

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

Winter 2024

PSCI 2601
International Relations: Global Politics
Wednesday 9:35am – 11:25am
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Brian C. Schmidt
Office: Loeb D687
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:00, Thursday zoom 10:00am-11:30am
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I. Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of international/world politics. Students are introduced to the subject matter of world politics as well as to some of the important theoretical and analytical approaches that are used to study the subject. The course covers a variety of issue areas including peace and security, international political economy, international organization, nuclear proliferation, human rights, and the natural environment. In addition to emphasizing the role of theory in understanding world politics, the importance of history is also accentuated. A historical approach is necessary to understand the issues shaping world politics today.

The primary objective of the course is to introduce students to the study and practice of international relations. The aim of the course is two-fold: first, to increase your knowledge of world politics, and second, to help you develop the intellectual skills that are necessary to comprehend the subject matter. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity to make their own critical judgements about the events unfolding in the international realm. By the end of the course a student should be familiar with the study and practice of world politics.

II. Course Format

This course will be held in-person for lectures and discussion sections.

You are strongly advised to attend all lectures. The content of the lectures will not necessarily be identical to the content of the assigned readings, and thus regular attendance is crucial for achieving success in the course. You are expected to complete the assigned readings and it will be most helpful if you complete them before attending the lectures and seminars. For seminars, it is compulsory to complete all the required readings prior to class, since discussion is organized around the assigned readings, and you are expected to participate in the discussions.

III. Learning Outcomes

- Explain the main theoretical approaches to International Relations.
- Analyze, interpret, and critically evaluate theoretical concepts that are employed in the study world politics.
- Identify the important issue areas of world politics.
- Develop an historical understanding of the topics covered in the course.

IV. Course Text

Andrew Heywood and Ben Whitham, *Global Politics, third edition*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023.

Additional reading has been assigned for the discussion sessions. This is required reading. You should be prepared to discuss the material assigned in the textbook as well as the articles assigned for the discussion sections. The final exam will include the material from the articles assigned for the discussion sections. All the articles have been placed on reserve and can be accessed on-line through the Carleton University library website (<http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca>) and through ARES.

V. Evaluation at a Glance

- Discussion group attendance and participation 15%
- Reading Guide Assignments (select 3 out of 4) 15%
Due 1/31, 2/28, 3/13, 3/27
- Paper Assignment One (due 2/9) 20%
- Paper Assignment Two (due 3/15) 20%
- Final Exam (TBD during final exam period, April 13-25) 30%

VI. Evaluation in Detail

1. Participation: Attendance to the weekly one-hour discussion sections is compulsory. Your participation grade is based on your attendance at each discussion section, and the quantity and quality of your participation in the discussion section meeting. You should come to each discussion section prepared to discuss the assigned readings. You should strive to make a meaningful contribution to each discussion session. To earn a top grade, you must participate verbally, demonstrate that you have completed the assigned reading and that you are able to engage the material. One of the main objectives of the discussion sessions is to demonstrate your ability to share ideas related to the course topics in front of your peers.

You must show respect for the course TA and the other students in the section. Disrespectful, rude, and intimidating behavior will not be tolerated. Please be aware that there is no way to make up your participation grade at the end of the term; if you chose to miss seminars and/or not participate in the discussion without explanation, you will forfeit this mark. You should notify your TA immediately if there are legitimate reasons (health, family emergency) why you are unable to attend a specific discussion section.

2. Reading Guide Assignments: You must complete three of the four reading guide assignments. There are four sets of different prompts to answer, and each has a specific due date. Late assignments will NOT be accepted, so be sure that you complete the three assignments by the designated due date. Please be sure to identify the question that you are answering. Each answer should be one page (250-300 words). Your answer should draw on the assigned reading. The main goal of the assignment is to demonstrate that you have completed and understand the assigned reading. This should be in your own words and not include any paraphrasing or direct quotations. To reiterate, you must complete three of the four assignments; if you wait until only one or two assignments remain, you will forfeit a percentage of your grade. Please submit on Brightspace.

Assignment One: due January 31

Select one of the following:

- a. What are the main theoretical assumptions of realism?
- b. What are the main theoretical assumptions of liberalism?
- c. identify the key features of one of the following: postcolonialism, Marxism, and feminism.

Assignment Two: due February 28

Select one of the following:

- a. What was the cause of WW I or WW II?
- b. What is nuclear proliferation?
- c. What is unipolarity?

Assignment Three: due March 13

Select one of the following:

- a. What is just war theory?
- b. What is neoliberalism?
- c. What is the Bretton Woods system?

Assignment Four: due March 27

Select one of the following:

- a. What are human rights?
- b. What are the sources of international law?
- c. What is peacekeeping?

3. Paper Assignment One: You are required to write a 5-page (1500 words) paper that is due on **February 9**. You are asked to select one of the questions listed below and write a 5 page (typed and double- spaced) response (please be sure to indicate the question that you are answering). You are not required to undertake additional research, but you may if you wish. The material from the course text and reserve readings is sufficient to help you answer the question that you have selected. Your goal is to demonstrate your understanding of the course material. The questions provide you with a framework to engage the material that we are covering in the course. The purpose of the assignment is to evaluate the prominent theories of International Relations.

All direct quotations must be properly documented. Any sources that you use must be included in a bibliography. Spelling, punctuation, organization, and all the rules of composition are important and will be considered when your TA evaluates your essay.

- a. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of realism and liberalism. Which do you find to be the most persuasive?
- b. Which of the following – postcolonialism, feminism, Marxism, post-structuralism or constructivism – offers the most persuasive critique of either realism or liberalism?

4. Paper Assignment Two: You are required to write a 5-page (1500 words) paper that is due on **March 15**. The questions for the paper will be posted approximately one month before the due date of March 15. You are asked to select one of the questions listed and write a 5-page (typed and double- spaced) response (please be sure to indicate the question that you are answering). You are not required to undertake additional research, but you may if you wish. The material from the course text and reserve readings is sufficient to help you answer the question that you have selected. Your goal is to demonstrate your understanding of the course material. The questions provide you with a framework to engage the material that we are covering in the course.

All direct quotations must be properly documented. Any sources that you use must be included in a bibliography. Spelling, punctuation, organization, and all the rules of composition are important and will be considered when your TA evaluates your essay.

5. Final Exam: The final exam is comprehensive in nature. It will test you of the material that we have covered in class. The format of the exam will be discussed in class before the official date of the final exam. The exam will take place during the university-scheduled exam period (April 13 - 25).

VII. Other Guidelines

Late assignments will be penalized one letter-grade category per day. For example, a B+ paper, one day late, will receive a B.

VIII. Course Schedule

Week 1 (January 10) Course Introduction

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 1

Week 2 (January 17) Realism

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 3

Additional reading for tutorial:

Brian C. Schmidt, "Realist International Theory and the Military"
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-02866-4_103-1

Week 3 (January 24) Liberalism

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 3

Additional reading for tutorial:

Stephen M. Walt, "Cluster Bombs and the Contradictions of Liberalism," *Foreign Policy* Fall 2023.

Week 4 (January 31) Critical Theory

Heywood and Whitman, chs. 4, 18

Additional reading for tutorial:

Gillian Youngs, "Feminist International Relations: a contradiction in terms? Or: why women and gender are essential to understanding the world 'we' live in," *International Affairs*, Volume 80, Issue 1 (January 2004): 75–87.

Kelebogile Zvogbo and Meredith Loken, "Why Race Matters in International Relations," *Foreign Policy* 237 (2020): 11-13.

Week 5 (February 7) International History

Heywood and Whitman, chs. 2, 10

Additional reading for tutorial:

Stephen Brooks and William Wohlforth, "The Myth of Multipolarity," *Foreign Affairs* 102, no. 3 (May/June 2023): 76-91.

John J. Mearsheimer, "The Inevitable Rivalry: America, China, and the Tragedy of Great-Power Politics," *Foreign Affairs* 100, no. 6 (November/December 2021): 48-58.

Week 6 (February 14) International Security

Heywood and Whitman, chs. 12,13

Additional reading for tutorial:

Stephen P. Rosen, "After Proliferation: What to do if More States Go Nuclear," *Foreign Affairs*, 85, 5 (September/October 2006).

Waltz, Kenneth N. "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability," *Foreign Affairs* 91 (July-Aug. 2012).

Week 7 (February 21) No class – Reading week

Week 8 (February 28) Causes of War

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 11

Additional reading for tutorial:

Margaret MacMillan, "How Wars Don't End: Ukraine, Russia, and the Lessons of World War I," *Foreign Affairs* 102, 4 (July/August 2023): 52-65.

Robert Pearce, "The Origins of the First World War," *History Review* 27 (March 1997).

Week 9 (March 6) International Political Economy/Governance

Heywood and Whitman, chs. 5, 20

Additional reading for tutorial:

G. John Ikenberry, "The Next Liberal Order," *Foreign Affairs* 99, no. 4 (July/August 2020): 133-142.

Week 10 (March 13) International Law and the United Nations

Heywood and Whitman, chs. 15, 19

Additional reading for tutorial:

Emma Beals and Peter Salisbury, "A World at War: What is Behind the Global Explosion of Violent Conflict?" *Foreign Affairs* October 30, 2023.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/system/files/pdf/2023/a-world-at-war-2023-10-30-08-53.pdf>

United Nations Charter <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

Week 11 (March 20) Human Rights

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 14

Additional reading for tutorial:

Rory Stewart, "The Last Days of Intervention: Afghanistan and the Delusions of Maximalism," *Foreign Affairs* 100, no. 6 (November/December 2021): 60-73.

Week 12 (March 27) Poverty and Development

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 16

Additional reading for tutorial:

Branko Milanovic, "The Great Convergence: Global Equality and Its Discontents," *Foreign Affairs* 102, No. 4 (July/August 2023): 78-91.

Week 13 (April 3) Environmental Issues

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 17

Additional reading for tutorial:

"The 2023 state of the climate report: entering uncharted territory," *Bioscience* 24 October 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biad080>

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 22

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:

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Please contact your instructor if you are experiencing circumstances that (a) are beyond your control, (b) have a significant impact your capacity to meet your academic obligations, and (c) could not have reasonably been prevented. Decisions on academic consideration are in your instructor's discretion; they will be guided by the course learning outcomes and the principle of good faith. Please see [here](#) for more details. For considerations relating to course work, your instructor may request that you complete the [Self-Declaration form](#). To apply for a deferral of your final exam, you must submit the Self-Declaration form to the Registrar's Office no later than three days after the scheduled examination or take-home due date.

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.
