

PSCI 1200A: World Politics

Fridays 11:35am-1:25pm

This course will be held remotely online.

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Teaching Assistants

TBD

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Course Description

This class examines world order in an age of crisis. In 2020, the world is experiencing multiple and overlapping crises that are challenging the foundations of political and economic order. The American-led system of global order that has prevailed since the end of World War II seems to be coming undone. Cracks in the US-led global order are growing wider as the world faces unprecedented and simultaneous crises: climate change, economic collapse, forever wars, disillusionment, a breakdown in civic trust, and the perfect storm that is the COVID-19 pandemic. It appears as if world politics is in the brink of a transition from a US-led system of world politics to something different. PSCI 1200 aims to make sense of our present moment through the analysis of historical and contemporary trends. It introduces students to the study of global politics and is a starting point for further study of World Politics and International Political Economy.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand key concepts, actors, institutions, and processes that shape world politics
2. Identify and understand the evolution of contemporary world politics
3. Evaluate scholarly writing and develop clear arguments about global politics
4. Write and research effectively about specific topics in world politics

Contact Policy

Email is the best way to get in touch with the professor or TA outside of usually scheduled office hours. Students should remember the following things when emailing:

ALWAYS use your Carleton email account! Non-Carleton messages don't always get through
INCLUDE the subject line "PSCI 1200A"

ADDRESS emails to the professor or TA (i.e. Dear Dr. Ettinger).

SIGN OFF with your first and last name and student number.

Email should be used for brief questions that can be answered quickly. If students want to discuss course material, assignments, or another matter in greater detail, they should see the professor during office hours or make an appointment.

Texts

All course readings are available online via the library search engine or CuLearn.

Course Evaluation

Assignment/Exam	Due Date	% of Final Grade
1. Precis assignment	Friday, October 2	5%
2. Editorial	Friday, October 23	15%
3. Research essay	Friday, November 20	35%
4. Take Home Exam	December exam period	35%
5. Participation	Ongoing	10%
		Total = 100%

Citations and Bibliography

All written assignments must provide a full list of sources used and avoid plagiarism or other violations of academic integrity. There are many different ways of citing your work. While I have no style preference, the MacOdrum Library website has a useful how-to guide.

<https://library.carleton.ca/help/citing-your-sources>

All papers submitted should be formatted with the 12-point font and page numbers.

Two short response papers (20% of final grade):

Students will write two short papers during the first half of the course. Each paper must respond to specific prompts and follow specific parameters.

1. *Precis assignment* (due Friday, October 2 at 11:59pm, worth 5%)

The first assignment is a *précis of a course reading*. You will write a *précis* of **one** of the following readings from weeks 1, 2, 3, and 4 of class.

Nye, Joseph. 2011. *The Future of Power*. New York: PublicAffairs. Chapter 1 “What is Power in Global Affairs?” pp. 3-24.

Rose, Gideon. 2019. The Fourth Founding: The United States and the Liberal Order. *Foreign Affairs* 98 (1): 11-21.

- Allison, Graham. 2018. The Myth of the Liberal Order: From Historical Accident to Conventional Wisdom. *Foreign Affairs* 97 (4): 124-133.
- Albright, Madeleine K. 1998. The Testing of American Foreign Policy. *Foreign Affairs* 77 (6): 50-64.
- Brooks, Stephen G., and William C. Wohlforth. 2002. American Primacy in Perspective. *Foreign Affairs* 81 (4): 20-33.
- Acharya, Amitav. 2016. 'Idea-Shift': How Ideas from the Rest are Reshaping Global Order. *Third World Quarterly* 37 (7): 1156-1170.
- Zarakol, Ayşe. 2019. 'Rise of the Rest': As Hype and Reality. *International Relations* 33 (2): 213-228.
- Acharya, Amitav. 2016. 'Idea-Shift': How Ideas from the Rest are Reshaping Global Order. *Third World Quarterly* 37 (7): 1156-1170.

A *précis* is a concise reconstruction of the main argument, essential points and conclusions in a given document. Essentially, it is an accurate restatement of the author's work in very short form. Though it does not involve much writing on your part, composing a good *précis* is *surprisingly difficult*. The challenge is understanding what the author is trying to say and then restating it faithfully, without missing major points, and without adding your own spin. *It requires a precise understanding of the text and careful wording of the summary*. You will be graded on the precision and comprehensiveness of your reconstruction, and the clarity of your writing. *The précis must be between 250 and 300 words long*.

The purpose of this assignment is to train students in reading academic literature. As you will discover, academic literature is not like other kinds of writing. It can be long, detailed, dense, sometimes boring, and usually needs to be read a few times to understand fully. Your ability to read and comprehend academic writing is a big determinant of success in the social sciences. A grading rubric is available on CuLearn.

2. Op-Ed assignment (due Friday, October 23 at 11:59pm, worth 15% of the final)

Students must answer the following question: *Is the world better or worse off when the US is active in global affairs?* It must be between 500-600 words in length.

Both papers must be submitted electronically to the CuLearn.

Papers that are longer or shorter than the required length will be bounced back and will only be accepted again within the word limits.

Grades will be awarded based on a combination of analytical substance and writing style.

An excellent response:

- 1) Makes a clear and insightful argument that directly answers the question
- 2) Develops the ideas in a purposeful manner
- 3) Uses supporting evidence and explains all logical connections
- 4) Makes no errors in grammar, diction or sentence structure

3. Research Paper (due Friday November 20, worth 35% of the final grade):

Research and write a paper between 1200-1500 words that addresses the following question:

What is the most important issue in world politics today? Explain your answer with reference to its implications for world order. Your answer must make reference to course readings and your own research.

For this assignment you may address any issue in world politics that you think is important. To make a convincing case, you must (a) describe the issue, (b) explain its implications for world order – the “so what?” question; (c) support your claims with evidence and logic.

The word count does not include a title page and bibliography (longer or shorter papers will not be accepted).

Your research paper must refer to at least five additional academic sources. An academic source is a book, or portion of a book written by a professor, a journal article in a peer reviewed journal, or a respected policy journal. In general, academic sources are held to a higher editorial standard of evidence and logic. Non-academic sources are acceptable and include newspapers, magazines, blogs, and other random stuff you find online. Non-academic sources can be reliable, especially traditional media sources, but generally have lower editorial standards. This syllabus contains worthwhile academic sources but you are welcome to go beyond what is listed here. The grading rubric will be posted on CuLearn in advance of the assignment deadline. Papers must be submitted electronically to the course CuLearn website by **Friday, November 20 at 11:59pm.**

4. Final Examination (30% of the final grade):

A final exam will take place during the scheduled university examination period in December. This year, the final exam will resemble a take home exam. Students will write the exam at home and have a multi-day window in which to submit the exam. A nominal time and date for the exam will be set by the examination office. That will serve as our “due date.” Students will submit their exams within that period.

The exam will be cumulative and consist of two essay questions drawn from material covered in the entire course. **Student travel is not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time.**

5. Participation (10% of the final grade):

Participation will be assessed in two ways:

In normal years, participation would be assessed based on weekly in-person tutorial meetings. For this online class, participation will consist of contributions to a weekly discussion forum hosted on the cuLearn course page. Students are still organized by tutorial section and assigned to individual teaching assistants. Each tutorial section will have its own discussion forum which will be administered by a dedicated teaching assistant. Discussion threads will be prompted by a question about the week's reading material. Each student is expected to contribute at least 1 response to the prompt and at least 2 replies to other students. Each student's participation grade will be assessed based on meeting this minimal threshold as well as the quality of the responses.

Second, participation grades may also be earned through participation in the professor's open office hours, to be held on BigBlueButton (via cuLearn) each week from 11:35 to 1:25. As well, teaching assistants may hold their own office hours during scheduled tutorial meetings. **These are not mandatory because it is not always possible for students to take advantage of live meeting sessions. However, I strongly encourage students to meet face-to-face (online) with the professor and TAs.**

Late Policy:

Where late assignments are accepted, they are penalized at the rate of 1% of the student's final grade in the course. An assignment is considered one day late if it is submitted to CuLearn any time up to 23:59 hours after the deadline. If it is submitted between 23:59 and 47:59 hours after the deadline, it is considered two days late, etc.

A waiver of lateness penalties will only be considered in the event of an officially documented extenuating circumstance. See "Accommodations & Extension Policy for Assignments" below. Late assignments can be placed in the professor's drop box in the Department of Political Science. This is cleared out daily.

Final Submission Date for Assignments

The final submission date for assignments is one week (7 days) after their due date (with the imposition of late penalties). The instructors WILL NOT accept assignments for grading after this time without a documented extenuating circumstance. If an extenuating circumstance may prevent the student from submitting an assignment by its submission date, the student must contact the Head TA at the earliest possible convenience and be prepared to provide the Head TA with official documentation concerning the situation.

Grade Appeals:

Any errors of addition should be raised immediately with the professor. Asking for an explanation of your grade is perfectly fine. Asking for a re-grade requires greater effort on the part of the student. If a student is concerned that an assignment was not graded appropriately, the student should first meet with the TA who marked the work. To request a review of an assignment, the student must provide a 1-page explanation of why the assignment was improperly graded (i.e. what do you think you did that should have been given more weight?).

The explanation, the original assignment, and a clean copy of the assignment should be submitted to the student's tutorial leader no later than **2 weeks** after the assignment was made available for return. If the student is unsatisfied after consulting and discussing the matter with the TA, the assignment will be passed on to the professor for final grading.

NOTE: Students must take responsibility for picking up their marked work in a timely manner. No appeals will be considered that have been initiated more than 2 weeks after the assignment/exam was returned. **Grades may be either raised, stay the same, or lowered on appeal.**

Final exams are not usually returned. If students wish to review their final exam, they must make arrangements with the instructor

Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1: Power in Global Politics (21 pages)

Nye, Joseph. 2011. *The Future of Power*. New York: PublicAffairs. Chapter 1 "What is Power in Global Affairs?" pp. 3-24.

Week 2: The Rise of the American World Order (19 pages)

Rose, Gideon. 2019. The Fourth Founding: The United States and the Liberal Order. *Foreign Affairs* 98 (1): 11-21.

Allison, Graham. 2018. The Myth of the Liberal Order: From Historical Accident to Conventional Wisdom. *Foreign Affairs* 97 (4): 124-133.

Week 3: Back in the '90s...or The Unipolar Moment (23 pages)

Krauthammer, Charles. 1990. The Unipolar Moment. *Washington Post*, July 20. [Here](#)

Albright, Madeleine K. 1998. The Testing of American Foreign Policy. *Foreign Affairs* 77 (6): 50-64.

Brooks, Stephen G., and William C. Wohlforth. 2002. American Primacy in Perspective. *Foreign Affairs* 81 (4): 20-33.

Week 4: Emerging Powers (30 pages)

Zarakol, Ayşe. 2019. 'Rise of the Rest': As Hype and Reality. *International Relations* 33 (2): 213-228.

Acharya, Amitav. 2016. 'Idea-Shift': How Ideas from the Rest are Reshaping Global Order. *Third World Quarterly* 37 (7): 1156-1170.

Week 5: The Rise of China (24 pages)

Weiss, Jessica Chen 2019. A World Safe for Autocracy? *Foreign Affairs* 98 (4): 92-102.

Economy, Elizabeth C. 2018. China's New Revolution. *Foreign Affairs* 97 (3): 60-74.

Schake, Kori, and Anja Manuel. 2016. How to Manage a Rising Power – or Two. *Atlantic*, May 24. [Here](#).

Week 6: Regionalism: Integration or Fragmentation (pages)

Aniche, Ernest Tooichi. 2020. From Pan-Africanism to African Regionalism: A Chronicle. *African Studies* 79 (1): 70-87.

Sloat, Amanda. 2019. "The Brexit Breakup Gets Messier." *Foreign Affairs*, March 27.

Week 7: Climate Change Politics (17 pages)

Busby, Joshua. 2018. Warming World Why Climate Change Matters More than Anything Else. *Foreign Affairs* 97 (4): 49-55.

Adow, Mohamed. 2020. The Climate Debt: What the West Owes the Rest. *Foreign Affairs* 99 (3): 60-68.

Betsill, Michele M. 2017. Trump's Paris Withdrawal and the Reconfiguration of Global Climate Change Governance. *Chinese Journal of Population Resources and Environment* 15 (3): 189-191.

October 26-30 Fall Break

Week 8: Forever War in the Middle East (20 pages)

Malkasian, Carter. 2020. How the Good War Went Bad: America's Slow-Motion Failure in Afghanistan. *Foreign Affairs* 99 (2): 77-91

Sky, Emma. 2017. Mission Still Not Accomplished in Iraq. *Foreign Affairs* 96 (6): 9-15.

Week 9: The 2008 Financial Crisis (27 pages)

Wolf, Martin. 2014. *The Shifts and the Shocks: What We've Learned - and Have Still to Learn from the Financial Crisis*. New York: Penguin. Ch. 1 "From Crisis to Austerity. Pp. 17-44.

Week 10: Inequality Around the World and at Home (20~ pages)

Scheidel, Walter. 2017. *The Great Leveler: Violence and the History of Inequality from the Stone Age to the Twenty-First Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
Ch. 15 "In Our Time," pp. 405-423

Norrlöf, Carla. 2018. Donald Trump Wants to Rewrite the Liberal Playbook that has Kept America on Top for Decades. *LSE US Centre blog*, February 21. [Here](#)

Week 11: Identity Politics, Nationalism, and Populism (25 pages)

Eichengreen, Barry. 2019. *The Populist Temptation: Economic Grievance and Political Reaction in the Modern Era*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1. "The Populist Archetype." Pp. 1-14.

Berman, Sheri. 2016. Populism is Not Fascism: But it Could be a Harbinger. *Foreign Affairs* 95 (6): 39-44.

Acharya, Amitav. 2020. The Myth of the "Civilization State": Rising Powers and the Cultural Challenge to World Order. *Ethics & International Affairs* 34 (2): 139-156.

Week 12: Was 2020 the End of the American World Order? (25~ pages)

Patrick, Stewart. 2020. When the System Fails: COVID-19 and the Costs of Global Dysfunction. *Foreign Affairs* 99 (4): 40-50.

Ikenberry, G. John. 2020. The Next Liberal Order. *Foreign Affairs* 99 (4): 133-143.

Hathaway, Oona, and Scott J. Shapiro. 2020. Welcome to the Post-Leader World. *Foreign Policy*, July 4.

Summary of Key Dates

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Friday, September 11	Power in Global Politics	
Friday, September 18	The Rise of the American World Order	
Friday, September 25	The Unipolar Moment	
Friday, October 2	Emerging Powers	Precis Due
Friday October 9	The Rise of China	
Friday, October 16	Regionalism: Integration or Fragmentation	
Friday, October 23	Climate Change Politics	Op-Ed Due
October 26-30	Fall Break	
Friday, November 6	Forever War in the Middle East	
Friday, November 13	The 2008 Financial Crisis	
Friday, November 20	Inequality Around the World and at Home	Research Essay Due
Friday, November 27	Identity Politics and Populism	
Friday, December 4	Is 2020 the End of the American Order?	
December 9-21		Final Exam

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:

Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf

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/wp-content/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/wp-content/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 613-520-6608 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 its 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/sexual-violence-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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

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:

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. 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/> and our website <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.