

PSCI 1200A: World Politics

Fridays 12:35am-2:25pm

This course will be held remotely online.

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Ettinger

Office Hours: Fridays 12:35am-2:25pm or by appointment

Email: aaron.ettinger@carleton.ca

Teaching Assistants

A
B
C
D
E

Course Assignments List.....	Page 2
Reading List.....	Page 6
Summary of Key Dates.....	Page 10
Policies and Accommodations.....	Page 10

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 Brightspace.

Course Evaluation

Assignment/Exam	Due Date	% of Final Grade
1. Precis assignment	Friday, October 1	5%
2. Editorial	Friday, October 22	15%
3. Research essay	Friday, November 19	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 1 at 11:59pm, worth 5%)

The first assignment is a *précis of our first course reading*. You will write a *précis* of the following article:

Nye, Joseph S. 2011. "Power and Foreign Policy." *Journal of Political Power* 4 (1): 9-24.

Why? It is the toughest reading of the term and the best opportunity to learn how to read academic material.

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 22 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 19, 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 to 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 19 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:

1. Weekly required tutorials: You will meet with your teaching assistant once per week to discuss course material. These meetings will be held through an online conference platform. The discussions will be led by the TA but depends on your participation. So dive in!

2. Professor Ettinger’s office hours: Participation grades may also be earned through participation in the professor’s open office hours. This session will be held on an online conferencing platform each week from 12:35 to 2:25pm. I will hang out online and host a 2-hour question-and-answer session. 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. Discussions may address any topic related to the course.

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.**

Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1: Power in Global Politics (15 pages)

This week is about big concepts that help us make sense of global politics

Reading tip: this is the hardest reading all term. Try to understand the general argument. Pay special attention to the “three faces of power.”

Nye, Joseph S. 2011. “Power and Foreign Policy.” *Journal of Political Power* 4 (1): 9-24.

Week 2: The Rise of the US-led World Order (19 pages)

This week is about the rise of the US to global leadership, from 1945 to the 2000s.

Reading tip: These articles are more historical in their content. Pay attention to the broad historical sweep of US foreign policy. Get a sense of the major time periods in modern US foreign policy history.

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

Deudney, Daniel, and G. John Ikenberry. 2021. “The Intellectual Foundations of the Biden Revolution.” *Foreign Policy*, July 2. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/07/02/biden-revolution-roosevelt-tradition-us-foreign-policy-school-international-relations-interdependence/>

Week 3: Pandemics (30 pages)

This week begins our look at the past two decades from hell. We begin with the most recent challenge to US-led global order – the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reading tip: Observe the public health trends Garrett identified in 2005. Compare what she says to Patrick’s analysis of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Garrett, Laurie. 2005. “The Next Pandemic?” *Foreign Affairs* 84 (4): 3-23.

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

Week 4: Forever Wars (20 pages)

This week is about the never-ending US-led wars across the Middle East since 2001.

Reading tip: Think about the long-arc of these wars.

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 5: Economic Crises 2008-2021 (~22 pages)

This week is about the global economic upheavals of 2008 and 2020.

Reading tip: The details of the 2008 crisis are baffling. Try to understand the general trends. Compare the 2008 economic collapse with the 2020 pandemic-induced collapse.

Economist. 2013. "Crash Course: The Origins of the Financial Crisis." *The Economist*, September 7. (3 pages)

Jarvis, Jonathan. 2012. *The Crisis of Credit Visualized*, <http://crisisofcredit.com/>

James, Harold. 2021. "Globalization's Coming Golden Age." *Foreign Affairs* 100 (3): 10-19.

Milanovic, Branko. 2020. "The Clash of Capitalisms." *Foreign Affairs* 99 (1): 10-21.

Week 6: Economic Inequality Around the World (~27pages)

This week is about economic inequality at home and around the world.

Reading tip: Pay attention to different types of inequality. Bourguignon provides a good, simple breakdown of major concepts. Readings from Scheidel and Garrett illustrate some of the themes.

Bourguignon, Francois. 2016. "Inequality and Globalization." *Foreign Affairs* 95 (1): 11-15.

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. Pp. 405-423.

Garrett, Laurie. 2017. "The Crime of Gender Inequality in Global Health." *Foreign Policy*, December 26. [Here](#).

Scheidel, Walter. 2020. "Why the Wealthy Fear Pandemics." *New York Times*, 9 April. [Here](#).

Week 7: Democracy in Retreat (~31 pages)

This week is about the backsliding of democracy around the world and its implications for global politics.

Reading tip: think about what democracy is in the first place. Pay special attention to the big concepts used in Bermeo and the broad historical trends identified by Fukuyama

Fukuyama, Francis. 2020. "30 Years of World Politics: What Has Changed?" *Journal of Democracy* 31 (1): 11-21.

Bermeo, Nancy. 2016. "On Democratic Backsliding." *Journal of Democracy* 27 (1): 5-19.

Brechenmacher, Saskia, Katherine Mann, and Lauren Meadows. 2021. "Representation Isn't Enough." *Foreign Policy*, March 2. [Here](#). (3 pages)

October 25-29 Fall Break

Week 8: Climate Change (23 pages)

This week is about the geopolitical implications of climate change.

Reading tip: Think about the political implications of climate change. Werrell and Femia 2016 have a great summary of how climate change influences world politics. Adow 2020 makes a powerful moral argument

Werrell, Caitlin E., and Francesco Femia. 2016. "Climate Change, the Erosion of State Sovereignty, and World Order." *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 23 (2): 221-235.

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

Week 9: Development & the Rise of the Global South (~31 pages)

This week is about the emergence of economic and political powers since 1945.

Reading tip: Think about how economic development and political power work together.

Nayyar, Deepak. 2014. "The West and the Rest in the World Economy." *Challenge* 57 (2): 26-41.

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

Vogelstein, Rachel. 2016. "Development's Gender Gap." *Foreign Affairs*, July 26.

Week 10: Global Social Movements (32~ pages)

This week is about non-state actors, especially influential activist movements on the world stage.

Reading tip: Keck and Sikkink 1999 is a little dated and a bit dry. Stick with it – the actors and trends they identified back then remain important. Blain 2020 and Bob 2012 are good case studies and more up-to-date.

Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics." *International Social Science Journal* 51 (159):89-101.

Blain, Keisha N. 2020. "Civil Rights International: The Fight Against Racism Has Always Been International." *Foreign Affairs* 99 (5): 176-181.

Bob, Clifford. 2012. *The Global Right Wing and the Clash of World Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1 'Clashing Networks in World Politics, pp. 1-15.

Week 11: Regionalism Around the World (~35 pages)

This week is about groupings of countries as platforms for political interaction in world politics. We focus on the African Union and the European Union.

Reading tip: Think about the long historical backstories to these large regional organizations.

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.

Ash, Timothy Garton 2021. "Five Years after the Brexit Referendum, We Have Two Weakened Unions at Odds with Each Other." *Globe and Mail*, June 22.

Week 12: The Rise of China (33 pages)

For our grand finale, this week is about the next big geopolitical confrontation in world politics

Reading tip: Keep in mind how the rise of China touches on every aspect of world politics.

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.

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

Beijing 2008 Olympics Opening Ceremony (3:36). Available here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TA0ZVxHRxCM>

Summary of Key Dates

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Friday, September 10	Power in Global Politics	
Friday, September 17	The Rise of the American World Order	
Friday, September 24	The 2020 Pandemic	
Friday, October 1	The Forever Wars	Precis Due
Friday October 8	Economic Crises 2008-2021	
Friday, October 15	Economic Inequality Around the World	
Friday, October 22	Democracy Backsliding	Op-Ed Due
October 25-29	Fall Break	
Friday, November 5	Climate Change	
Friday, November 12	Development & the Rise of the Global South	
Friday, November 19	Global Social Movements	Research Essay Due
Friday, November 26	Regionalism Around the World	
Friday, December 3	The Rise of China	
December 11-23	Scheduled during the final exam period	Final Exam

Appendix

Covid-19 Information

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

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 accommodation: 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 accommodation: 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.

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, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more information, please visit carleton.ca/pmc.

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 engage in student activities 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.

Sexual Violence Policy

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. 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.

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 includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and

the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

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.

More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

Intellectual property

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. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

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

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 Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

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/>.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.