

PSCI 1002 A
Global Political Issues
Tuesdays & Thursdays 14:35-17:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Tyler Attwood
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Office Hours: 13:00 – 14:00 Thursdays
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Course description

This course is designed to provide a critical, unorthodox introduction to the realm of ‘global politics’ for beginning political science students, or for students of any level from other programs/faculties. Standard introductions to the study and analysis of global politics are usually presented as ‘International Relations’ and often proceed with the tired formula of ‘the three theories’ followed by a descriptive overview of several issue areas (or sub-fields) of the ‘**discipline**’ of IR.

In this course, we intend to do otherwise. The state-centric framework created by relying on the concept ‘international’ is limited: it blinkers the very way we **think** about our world (and therefore also how we act upon it and for what purposes), it distorts our view of **what counts** in global politics (issues, events, entities), and it produces a misshapen calculus of **what is to be done**. What happens in global politics and what is important to people and groups around the world are not always best understood through simplifying reality into discreet state ‘actors’ that interact as if homogenous, static playing pieces in a board game. While simplicity may offer a sense of security and mastery, the world ‘out there’ is far from simple, and efforts to reduce its complexity usually hide some other effort to control or to gain (to which we ask: **‘who benefits?’**).

Through the lenses offered to us by the various authors in Edkins and Zehfuss’ innovative book, we will address some new questions about global politics and we will address some old questions in new ways. Our goal is to think more deeply about what goes on in the world and how what happens in one place may affect other locations. In short, this is a course about politics at the broadest level, and as such we deal with questions of power (material, institutional, and discursive) and how it is used by individuals and groups to shape outcomes.

After several class meetings structured around questions about what global politics means (its boundaries, subjects, and key questions), we turn to more specific questions related to the global South, the global economy (highlighting dynamics of poverty and inequality), and the security/violence nexus. My hope is that one or more of these questions about global politics intrigues, enlightens, angers, and thrills you, and that this might lead not only to further study but to concrete change in your world at whatever scope and level you aim for. As the ancient Greek philosopher Epictetus wrote, “Only the educated are free.”

Course Texts

The required book for this course is *Global Politics: A New Introduction*, Jenny Edkins & Maja Zehfuss (eds.), Routledge, 2009. The book is available at Haven Bookstore (43 Seneca St. @ Seneca & Sunnyside).

Evaluation

- **Attendance & Participation 10%**
- **Short Essay 20% (due August 12th in class)**
- **Midterm Exam 30% (in class, July 22nd)**
- **Final Exam – 40% (TBA, exam period, August 19-24)**

In order to facilitate an informed decision on withdrawing from the course (by the July 30th deadline), your graded midterm exams will be returned to you in class on July 29th.

Details regarding Term Work and Final Exam

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Due dates are noted under the description of each item below, as well as on the **Class Schedule** below.

Electronic or faxed copies will not be accepted, not even for time verification.

Assignments submitted late will be penalized 10% of the value of the assignment per day late, to a maximum of 5 days (50%), after which the assignment will receive a grade of zero. Weekends are included in the calculation of late penalties.

You must provide appropriate documentation for requests of an extension on medical grounds. See “**Academic Accommodations**” below for additional exceptions.

Please note that you may NOT use the drop box to turn in assignments **on the day they are due**, though you may drop late papers there. If you are turning in your assignment on time, you MUST do so in person in class (and sign the “turn-in sheet”).

Graded assignments will be returned to students in class within two weeks following the due date. You may also pick up your papers during office hours. If you are unable to collect any assignment during the term you may provide the instructor with a self-addressed, stamped envelope so that any uncollected work can be mailed to you.

- **Attendance & Participation – 10%:** Regular attendance in class is expected and 5% of your mark will come from signing in on the attendance sheet. Each class (not counting July 5th and July 22nd) will count for 0.5% and by signing the attendance sheet you are committing to stay for the full class that day. If you leave early, I may retake attendance and strike your name from the sheet. Please note that it is NOT possible to make up missed attendance marks. If you have something else to do, you will have to decide if the loss of 0.5% is an acceptable price. Despite the large class size, I would like to generate discussions. Therefore, 5% of your mark will come from your participation in class discussions throughout the term. Generally, during the final

hour of each class, we will have an open discussion (sometimes in smaller groups, other times as the full class). In addition, during the lecture I will ask questions that encourage you to participate. Please be mindful of others and do not dominate the time (this is actually a good way to LOSE points!). Refer to the participation chart on the final page of the course outline for more information on how your participation mark will be assigned.

➤ **Short Essay – 20%:** I will provide you a list of questions that you may choose from, each of which will be related to a major theme of the readings. Your goal in the essay is to do some empirical research on the issue(s) as well as put forward your own ideas on the question. That is, you are required to **describe** and show that you **understand** the issue. The essay is due no later than the final class meeting (August 12th), and should be in the range of 1000-1250 words. I will provide more detailed instructions along with the list of questions during the second week.

➤ **Midterm Exam – 30%:** A midterm exam will be given on July 22nd during regular class hours (there will only be the exam that day, no lecture). The exam will consist of short definition/concept questions and longer essay-style questions, and you will have three hours to complete it. The exam will cover all chapters from the beginning of the course (1, 2, 3, 4).

➤ **Final Exam – 40%:** The final exam will be given during the official exam period of August 19-24 (the exact time, date and location will be announced by the university) and you will have three hours to complete it. The format of the exam will be the same as the midterm exam and will cover all chapters after the midterm (9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17).

Course Topics and Class Schedule

July 6th: Introduction, go over course outline, (after class task: review the mappings after p. xxxiv)

July 8th: Jenny Edkins & Maja Zehfuss, Chap. 1, “Introduction”, pp. 1-21

July 13th: Veronique Pin-Fat, Chap. 2, “How do we begin to think about the world?”, pp. 22-44

July 15th: Simon Dalby, Chap. 3, “What happens if we don't think in human terms?”, pp. 45-69

July 20th: Debbie Lisle, Chap. 4, “How do we find out what's going on in the world?”, pp. 147-169

July 22nd: Midterm exam today during regular class time

July 27th: Stuart Elden, Chap. 9, “Why is the world divided territorially?”, pp. 192-219

July 29th: Kate Manzo, Chap. 11, “Do colonialism and slavery belong to the past?”, pp. 244-270

August 3rd: V. Spike Peterson, Chap. 12, “How is the world organized economically?”, pp. 271-293

August 5th: Mustapha Kamal Pasha, Chap. 14, “How can we end poverty?”, pp. 320-343

August 10th: Joanna Burke, Chap. 16, “Why does politics turn to violence?”, pp. 370-396

August 12th: Michael Dillon, Chap. 17, “What makes the world dangerous?”, pp. 397-426; **essay due today!**

Academic Resources

If You Need Assistance With...	Refer To...	Contact Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ understanding academic rules and regulations ⌚ choosing or changing their major ⌚ finding a tutor ⌚ academic planning guided by an Academic Advisor ⌚ polishing study skills 	Student Academic Success Centre (SASC)	302 Tory Building 520-7850 www.carleton.ca/sasc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ a learning disability 	Paul Menton Centre	500 University Centre 520-6608 www.carleton.ca/pmc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ developing writing skills 	Writing Tutorial Service	229 Paterson Hall 520-6632 www.carleton.ca/wts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ assistance with math 	Math Tutorial	www.math.carleton.ca/student
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ peer assisted tutoring for pre-identified, notoriously difficult courses 	Peer Assisted Study Sessions	Centre for Initiatives in Education 520-2600, ext. 1523 www.carleton.ca/cie
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ polishing English conversation skills, or proof reading (International students only) 	International Student Advisory	501 University Centre 520-6600 www.carleton.ca/isa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ research assistance 	Staff at MacOdrum Library (reference services desk)	520-2735 www.library.carleton.ca

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. 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 assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.** If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **June 11 2010 for early summer examinations and July 30 2010 for late summer examinations.**

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).

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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

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. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: 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: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.

PARTICIPATION GRADE GUIDE

Grade	Attendance	Discussion	Reading
4-5	Always	<u>Excellent</u> : leads discussions; offers analysis and comments; always has ideas on theme of reading; takes care not to dominate; asks questions	Clearly has done and prepared questions on nearly all readings; intelligently uses this understanding and these questions in discussion
3-4	Almost always	<u>Very Good</u> : thoughtful comments and questions for the most part; willing, able and frequent contributor	Has done most readings; provides competent analysis of reading when prompted by others
2-3	Frequent	<u>Good</u> : has basic grasp of key concepts and occasional ideas on the main theme of the reading; arguments are sporadic and at times incomplete or poorly supported; unwilling to ask questions	Displays familiarity with most readings, but tends not to analyze them or to relate them to the course material
1-2	Occasional	<u>Somewhat Poor</u> : remarks in class marred by poor understandings of key concepts; seldom contributes effectively to discussion of the main theme; often digresses in unhelpful ways; sporadic	Actual knowledge of material is outweighed by improvised comments and remarks
0-1	Rare	<u>Poor</u> : rarely speaks; parrots text or comments of others	Little or no apparent familiarity with assigned material