GPOL 3000A
Themes in Global and Comparative Politics

Fridays, 11:35 am to 2:25 pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Office hours: Fridays 9:30 am to 11 am (or by appointment)

Please use your Carleton e-mail address or the e-mail function of cuLearn to send an e-mail to the instructor and always include the course code in the subject line.

First class: 8 September 2017
Last class: 1 December 2017

NOTE: No class meeting on 27 October 2017

cuLearn: On-line components of this course will be managed through cuLearn. Please visit the cuLearn site at least once a week to receive the most current information pertaining to the scheduling of the course and required readings.

Course objectives:
The theory and practice of ‘global politics’ has evolved dramatically in the past two decades, from a relatively focused consideration of the interaction primarily of states to a much broader field, encompassing a growing range of actors and their interaction in and around a proliferating number of issue areas. In response to these dynamics, the purpose of this course is to consider the changing principles and practice of global politics through a critical examination of key actors and major themes.

The course will begin with a consideration of the factors and interests that help explain the role of states, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in global politics. These factors and interests will then be applied to four issues areas that dominate the study and conduct of global politics: security, development, human rights and humanitarian action, and global governance. Through a series of lectures, discussions and debates, students will grapple with the range of factors that help explain outcomes and impasses in each of these issues areas.

Students will also explore the challenges of developing integrated responses to particular crisis situations and the role that individuals have played in the shaping and evolution of particular international actors.
Course outline:
The course is divided into three sections:

Section 1 will consider the histories and dynamics of particular actors in global politics. First, the course will consider the role of states in global politics, with a particular focus on Canada’s foreign policy and international personality. Second, the course will consider the role of international organizations in global politics, with a particular focus on the history and politics of the United Nations and its ancestors. Finally, this section of the course will debate the place of NGOs in global politics, their independence of state interests, and their impact on the evolution of global politics in particular issue areas. Instruction during this section of the course will be primarily through lectures by the course instructor.

Section 2 will build from this background to critically examine four issues areas that dominate the study and practice of global politics: security, development, human rights and humanitarian action, and global governance. Students will be divided into roles, as outlined below, to engage with these issue areas from the perspective of states, international organizations and NGOs. Working in small groups, students will apply the material from Section 1 of the course by considering how each actor would likely engage with a particular issue and current event. Instruction during this section of the course will be divided between lectures by the course instructor in the first half of each class and small group discussions in the second half of each class.

Section 3 will engage with the themes and dynamics raised during the course through a consideration of the challenges of developing ‘integrated’, ‘whole-of-government’ or ‘joined-up’ approaches to global politics. During this section, students will also consider the practicalities of integrated responses through the case study of a recent crisis situation, a simulation activity, and the drafting of a joint policy memo. The course will conclude with a consideration of the role of individuals in the practice of global politics.

Through these three sections of the course, students will be expected to develop a deeper understanding of the interests and constraints on particular actors in global politics, how these interests and constraints affect outcomes in particular issue areas, and how particular skills and approaches may enhance or impede the prospects of finding solutions to a contemporary crisis situation.

Requirements:

Reflection papers: 20%
   Reflection paper 1 (due between weeks 2 and 4): 10%
   Reflection paper 2 (due between weeks 6 and 8): 10%

Individual research: 50%
   Essay proposal (due: 6 October 2017): 10%
   Essay (due: 17 November 2017): 40%

Professional skills: 15%
   Briefing note (due: 24 November 2017): 5%
   Joint briefing note (due: 24 November 2017): 10%

Participation: 15%
As per early feedback guidelines, the essay proposal submitted on 6 October 2017 will be returned to students the following week. Reflection papers submitted in Section 1 of the course will also be returned the following week.

**Late penalties:** All assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized by 5% of the 100% assignment grade per 24 hours. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for academic accommodations, as outlined below, or for medical or personal emergencies substantiated by official documentation.

**Late papers must be submitted via the drop box in the Department of Political Science, as outlined below.** The departmental drop box cut off time is 4pm. Any assignments submitted after 4pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

There is **no final exam** for this course. Instead, students are required to actively engage in reading, writing and participation throughout the term through three elements:

**Reflection papers:** Students are required to write two reflection papers over the course of the term. The first should be submitted between weeks 2 and 4 of the course. The second should be submitted between weeks 8 and 11 of the course. Reflection papers should be 2-3 pages long, single-spaced and referenced. Reflection papers should summarise the key arguments of the readings for the week in which it is submitted, outline the readings into conversation with each other, raise questions about the readings, respond to the readings within the context of the course, and relate them to a current event in global politics. Critiques must be submitted at the start of class. These requirements will be discussed in more detail in the first class meeting on 8 September 2017.

**Individual research:** The core requirement of the course will be for students to identify and develop a particular research focus. As will be discussed in the first class meeting, this research focus should relate to one of the **four themes** examined in section two of the course (security, development, human rights and humanitarian action, and global governance) from the perspective of **one of the actors** examined in section one (states; international organizations; and non-governmental organizations). For example, a student may want to develop a research focus relating to security from the perspective of the state, development from the perspective of an international organization or human rights from the perspective of an NGO. Students must sign-up for their research focus on cuLearn by 22 September 2017.

Students will then be required to submit a 3 to 5 page essay proposal, inclusive of a bibliography, on their selected issue at the start of class on **6 October 2017**. Building from the proposal and feedback received from the instructor, students will be required to write a 12 to 15 page paper, which is due on **17 November 2017**. The requirements for the proposal and the final essay will be explained during the course, as detailed below.

**Professional Skills:** Students will also be expected to develop particular professional skills during the course, specifically drafting a briefing note (due **24 November 2017**); and collaborating with other students to draft a joint briefing note in response to a case study of a recent crisis situation (due **24 November 2017**). Class time will be provided for the group exercise.
Participation: 15% of the final grade is for participation. Students are expected not only to attend class meetings, but engage in class discussion, small group discussions in weeks 3 to 8, and the simulation activity. Active participation by all members will be expected. Students are also expected to follow international news and participate in class discussion of significant events. To facilitate this discussion, students may wish to subscribe to the daily news updates from the BBC (http://news.bbc.co.uk), Al-Jazeera English (http://www.aljazeera.com/) or a similar news service.

Readings:
There is no required text for this course. Instead, required readings will be posted as files on cuLearn or will be available through the Carleton University Library system. E-journals and e-books may be accessed through the Carleton Library portal: http://www.library.carleton.ca

Students should note that there are a limited number of required readings each week. Students are consequently expected to have read the required readings in detail and be prepared to discuss these readings in class.

Provisional outline of course topics:
Below is a tentative weekly breakdown of the course, skills sessions, due dates and required readings.

The scheduling of topics and readings may change during the course of the term. Please consult cuLearn regularly for updates to this list of weekly topics and readings, in addition to information about the course.

Week 1
8 September 2017: Introduction: The principle and practice of global politics
Skills session: Reflection papers


Week 2
15 September 2017: The state and global politics
Skills session: Essay proposal


Week 3
22 September 2017: International organizations and global politics
Deadline to sign-up for research focus on cuLearn
Start of small group discussions


Week 4
29 September 2017: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and global politics
Due: Last week to submit first reflection paper


Week 5
6 October 2017: Security
Due: Essay proposal


Week 6
13 October 2017: Development


Week 7
20 October 2017: Human rights and humanitarian action
Skills session: How to write an analytical essay


**No class meeting on 27 October 2017**

**Week 8**  
3 November 2017: Global governance: The case of the UN Security Council  


**Week 9**  
10 November 2017: “Integrated” approaches to global politics  


**Week 10**  
17 November 2017: Situation briefing  
Due: Essay  
Skills session: How to write a briefing note  

**Note:** For a helpful guide on how to write a briefing note, see: [http://www.publicsectorwriting.com/?page_id=6](http://www.publicsectorwriting.com/?page_id=6)  
Class will end with the introduction of the crisis situation, which will form the basis of the simulation exercise in Week 11.

**Week 11**  
24 November 2017: Group assignment: Joint briefing note  
Due: Briefing note (by 11:30am Ottawa time, via e-mail)  
Joint briefing note (by 2:30pm Ottawa time, via e-mail)
Week 12  
1 December 2017: Conclusion: Global politics and the role of individuals

The final class meeting will include a de-briefing discussion on the simulation activity and time to complete the course evaluation.

No required readings for the final class… but you may be interested in the following:


Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.
Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
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<td>50-52</td>
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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.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

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 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, visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencessociety/ 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.