

Carleton University
Department of Political Science
<https://carleton.ca/polisci/>

Fall 2023

PSCI2601A
International Relations and Global Politics
Thursday 17:35 – 19:25

Please confirm schedule and location on
Carleton Central

Instructor: Alex McDougall
Office: B642 Loeb
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 613-520-2600 ext. 1657
Email: alex.mcdougall@cunet.carleton.ca

Overview

Russia invades Ukraine. North Korea tests an intercontinental ballistic missile. The United States withdraws from Afghanistan. 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. Grasping core concepts from these fields can elucidate global dilemmas and shed light on the thought processes of policymakers and scholars in world politics.

Apart from gaining insights into pivotal world politics themes and theories, this course aims to cultivate foundational skills essential for university and beyond. This includes critical thinking, digesting vast amounts of information, and effective written and oral communication. Active participation in writing tasks and tutorial discussions will sharpen these competencies.

The course unfolds via in-person lectures addressing various international relations and global politics subjects. For success, students are expected to attend these lectures and fulfill course readings and assessment tasks. In tandem with lectures, students will join teaching assistant-led discussion groups, offering a platform for discussion and debate.

Required Textbook:

The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations. 8th ed. Edited by John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

This textbook is procurable at the Carleton University bookstore. Additional readings will be available on Brightspace.

Assignment Matrix

Assignment	Date	Share of Term Mark	Description of Item
Topic paper 1	September 27	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic paper based on September 27 readings • 1000 words
Topic paper 2	November 8	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic paper based on November 7 readings • 1250 words
Topic paper 3	December 7	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic paper based on October 18 readings. • 1500 words • This essay will require some outside independent research on the Russia-Ukraine war. Students should consult a minimum of 3 outside sources on this conflict.
Quiz	November 25-30	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions, covers the course material. Administered online.
TA group attendance and participation	Ongoing	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For attendance and participation during the teaching assistant-led discussion group.

Students will write three “topic essays” based on the material from the course. The topic essays are intended to allow students to demonstrate their grasp of course material, their ability to develop an argument, and to build written communication and analytical competencies.

Each essay should have a thesis statement, which is supported throughout. Topic essays are analytical in nature. Students should not simply give their opinion or personal views. When analyzing particular readings, students should focus on the content, rather than the style. In other words, the essay should speak to the ideas, quality of the arguments, evidence, assumptions, and robustness of the readings and NOT the clarity, style, organization, format, etc.

The topics and due dates for each essay are as follows:

Topic Paper 1: In the September 27 readings, John Mearsheimer argues that China cannot rise peacefully. Write a 1000-word essay (approximately 4 pages), critically evaluating this argument. In doing so, the essay should 1) accurately summarize Mearsheimer's argument and 2) analyze whether his central claim is convincing. The essay should be analytical, not "opinion-based" in nature. Consult the "how to write a topic paper" guide posted on brightspace.

Topic Paper 2: In the November 7 readings, Waltz argues that Iran should be able to acquire nuclear weapons. Write a 1200-word paper assessing this argument. The paper should conform to the instructions given for the first topic paper.

Topic Paper 3: Read James Fearon's rationalist explanations for war (October 18 readings). Write a 1500-word essay that applies the insights in this article to explain the causes of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Additional instructions can be located on Brightspace in the "tips and guidelines for writing a topic paper" document.

The essays should be handed in through the online modules via Brightspace. Students are encouraged to discuss and share early drafts of their papers with their TA or instructor.

Late assignments and missed quizzes: Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day (ie. A- to B+). There are no makeup quizzes. Students who miss the quiz without proper documentation will not have the opportunity to "make it up" other ways.

Class Schedule

September 7 - Introduction to the course

- Chapter 1 of textbook
- Francis Fukuyama, "the end of history" in *the national interest* 1989

September 14 - Realism

- Chapter 5 of textbook
- John Mearsheimer, (2022) "Great Power politics: The case for realism: in la monde diplomatique

September 21 - Liberalism

- Chapter 6 of textbook
- G. John Ikenberry (2022), "the intellectual foundations of the Biden Revolution", in Foreign Affairs

September 28 - neo-liberalism and neo-realism

- Chapter 7 of textbook
- Mearsheimer (2014) "Can China Rise Peacefully", in The national interest

October 5 - Constructivism

- Chapter 9
- J Mueller, John. "The obsolescence of major war." *Bulletin of Peace Proposals* 21.3 (1990): 321-328.

October 12 - international history

- Chapter 3, 4 of textbook

October 19 - war and conflict

- Chapter 12 of textbook
- Fearon, James D. "Rationalist explanations for war." *International organization* 49.3 (1995): 379-414.

October 26 - Fall Break - no class

November 2 – International and global security

- Chapter 13 of textbook
- Buzan, Barry. "Rethinking security after the Cold War." *National and International Security*. Routledge, 2018. 329-352.

November 9 – nuclear proliferation and arms control

- Chapter 22
- Waltz, Kenneth N. "Why Iran should get the bomb: Nuclear balancing would mean stability." *Foreign Affairs* (2012): 2-5., APA,

November 16 – terrorism and globalization

- Chapter 21 of textbook
- Mueller, John, and Mark G. Stewart. "The terrorism delusion: America's overwrought response to September 11." *International Security* 37.1 (2012): 81-110.

November 23 – poverty, development, and hunger

- Chapter 22 of textbook
- Chapter 1 (and Chapter 2 recommended) of Duflo, Esther, and Abhijit Banerjee. *Poor economics*. Vol. 619. New York, NY, USA: PublicAffairs, 2011.

November 30 – nationalism

- Chapter 23 of textbook
- Wimmer, Andreas. "Why nationalism works." *Foreign Affairs* 98.2 (2019): 27-34.

December 7 - globalization and the future of global politics

- Chapter 32 of textbook
- Walter, Stefanie. "The backlash against globalization." *Annual Review of Political Science* 24 (2021): 421-442.

Appendix

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/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

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 [click here](#).

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 details, [click here](#).

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will 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. For more information, please [click here](#).

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.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

Plagiarism

The Academic Integrity Policy 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, websites, 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.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question 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. 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.