GPOl 3000A
Themes in Global and Comparative Politics
Thursdays, 2:35 pm to 5:25 pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Wesley Petite, PhD Candidate
Office: Loeb B641
Telephone: 613-520-2600 ext. 3052 (available during office hours only)
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Office hours: Tuesdays 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
Thursdays 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Please use your Carleton e-mail address or the e-mail function of cuLearn to send an email
to the instructor and always include the course code in the subject line.
First class: 6 September 2018
Last class: 6 December 2018

NOTE: No class meeting on 25 October 2018

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
This course is intended to be an opportunity to reflect on the underlying assumptions and
possible alternatives in the field of global and international affairs. Understandings of
global and comparative politics are based on both theoretical and empirical research. By
engaging with both theoretical and empirical research, this course will identify how
accurate prevailing theories are and what new theoretical research should be done in
order to better understand observed empirical outcomes.

This course will engage students with concepts of scale, legitimacy, and collaboration.
Students will discuss questions that are as pressing as they are unanswerable: what do
we mean by global and what does acting in a global capacity look like? Furthermore, how
are understandings of legitimacy properly formulated and applied to those who act on
the global stage? How are acts or actors properly differentiated in terms of their
relationship to power and authority? By exploring these questions, students will be
challenged to consider some of the most pressing issues of our current era and which
actors are best posed to address them legitimately and effectively. To facilitate this
inquiry, readings for this course will include a range or theoretical and empirical studies based on current international and interdisciplinary perspectives.

Course outline

This course will begin with an introductory class to allow for some preliminary conversation on interests and perspectives among the GPOL 3000 class of this year. This introduction will also include an initial discussion about the methods of comparative analysis and theorization in international relations. In the second week, the class will take a healthy step back in order to interrogate the range of meanings and intentions that are implicated in the use of the term “global”. This initial step will continue to inform the following classes with critical perspectives on the state of the global community, its active members, and what ways this community can develop.

The course will transition to a discussion on different actors. This section of the course will begin with the role of the nation-state. Though the role of the nation-state is rumored to be less relevant in a globalized world featuring transnational actors and overarching international organizations, the degree of discretion that is left exclusively to nation-states will be discussed. The class will then investigate entities that are transcending or subverting the nation-state in order to gain a perspective on the range of actors engaging in global issues. This range of actors includes supranational organizations, international organizations, transnational organizations, nongovernmental organizations, industry, the black market, and grassroots activism. After identifying a predominate range or actors, the class will discuss different theorizations of the dynamics that animate their relationship.

Understandings of international and global dynamics will be further investigated by applying them to specific issues of global concern for the next four weeks. These four issues of global concern are: the production of knowledge, efforts to address climate change, the global nature of modern financial governance, and the pursuit of trade and development. Each of these issues are the subject of a massive amount of scholarship and each provide opportunities for thinking about how the actors and relationships discussed prior perform (or could perform) in practice. If we are lucky, the class will be treated to a guest lecture by those engaged in these specific areas of scholarship.

Two weeks of the semester will feature presentations on students’ research papers. This, along with class discussion, will help to demonstrate the range of perspectives and expectations that are held within the current BGINS cohort. The final class will have only suggested readings and will provide an opportunity for reflection and discussion of ongoing interests.
The class will predominantly be filled with discussions on the readings and how they relate to current events. Occasionally, students may organize into smaller groups in order to investigate a specific challenge. Throughout the course, students are expected to develop a deeper understanding of the interests and constraints on particular actors in global politics, how these interests and constraints could affect outcomes in particular issue areas, and how particular skills and approaches may enhance or impede the prospects of finding solutions to issues of virtually global concern.

Requirements

Reflection papers: 20%
- Reflection paper 1 (due between weeks 2 and 5): 10%
- Reflection paper 2 (due between weeks 6 and 10): 10%

Individual research: 50%
- Essay proposal (due: 18 October 2018, Week 7): 10%
- Essay (due: 6 December 2018, Week 13): 40%

Research presentation: 15%
- Students will be asked to register for a time slot by Week 3. Presentations will take place on Week 11 and Week 12.

Participation: 15%

Please note:

The above five assignments plus preparation for class discussion set out the workload for this course. Students should consider budgeting their time effectively in order to produce high-quality contributions. If you would like advice on time management, please attend my office hours.

Late penalties: All assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized by 2% of the 100% assignment grade per 24 hours. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for academic accommodations, as outlined on page 14, 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 discussion throughout the term through four 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 5 of the course. The second should be submitted between weeks 6 and 10 of the course. **The due date for these reflection papers is the beginning of class for the week being reflected on.** Reflection papers should be 2-3 pages long, inclusive of citation. Reflection papers should: summarize the key arguments of at least two of the week’s readings, respond to the readings with independent analysis, raise questions about the readings, and relate them to a current event in global politics or other readings in the course. These requirements will be discussed in more detail in the first class meeting.

**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 or more of the weekly topics including: conceptualizations of the term “global”, relationships between actors, and/or issues of global concern. **Students may focus on topics or issues not covered in class (such as migration, technology, international law, humanitarian aid, etc.) but must include explicitly consider of definitions of global and/or the differences characterizing the actors involved in their analysis.** For example, a student may want to discuss the global nature of the internet and net-neutrality and how different actors take part in this debate. Or, a student may want to discuss the historic patterns of international trade and how the emergence of new actors makes the current era of globalization significantly different from those of the past.

**Students will 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 18 October 2018.** Building from the proposal and the research presentation, students will then write a 12 to 15 page paper, which is due on **6 December 2018.**

**Research Presentation:** In order to facilitate an exchange of perspectives on the subjects covered in this course, students are required to make a short presentation of their research paper on Week 11 and Week 12. **These presentations can be done in a style of a student’s choosing, but all presentations should share an outline the following:** a snappy title, the research focus of your paper, why you believe this focus is appropriate to the course, what questions you are asking in your research, what you expected to find, and what you believe the significance of your findings is for the study of global and comparative politics. These presentations are meant to demonstrate the range of interests and arguments among the cohort and do not need to feature a definitive conclusion on your research. **Students will register on a presentation schedule by Week 3.**
Participation: 15% of the final grade is for participation. Students are expected not only to attend class meetings, but engage in class discussion and group discussions. **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](http://news.bbc.co.uk), Al Jazeera English [http://www.aljazeera.com/](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. Online journals and e-books may be accessed through the Carleton Library portal: [http://www.library.carleton.ca](http://www.library.carleton.ca)

Making the readings available on cuLearn is meant to simplify access and help students organize their time. **Students should schedule time for each week’s readings** (in relation to commitments outside of this course). Students are expected to have read the readings in sufficient detail that they are able to identify and discuss the basic elements of each reading. Students are also encouraged to engage in close readings of articles that especially interest them and to peruse the “other” readings.

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 - 6 September 2018:**
Introduction to the course and contemplation of course themes
Suggested Readings:


**Week 2 - 13 September 2018:**
Wrapping our heads around the concept of “global”
Skills session: Essay proposal
Readings:

- Barber, Benjamin R. “Chapter 5: Interdependent Cities. Local Nodes, Global Synapses” in If mayors ruled the world: Dysfunctional nations, rising cities. Yale University Press, 2013: 68-88.


Other Readings:


**Week 3 - 20 September 2018:**
The state of the nation-state
**Due:** sign-up for presentation schedule on cuLearn
Readings:


Other Readings


**Week 4 - 27 September 2018:**

Entities that are transcending and subverting the nation-state Part 1 Readings


Other Readings

**Week 5 - 4 October 2018:**
Entities that are transcending and subverting the nation-state Part 2

**Due:** Last week to submit first reflection paper

**Skills session:** Information on GPOL 3100

**Readings**

**Other Readings**

- Jones, Seth G. "The mirage of the Arab Spring: Deal with the region you have, not the region you want." *Foreign Aff.* 92 (2013): 55.

**Week 6 - 11 October 2018:**

**Theories of the global relationship**

**Readings**


**Other Readings**


**Week 7 - 18 October 2018:**
Epistemic communities and global knowledge

**Due:** Essay proposal
Skills session: How to write an analytical essay

**Readings**


**Other Readings**


- Nasser, Salem Hikmat, and José Garcez Ghirardi. "Around the Pyramid:
No class meeting on 25 October 2018

Week 8 - 1 November 2018:
Climate change and energy policy
Readings


Other Readings


**Week 9 - 8 November 2018:**
Finance: a global problem?

**Readings**


**Other Readings**


**Week 10 - 16 November 2018:**
The global pursuit of trade and development

**Due:** Last week to submit second reflection paper

**Readings**


**Other Readings**


**Week 11 - 22 November 2018:**
Student Presentations Part 1

**Week 12 - 29 November 2018:**
Student Presentations Part 2
Week 13 - 6 December 2018:
Due: Essay

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

There are no required readings for the final class, suggested readings for the final class will be determined through class discussion.

Academic Accommodations

Requests for Academic Accommodation
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wpcontent/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wpcontent/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-5206608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc
Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexualviolence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>85-89</td>
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<td>63-66</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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/) and our website [https://carletonpss.com/](https://carletonpss.com/), or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

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