenty-  
First Century*, Chapters 1, 4. JZ1480 .K87 2002

Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapter 10.

Richard N. Rosecrance, "War and Peace: Review Article - Mearsheimer The Tragedy of Great Power Politics," *World Politics*, October 2002.

Stephen Walt, "Keeping the World 'Off-Balance': Self Restraint and U.S. Foreign Policy," in *America Unrivaled: The Future of the Balance of Power* (ed. Ikenberry). E895 .A44 2002

### March 22: America: Last Remaining Superpower II

Ferguson, *Colossus: The Price of America's Empire*, pp. 206-216, 261-268. 279-285, Conclusion.

Walter Russell Mead, *Power, Terror, Peace, and War: America's Grand Strategy in a World at Risk*, Chapters 2, 4, 6. JZ1480 .M43 2004

Michael Mousseau, "Market Civilization and Its Clash with Terror," *International Security*, Winter 2002/03.

Daniel Philpott, "The Challenge of September 11 to Secularism in International Relations," *World Politics*, October 2002.

### March 29: Final Review Session

We will orally review two questions distributed in the March 22<sup>nd</sup> class. Your attendance is required.

There will be no seminar during the April Review Week but Professor Williams will be available in his office for consultation with PSCI 4801 students on April 5<sup>th</sup> during our regularly scheduled seminar hours.

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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.