

Department of Political Science**PSCI 1200B****World Politics****Wednesdays 11:35 a.m.-2:25 p.m.***Please confirm schedule and location on Carleton Central*

Alex McDougall

Office Hours: By appointment**Phone:** 613-520-2600 x 3052 (no voicemail)**Email:** alexmcdougall@cunet.carleton.ca**I. Course Description**

This course examines world order in an age of crisis. In the 2020s, the world is experiencing multiple and overlapping upheavals that challenge the foundations of political and economic stability. The American-led system of global order that prevailed since the end of World War II appears to be weakening amid unprecedented and simultaneous crises—climate change, economic instability, renewed warfare in Europe, eroding civic trust, and the COVID-19 pandemic. It seems as though world politics stands on the brink of a transition from a U.S.-led system to something markedly different. PSCI 1200B introduces students to the study of global politics, helping them understand both historical dynamics and contemporary trends that have brought us to this critical juncture. This course provides a foundation for further study in World Politics and International Political Economy.

II. Course Format

This course will be conducted online, combining synchronous and asynchronous components as outlined in the schedule. Lectures will be delivered virtually, and students will engage in roundtable discussions, and group activities. Asynchronous materials (recorded lectures, discussion boards) will be posted on Brightspace for students to review at their own pace.

III. Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand key concepts, actors, institutions, and processes shaping world politics.
2. Identify and explain the evolution of contemporary world politics.
3. Develop academic reading skills, including summarizing complex texts.
4. Write and research effectively on topics in world politics.

IV. Texts

There is no single textbook for this course. All required readings are available online via the Carleton library search engine or Brightspace.

V. Evaluation at a Glance

- Tutorial Participation: 20%
- Research Paper Outline: 15% (Due Jan 29)
- Short essay: 15% (Due Feb 26)
- Research Paper: 25% (Due March 26)
- Final Quiz: 25% (Mar 26-April 2 Online)

VI. Evaluation in Detail**Tutorial Participation (20%)**

Regular attendance and prepared participation are essential. Students should read the assigned material before tutorials and engage with the content through thoughtful comments and analysis.

Research Paper Outline (15%)

Due: January 29

Students will submit a 600–800 word annotated outline proposing a narrow research topic related to world politics. The outline should include a research question, background context, key arguments, theoretical framework, and an annotated bibliography of at least eight academic sources. Approval of the topic is required before proceeding with the final research paper. Late submissions will be penalized.

Short Essay (15%)

Due: February 26

Topic: Students will write a 1000 word essay on the following topic: To what extent have post-9/11 military interventions and the 2008 Global Financial Crisis eroded America's global leadership position? Assess the influence of these events on U.S. credibility, economic clout, and institutional engagement, and consider what they reveal about the durability of U.S.-led order. A good essay will have a thesis statement, advance an argument supported by logic and evidence, demonstrate an understanding of the issue through the application of course material and outside material, and be well written, organized, and presented.

Research Paper (25%)

Due: March 26

Building on the approved outline, the 2,250 -word paper must present an analytical, theoretically informed argument about a specific event or trend in world politics. It should draw on at least eight academic sources, follow APA style, and demonstrate clarity, depth, and rigorous analysis. Late papers will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per day.

Final Quiz (25%)

March: 26-April 2

The Quiz will be held online. It will include key term definitions, short answer questions, and one essay question. The quiz will test understanding of course concepts, readings, and themes.

The Course at a glance

Date	Topic
Jan 8, 2025	Power in Global Politics
Jan 15, 2025	The Rise of the Liberal International Order
Jan 22, 2025	Forever Wars & Economic Crisis (2001–2008)
Jan 29, 2025	Economic Inequality & The COVID-19 Pandemic (2008–2022)
Feb 5, 2025	Ukraine, Gaza & Global Order
Feb 12, 2025	Democratic backsliding
Feb 19, 2025	No Class
Feb 26, 2025	Rise of China
Mar 5, 2025	Globalization and industrial policy
Mar 12, 2025	Aiding the global south
Mar 19, 2025	Conflict in Africa
Mar 26, 2025	Authoritarian Regimes
Apr 2, 2025	Technology & World Order

VII. Course Schedule and Readings*Part I: The Rise and Decline of American World Order***Week 1: Power in Global Politics**

- Nye, Joseph. 2011. *The Future of Power*. Ch. 1: “What is Power in Global Affairs?” (pp. 3–24)
- Hurrell, Andrew. 2007. *On Global Order: Power, Values, and the Constitution of International Society*. (pp. 1–6)

Week 2: The Rise of the Liberal International Order

- Rose, Gideon. 2019. “The Fourth Founding: The United States and the Liberal Order.” *Foreign Affairs* 98(1): 11–21
- Ikenberry, G. John. 2022. “Why American Power Endures.” *Foreign Affairs* 101(6): 56–73

*Part II: Crises in world politics***Week 3: Iraq and Afghanistan (2001–2008)**

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

- Leffler, Melvyn P. 2023. "Bush, 9/11, and the Roots of the Iraq War." *Foreign Affairs*, March 23: 1–7

Week 4: The global financial crisis and the Covid-19 Pandemic (2008–2022)

- *The Economist*. 2013. "Crash Course: The Origins of the Financial Crisis." (3 pages)
- de Zwart, Pim. 2019. "The Global History of Inequality." *International Review of Social History* 64(2): 309–323
- Garrett, Laurie. 2017. "The Crime of Gender Inequality in Global Health." *Foreign Policy*, Dec 26: 1–7
- Brown, Stephen, and Morgane Rosier. 2023. "COVID-19 Vaccine Apartheid and the Failure of Global Cooperation." *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 25(3): 535–554

Week 5: Ukraine, Gaza, Syria

- Flockhart, Trine, and Elena A. Korosteleva. 2022. "War in Ukraine: Putin and the Multi-Order World." *Contemporary Security Policy* 43(3): 466–481
- Hathaway, Oona A. 2024. "War Unbound: Gaza, Ukraine, and the Breakdown of International Law." *Foreign Affairs* 103(3): 84–96
- Stent, Angela. 2022. "The West vs. the Rest." *Foreign Policy*, May 2: 1–5

Week 6: Democratic Backsliding (Synchronous Session via Zoom)

- Bermeo, Nancy. 2016. "On Democratic Backsliding." *Journal of Democracy* 27(1): 5–19
- Chenoweth, Erica, and Zoe Marks. 2022. "Revenge of the Patriarchs: Why Autocrats Fear Women." *Foreign Affairs* 101(2): 103–116
- *The Sunday Magazine with Piya Chattopadhyay*. 2023. "Maria Ressa on Facing Down Dictators, Disinformation and Standing Up for Democracy." CBC Radio, Dec 3.

Reading Week

No classes.

Week 7: The Rise of China

- Allison, Graham. 2015. "The Thucydides Trap: Are the US and China Headed for War?" *Atlantic*, Sept 24: 1–11
- Weiss, Jessica Chen. 2022. "The China Trap." *Foreign Affairs* 101(5): 40–58
- Economy, Elizabeth. 2024. "China's Alternative Order: And What America Should Learn From It." *Foreign Affairs* 103(3): 8–24

Week 8: Globalization, competition, and industrial policy

- Posen, Adam. "America's zero-sum economics doesn't add up." *Foreign Policy* 24 (2023).
- Noah Smith, "[the new industrial policy explained](#)" (May 3, 2023)

- Adam Tooze, “Bidenomics” in the *London Review of Books* (2024)

Week 9: Aiding the global south

- Easterly, William. "The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor." (2015): 186-188.
- Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson (2015) [Why nations fail](#).

Week 10: Conflict in Africa

- Why Sudan’s catastrophic war is the world’s problem. *The Economist* (2024)
- How El Fasher went from Darfur’s safe haven to all-out war
- [Is Ethiopia’s disintegration an inevitable and necessary evil? - Ethiopia Insight](#)

Week 11: Authoritarian Regimes

- Part 1 of - Svobik, Milan W. *The politics of authoritarian rule*. Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Wang, Maya. "China’s techno-authoritarianism has gone global." *Foreign Affairs* 8 (2021).

Week 12: Technology & World Order

- Drezner, Daniel W. 2019. “Technological Change and International Relations.” *International Relations* 33(2): 286–303
- Iyengar, Rishi. 2024. “What AI Will Do to Elections.” *Foreign Policy*, Jan 3: 1–10

All readings and materials will be accessible via Brightspace.

Political Science Course Outline Appendix

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:

Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

<https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC):

<https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS):

<https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusivity Communities:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389,

<https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>

ood2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic:

<https://walkincounselling.com>

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances:

Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy: 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at equity@carleton.ca or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

Religious obligation: 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 [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

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, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) 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*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). 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).

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:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

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). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last day to withdraw from full fall term and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment is **September 30th, 2024**. The last day for a fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or the winter portion of two-term courses is **January 31, 2025**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses is **November 15, 2024**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses is **March 15, 2025**.

WDN: For students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term the term WDN will be a permanent notation that appears on their official transcript.

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Fall courses: **December 9-21, 2024**. Winter and Fall/Winter courses: **April 11-26, 2025** (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton 2024-2025 Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777) Loeb	B640
Registrar's Office (3500)	300 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822) Library	4 th floor
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608) Nideyinàn	501
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory