

PSCI 1200 A

Introduction to Political Science: World Politics

July 5th – August 16th Monday & Wednesday 8:35-11:25am
Class Facebook: Socially Scientific - Class Twitter: @sociallysci

Instructor: Dr. Tamara Kotar

Email: tamara.kotar@carleton.ca

Office hours: Wednesday 11:35-12:35 pm

Office Number: 613-520-2600 ext 1657

Office: B645 Loeb- Email to schedule an appointment

Course description

In this course we will examine debates concerning the role of the state, groups and individual in world politics. Together we will explore the International Relations, Political Theory and Public Policy subfields in Political Science. Students will familiarize themselves with the theoretical tools to navigate complex debates in politics. Students are compelled to raise their consciousness of global politics and apply their knowledge to research, advocacy, policy-making, action and change. My hope is that you find this course engaging and that you successfully complete this course with theoretical and analytical tools that you will employ in your future endeavors.

Learning Outcomes

- Students are challenged to understand the foundations of international relations and apply this globally.
- Students are compelled to develop their ability to engage in academic writing and research.

Core Questions & Themes

These are the core questions and overarching themes we will explore throughout the course.

Is there a trade off between freedom and security?

Is the nation-state the optimal way to organize society politically?

What are the paradoxes of the nation-state in terms of security and peace?

Required Texts

Required Texts are available at The Carleton Bookstore

- Mingst, Karen A. & Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations (IR)*, 6th Edition, (Toronto: W.W. Norton, 2013).
- Mingst, Karen A. & Jack L. Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 5th Edition, (Toronto: W.W. Norton, 2013).

Essentials of IR is available at Course Smart <http://goo.gl/tDgxPx>

Teaching Approach and Course Format

This course takes advantage of both in-class and online components to enhance the learning experience. Students should pay special attention to the **Assignment Due Date Matrix below**, which clearly delineates assignment due dates and mark weight. The course is arranged by week on cuLearn. When you click on a week, you will find the assignments for the week as well as a detailed description of assignment requirements.

Assignment Due Date Matrix

Assignment	Date	Share of Term Mark	Notes
Syllabus Scavenger Hunt	July 5 th	2%	
Map Quiz	July 17 th	5%	
Blogs	July 12 th July 19 th July 26 th August 14 th	51%	4 assignments worth 17% each. **There are 4 assignments due. Your best 3 results will count toward your final mark. Your worst mark will be eliminated.** Use My PSCI Blog Format to easily create your blogs.
In Class Feedback	July 24 th	2%	Answer the feedback questions on cuLearn
In Class Quiz	August 9 th	40%	Short Answer = 5% each Long Answer = 15% each

****Blog assignments will only be marked if you have attended the class for the day of the assignment is due. If you have not attended the mark will automatically be 0.**

Attendance will be taken. If you have not attended class for medical or family emergency reasons then you may do a 4 page essay on themes from the readings in addition to the assignment.

For the [Lecture and Discussion Group Reading Schedule Click Here](#)

CuLearn

All of your written assignments are due via CuLearn drop boxes. The syllabus and other relevant documents are also posted on CuLearn. Do not submit your assignments via email. The course is arranged by week on cuLearn. When you click on a week, you will find the assignments for the week as well as any materials associated with it.

Social Media – Facebook and/or cuLearn Discussion Group

There is a Facebook page Tamara Kotar (formerly Socially Scientific) for the course. I use it for professional/academic purposes only. Students are encouraged but not compelled to join (it is not a course requirement). I find it to be a great forum for collegial discussion, extending and applying the scholarly ideas we discuss in class to contemporary phenomena. I regularly post articles relevant to the course, study tips, further educational and work opportunities for students.

For the social media components of assignments, particularly Part III of blog posts, students have a choice of posting items to the class Facebook or the class discussion group on cuLearn. Marks for social media component of assignments will be awarded without bias, that means the marks will be the same regardless of what medium students choose. The idea is to ensure that students have an option to share on a platform they are comfortable with using.

Class Expectations

Students are expected to (1) attend class having completed the assigned readings and (2) come prepared for thoughtful discussions. Students are kindly asked to be respectful during lectures by not conversing with their neighbours. Students who are conducting their own conversations during lectures will be asked to stop and/or leave. Students are expected to complete their online requirements by the due date.

Late Assignments

All written assignments are due in the appropriate CuLearn drop boxes. Late assignments will be marked as a 0. Exceptions to this late assignment policy will be considered for medical reasons or a family emergency (with appropriate documentation).

Assignments

Syllabus Scavenger Hunt

Since this course may have many features that you have not yet encountered in other classes, I've included a syllabus scavenger hunt, to ensure that students are very familiar with requirements.

Find the correct answers to these questions and win the scavenger hunt!

1. Under what subheading and on what page of the syllabus would I find a comprehensive list of assignments and due dates?
2. What do I need to know for the Map Quiz?
3. What are the 3 parts of the Blog assignment and what kind of knowledge does this assignment try to combine?
4. What part of the blog post do I post to Socially Scientific?
5. Do I have to attend class for my Blogs and discussion groups to be marked?
6. Under what subheading do I find the reading materials for each week?

Map Quiz

Since we are discussing world politics it is important that students are familiar with the countries of the world and their capital cities where political decisions are often made. The goal of this assignment is to ensure familiarity with countries and capitals of the world. Students must know all of the countries and capitals.

In Class Map Quiz

Be prepared to take the map quiz in-class on the due date. Students will be handed a package of blank maps (the ones below). Students will be provided with the names of 10 countries and 10 capital cities. Students will only fill in the names of the 10 countries and 10 capital cities that are asked for in the quiz and will place the names in the corresponding numbers listed below the maps on the following blank maps.

Below are blank maps that will be used for the in-class map quiz:

Africa	http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/africa.gif
Asia	http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/asia.gif
Europe	http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/europe.gif
Middle East	http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/mideast.gif
South America	http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/samer.gif

Map Quiz Study Tools

Below are some map studying resources. I encourage you to search out other maps and map testing sites as well and see what works best for you.

Sporkle

<http://www.sporcle.com/games/category/geography>

Lizardpoint – Map Quiz

<http://lizardpoint.com/geography/asia-caps-quiz.php>

World Map: http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/world_map2.htm

Africa: <http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/africa-political-map.htm>

Central America & the Caribbean:

http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/central_america_map2.htm

South America:

http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/south_america_map2.htm

Asia:

http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/asia_map.htm

Europe:

http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/small_europe_map.htm

Middle East:

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east_and_asia/middle_east_pol_2012.p

My PSCI Blog

Why this Assignment?

- My PSCI Blog posts will serve as tools to ensure students achieve the highest possible benefit from the readings, lectures and discussions.
- These assignments help students focus on how to write a succinct thesis, a key skill required for future success.
- More questions = more learning. Thoughtful and reflective questions about what we discuss and what we read is the goal of this course, indeed it is the goal of higher education.
- It is a way to combine our exploration of political phenomena and ideas from scholarly works, in-class discussion/activities, and current events.
- Students have concise and condensed notes on the readings and discussions that provides them with excellent study materials for the in-class quiz.
- These assignments help students focus on how to write a succinct thesis, a key skill required for future success.

How to do this Assignment?

You must attend the class for the My PSCI Blog Posts to be graded. Attendance will be noted. If you do not attend class the assignment will not be marked. If you miss the class, even for unforeseen reasons, you may hand in a 4-page, double-spaced paper in addition to the assignment within a week of the due date. The paper will be an extension of your discussion of the readings for that Blog Post assignment. If you do not hand it in by that time, your mark will remain 0.

The assignments are due via CuLearn at **11:55pm on the due date**. The submission spaces will be entitled #1 Blog, #2 Blog.

There is a template provided below, you can choose to use the template or not to use it. What is important is that you have the format that is provided below.

There are 4 assignments due but only **the 3 highest marks out of the 4 assignments will count** toward your final mark. **Your worst mark will be eliminated.** This is an opportunity to get your best work recognized.

To organize your Blog Post you can cut and paste the **My PSCI Blog Format** provided below for each post into your own word document and fill in the material required.

My PSCI Blog Post Format

Part I- Lecture/Tutorial Discussion

For the discussion component you will discuss what we talked about in the lecture and/or tutorial group in the class before the due date.

For this part of the assignment you will identify and describe one or two ideas/concepts/issues dealt with in class (lecture or discussion group) that attracted interest and explain why. Anything we discuss that piques your

interest can be used, for example even the difference between a Quarter Pounder with cheese and a Royale with cheese. It all depends on what we discuss.

You should have a thesis and try to include other scholarly work.

15-20 sentences

This site may provide helpful hints for thesis writing. This is not an endorsement of the service or of the content of examples. However, the page describes some key components of a thesis <https://www.kibin.com/essay-writing-blog/thesis-statement-examples/>

Part II- Discuss Readings

For the discuss the readings component you will write about one of the readings for the day the assignment is due.

Provide a brief reaction to one of the readings for the due date. As part of this, using your own words, tell me the main point (thesis) of the reading. Describe an idea or issue developed in the article that intrigues you and that you would like to discuss further in class. Create 2 questions that relate to the article and larger issues discussed in the class.

You should have a thesis and try to include other scholarly work.

15-20 sentences

Part III- Social Media

1A. Post one media item (article, podcast or video clip) that relate to issues discussed during this class or in the readings. You can post it on the cuLearn discussion board or to the class Facebook page Socially Scientific. If you post to Socially Scientific, be sure to include the course code with a hashtag so that it is known this was posted for a class requirement. On your discussion board or Facebook posting you can choose to explain why the link may enhance understanding of the topic discussed in class.

2A. Cite a media item (article, podcast or video clip) that you found interesting, posted by anyone else (from any class or even the prof.) on Socially Scientific or the cuLarn Discussion Group option.

3. To fulfill the requirements of Part III of the blog post, copy and paste the URL of the media item you posted (section 1A) and the media item you found interesting from another person (section 2A) and provide context for each. These comments do not need to be posted on Socially Scientific or the cuLearn discussion group. These comments only need to be included in Part III of your blog post submission.

Approx. 300 words

****For the social media component of this assignment, students have a choice of posting the item to the class Facebook – Socially Scientific and/or the class discussion group on cuLearn. Marks for the social media component will be awarded without bias, the same marks will be allotted for this component regardless of what medium students choose to post it on. The idea is to ensure that students have an option to share on a platform they are comfortable with using. Ensure that your posts are not offensive or explicit, but rather that they contribute to respectful and engaging collegial dialogue.****

In-Class Feedback

This is an opportunity for you to let me know what concepts intrigue you and what you want to learn more about.

Students will answer the following questions with 1-3 sentences for each question:

1. What is the most significant thing you learned in today's class?
2. What question is at the top of your mind at the end of today's class?
3. What have you enjoyed learning about most in the class so far this term?
4. What would you like to discuss more in-depth as we continue the course?
5. What aspects of the syllabus, assignments or assignment structure work well for you and what would you recommend changing?

In Class Quiz

The In Class Quiz will be based on a combination of what we have discussed in lectures, the work you have done in assignments as well as reading materials.

The format will be:

2 Short Answers worth 5% each.

Essay Answer, 2 essays worth 15% each

Students will have a choice of 2 questions to answer out of 4

****There will be no make-up quiz****

Seminar Schedule

Introduction

Class 1: July 5th

Course structure, assignments and expectations.

Theory – Contending Perspectives - Realism

Class 2: July 10th

Required Readings

- Mingst et. al. – Essentials of International Relations – Textbook
Chapter 1 – Approaches to International Relations
- Mingst et. al. – Essential Readings in World Politics
Chapter 1 – Jack Snyder, "[One World, Rival Theories](#)"

Theory – Contending Perspectives

Liberalism, Conflict Theories and Constructivism

Class 3: July 12th

Required Readings

- Mingst et. al. – Essentials of International Relations – Textbook
Chapter 3: Contending Perspectives: How to Think about International Relations
- Mingst et. al. – Essential Readings in World Politics
Chapter 2 - Woodrow Wilson, "[The Fourteen Points](#)"

International Relations in Practice

Class 4: July 17th

Required Reading

- Mingst et. al. – *Essentials of International Relations – Textbook*
Chapter 2: The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations

International Relations in Practice

Class 5: July 19th

Required Reading

- Mingst et. al. – *Essential Readings in World Politics*
Chapter 2 – George F. Kennan "[The Sources of Soviet Conduct](#)"

The State & International Relations

Class 6: July 24th

Required Readings

- Mingst et. al. – Essentials of International Relations – Textbook
Chapter 5: The State
- Mingst et. al. – Essential Readings in World Politics
Chapter 5: Stephen D. Krasner, "Sharing Sovereignty: New Institutions for Collapsed and Failing States"

International Organizations & International Law

Class 7: July 26th

Required Readings

- Mingst et. al. – Essentials of International Relations – Textbook
Chapter 7: Intergovernmental Organizations, International Law, and

Nongovernmental Organizations

- Mingst et. al. – Essential Readings in World Politics
Chapter 7: John Mearsheimer, "[The False Promise of International Institutions.](#)"

Psychology, the State & International Relations

Class 8: July 31st

Required Readings

- Mingst et. al. – Essentials of International Relations – Textbook
Chapter 6: The Individual
- Mingst et. al. – Essential Readings in World Politics
Chapter 6: Robert Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception"

War & International Relations

Class 9: August 2nd

Required Readings

- Mingst et. al. – Essentials of International Relations – Textbook
Chapter 8: War & Strife
- Mingst et. al. – Essential Readings in World Politics
Chapter 8: Carl von Clausewitz, "[War as an Instrument of Policy](#)"

In Class Quiz

Class 10: August 9th

Human Rights: Law & Practice

Class 11 & 12: August 14th & 16th

Required Readings

- Mingst et. al. – Essentials of International Relations – Textbook
Chapter 10: Human Rights
- Mingst et. al. – Essential Readings in World Politics
Chapter 10: Amartya Sen, "[Human Rights and Capabilities](#)"

Assignment Evaluation Considerations

Below is a table and list of questions used to evaluate each assignment.

Keep this in mind when writing your assignments.

Thesis & Explanation of subject - 70%
A clear idea/thesis is forwarded for each question asked.
Identification and explanation of main points.
Use of Scholarly Literature - 25%

Scholarly literature is employed to strengthen arguments.
Definitions and terms should be used properly.
Jargon should be kept to a minimum.
Structure of Assignment - 5%
Answer the questions being asked.
The assignment is an appropriate length.
The assignment employs proper grammar.

These questions are utilized to assess written assignments

- Is there a clear idea/thesis forwarded in response to each question asked in an assignment?
- Are main points identified and explained?
- Are supporting statements focused, relevant and illuminating?
- Strong arguments are focused and develop a particular point?
- Does my answer utilize scholarly arguments and literature?
- Does my answer address counter arguments?
- Is my assignment too descriptive? (avoid this)
- Are ideas being stated as self-evident? (avoid this)
- Do my answers flow, are they well organized?
- Am I utilizing proper grammar?

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.

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:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3

73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

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/politicalsciencesociety/> 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.