

Carleton University – Department of Political Science
PSCI 2601A – International Relations: Global Politics
Summer 2025 – Monday / Wednesday, 14:35 – 17:25

I. General information

Instructor: Alex McDougall

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Office hours: by appointment

II. Overview

Russia invades Ukraine. North Korea tests an intercontinental ballistic missile. The United States and Israel conduct targeted air strikes against Iran's nuclear program. China emerges as a global power, challenging the United States, which counters with new diplomatic, military, and trade policies. Non-state actors like Al Qaeda and Islamic State wreak havoc in nations from Libya and Syria to parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The United Kingdom departs the European Union. How can we understand these pivotal global events? This class introduces students to the academic disciplines of international relations and global politics. The class starts with a history of the international order. It continues on to cover the core theoretical perspectives in international relations – realism, liberalism, constructivism, and Marxism. It then proceeds to introduce debates over important world politics issues and institutions. Apart from gaining insights into pivotal world politics themes and theories, this course aims to cultivate foundational skills essential for university and beyond like critical thinking, digesting large amounts of information, and effective written and oral communication.

III. Course Format

This course is delivered online. Students must log in to the Zoom classroom at the scheduled time for live lectures. Occasional asynchronous lectures will be clearly noted in the weekly schedule. Please ensure you have a stable Internet connection.

IV. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain theories of international relations.
2. Evaluate core and emerging issues in world politics
3. Have a familiarity with global international history.
4. Communicate ideas about world politics in writing.

V. Required text

- *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 9th ed., edited by John Baylis, Steve Smith & Patricia Owens (Oxford UP, 2024)(\$78.99).

- Other readings: on electronic reserve at the Carleton Library via ARES

VI. Evaluation at a glance

Item	Date	Weight
Writing Assignment	July 16 (11:59 p.m. ET)	20 %
Mid-term Exam	July 23	30 %
Final Exam.	TBA - Scheduled during the official summer exam period;	50 %

VII. Evaluation in detail

Writing Assignment

Instructions

- In the July 7th reading, “war making and state making as organized crime”, author Charles Tilly argues that state building processes resemble criminal racketeering. The question for this writing assignment is as follows.
- If, as Tilly says, state making resembles organized crime, to what extent can successful criminal organizations or non-state armed groups be said to practice state making?” Write a 750–1000-word essay that answers this question.
- Use Charles Tilly’s “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime” as your primary theoretical lens.
- Your answer must draw on at least one historical or contemporary example of a criminal organization or a non-state armed group to test whether—and where—the analogy runs in both directions.
- Finally, the paper should reflect on the usefulness of this analogy to understanding the group in an international political setting.
- Students can choose any relevant example from history or contemporary international politics. For example: the Sicilian Mafia in post-war Italy, Mexican cartels, ISIS in Iraq and Syria, FARC in Colombia, M-23 in Democratic Republic of Congo, just to name a few.
- Students should consult outside resources to do research about their chosen group or organization.

Other instructions/expectations include:

- The paper should take a position and there should be a clear *thesis statement* that summarizes this position. Ideally the thesis statement will be found in the introduction paragraph and be obvious to the reader.
- Conceptual application: The paper should briefly outline Tilly’s four war/state making activities and show an understanding of the analogy. A good strategy would be to apply each to your chosen group or organization.
- Limitations: it is possible that the concept does not apply well in some cases and a strong paper will discuss limitations of this sort when they arise.

- Evidence: make sure to support your claims with sources, data and evidence.
- Cite at least 3 reputable sources beyond Tilly. Reputable sources can include: academic publications, or publications from credible sources such as government organizations or think tanks. High quality non-academic news sources (e.g. Foreign Policy Magazine, Financial Times, Economist, Washington Post etc...) may be used as well.
- The paper must include intext citations: Chicago Author-Date citations; bibliography not counted in the word total.
- Clear sub-headings recommended.
- The use of AI/LLMs to write the assignment is prohibited.

Midterm Exam

- Online via Brightspace
- E-proctored using CoMas
- Covers material from July 2-21
- ~90 minutes

Final Exam

- Online – login via Brightspace
- E-proctored by CoMas
- Comprehensive
- ~150-180 minutes

VIII. Course Policies

Late policy

- Late assignments are penalized at 5% per day late.
- Makeup exams are granted only with appropriate documentation.

AI policy

- The use of generative AI (e.g. chatbots, LLMs) to complete assignments or exams is forbidden.

E-Proctoring policy

- Please note that tests and examinations in this course will use a mandatory remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at <https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/>
- Students are responsible for ensuring that the application is working properly on your computer during the exam. Failure to ensure proper functioning of CoMaS will constitute a violation of the exam rules and may be grounds for an allegation that you have violated the Academic Integrity Policy.
- The minimum computing requirements for this service are as follows:
 - Hardware: Desktop, or Laptop
 - OS: Windows 10 or higher, Mac OS 10.14 or higher

- Internet Browser: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, or Microsoft Edge
- Internet Connection (High-Speed Internet Connection Recommended)
- Webcam (HD resolution recommended)
- Note: Tablets, Chromebooks and Smartphones are not supported at this time. Windows-based tablets are not supported at this time.

IX. Class & Reading Schedule

Date	Topic	Required reading
Wed 2 Jul	Introduction	<p>Textbook: Introduction : from international politics to world politics / Patricia Owens, John Baylis, Steve Smith</p> <p>Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History," <i>The National Interest</i> 16 (1989), 3-18</p>
Mon 7 Jul	International history	<p>Textbook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rise of modern international order / George Lawson • The international history of the 20th century / Len Scott <p>Charles Tilly, "War making and state making as organized crime" in <i>Bringing the State Back in</i> (Cambridge University Press). 1982.</p>
Wed 9 Jul	End of the Cold war and rising powers	<p>Textbook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the end of the cold war to a new global era? / Michael Cox • Rising power and the emerging global order/Andrew Hurrell <p>Krasner, Stephen D. <i>Sovereignty: organized hypocrisy</i>. Princeton university press, 1999. (pp.: 3-43)</p>
Mon 14 Jul	Realism	<p>Textbook: Realism / Tim Dunne, Brian C. Schmidt</p> <p><i>The realism reader. Routledge, 2014:</i> pp.: 53-59, 113-123.</p> <p>Thayer, Bradley A. "Bringing in Darwin: Evolutionary theory, realism, and international politics." <i>International Security</i> 25.2 (2000): 124-151.</p>
Wed 16 Jul	Liberal internationalism And the rise of China	<p>Textbook: Liberalism / Tim Dunne</p> <p>Mearsheimer, John J. "The inevitable rivalry: America, China, and the tragedy of great-power politics." <i>Foreign Aff.</i> 100 (2021): 48.</p>
Mon 21 Jul	Marxism and constructivism	<p>Textbook: Marxist theories of international relations / Stephen Hobden, Richard Wyn Jones</p>

		Textbook: Social constructivism / Michael Barnett
Wed 23 Jul	International organizations MIDTERM!	Asynchronous lecture Textbook: International organizations in world politics / Susan Park Mearsheimer, John J. "The false promise of international institutions." <i>International organization</i> . Routledge, 2017. 237-282.
Mon 28 Jul	War and security issues in world politics	Textbook: War and world politics / Tarak Barkawi Blattman, Christopher. <i>Why we fight: The roots of war and the paths to peace</i> . Penguin, 2023: pp. 1-21 Götz, Elias, and Per Ekman. "Russia's war against Ukraine: context, causes, and consequences." <i>Problems of post-communism</i> 71.3 (2024): 193-205.
Wed 30 Jul	Human rights and humanitarian intervention	Textbook: Humanitarian intervention in world politics / Alex J. Bellamy, Nicholas J. Wheeler. Kuperman, Alan J. "A model humanitarian intervention? Reassessing NATO's Libya campaign." <i>International Security</i> 38.1 (2013): 105-136. Averre, Derek, and Lance Davies. "Russia, humanitarian intervention and the Responsibility to Protect: the case of Syria." <i>International Affairs</i> 91.4 (2015): 813-834.
Mon 4 Aug	Civic Holiday – NO CLASS	
Wed 6 Aug	Trade and Finance	Textbook: Global trade and global finance / Matthew Watson Jonathan Haskel and Matthew J. Slaughter, "America's Brexit Phase: Trump's Tariffs and the Price of Economic Uncertainty," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , June 10, 2025,
Mon 11 Aug	International development	Textbook: Poverty, hunger, and development / Tony Evans, Caroline Thomas Zainab Usman, "The end of the Global Aid Industry: USAID's Demise is an opportunity to prioritize industrialization over charity" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , May 25, 2025.
Wed 13 Aug	Weapons of mass destruction	Textbook: Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction / Sheena Chestnut Greitens

		Waltz, Kenneth N. "Why Iran should get the bomb: Nuclear balancing would mean stability." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (2012): 2-5.
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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

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

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

GRADING SYSTEM

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

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

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