

**PSCI 2601A**  
**International Relations: Global Politics**  
**8:35 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays**

**Instructor:** Dr. Eric Van Rythoven

**Office Hours:** By skype appointment on Mondays between 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Email:** EricVanRythoven@cmail.carleton.ca

**Contact Policy:** Email is the best way to contact me. I will normally reply within 24-48 hours, weekends excluded. Please include the course code in the subject line of the email. For longer questions I recommend scheduling a skype appointment.

**Social Distancing Policy:** Please note that this course will be conducted virtually (i.e. with no in-person contact). We will use cuLearn and applications like Big Blue Button for online lectures and group discussions. The course will be taught synchronously, meaning I will deliver live lectures every Monday and Wednesday morning. A computer with a reliable internet connection is required to participate effectively. A working microphone is highly recommended but not mandatory.

## **1. Course Overview**

This online course provides students with a broad introduction to the study of international politics. The central focus will be a stocktaking of the current state of globalization. For decades international politics has been marked by an unprecedented period of global integration and growing interdependence. But in recent years we have seen a series of fractures and disruptions—the Covid-19 Pandemic, the emergence of Brexit, the destabilization of NATO, and rising opposition to trade—all of which raise questions over the continuing momentum of globalization. To understand these issues the course will introduce students to the central theories, concepts, and historical perspectives of the academic discipline of International Relations (IR).

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

The central aim of the course is to provide students with a broad introduction to the academic discipline of IR. The course will increase students' general knowledge of international politics, familiarize you with the central theories, concepts, and debates in the field, and help you to understand key processes in international history. The course is divided into two sections. In the first part of the course we will be looking at a series of key IR theories. These include:

- Liberalism
- Realism
- Marxism & Critical Theory

- Constructivism
- Post-colonialism & Feminism

In the second half of the course we will be looking at a series of key issues in international politics. These include:

- Globalization
- International Security and Nuclear Proliferation
- Law and Race in World Politics
- International Organizations and Global Health
- Trade and Nationalism

By the end of the course students will comprehend key concepts, theories, and debates in the field, identify and analyze important issues in international politics, and be able to generate critical and informed views on current events.

### 3. Required Texts

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

This is the central textbook for the course and we will use it in almost every single class. It can be purchased via the Carleton University bookstore either in hardcopy or as an electronic edition. You can also purchase it through the online retailer of your choice. A reserve copy will be available at the library. All other required readings will be posted on cuLearn.

### 4. Evaluation

Discussion Group Participation (Weekly) .....	15%
Writing Response #1 .....	15%
Writing Response #2 .....	15%
Online Quiz #1 .....	15%
Online Quiz #2 .....	15%
Take-home Exam .....	25%

#### Discussion Group Participation (15%)

Beginning on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, students will spend the final 50 minutes of each class in online discussion groups. Led by the Instructor or the Teaching Assistant, the purpose of these discussion groups is to allow a more intimate and detailed group discussion of the course material. Participation grades are based on attendance as well as the quality and quantity of participation in each meeting.

It is important for you to come prepared to discuss the readings assigned for each class. If you have questions about the material that were not addressed in the lecture the discussion group is the ideal place to raise them. Disrespectful, rude, and intimidating behavior will not be tolerated. There is no way to make up your participation grade at the end of term. Please notify the Instructor or Teaching Assistant immediately if there are legitimate reasons (health, family emergency) why you are unable to attend a specific discussion group.

### Online Quizzes (2 x 15%)

The in-class assessment for this course will be organized around 2 quizzes administered through CuLearn. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and will test students on their knowledge of the course material. Both material from the readings, as well content from the lectures, will be covered by these quizzes.

The first online quiz will be in-class on **May 27<sup>th</sup>**  
The second online quiz will be in-class on **June 15<sup>th</sup>**

### Response Papers (2 x 15%)

Students will write two **one-page single-spaced** response papers on different assigned readings from the course. The purpose of the response paper is for you to engage in an in-depth examination of an academic article by summarizing and assessing its contribution.

Each response paper will:

1. Identify the central thesis of the article
2. Summarize key arguments or concepts
3. Assess one strength and one weakness of the article
4. Pose two discussion questions

Readings eligible for response papers are marked with the '®' symbol in the reading list below. **Papers which are written on ineligible readings (e.g. textbook chapters) will not be accepted.** Papers are due at 8:30 a.m. on the day that the reading is discussed in class. For example, a response paper covering Ikenberry's "The end of liberal international order?" would be due on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. You can submit your response paper via cuLearn.

**Important: Students are required to submit at least 1 response paper by the halfway point in the course of May 20<sup>th</sup>.** This policy is designed to allow students time for feedback on their first response paper before they work on their second.

*Late Paper Policy:* Papers are deducted 3% for each day they are late (e.g. an 80% grade becomes 77% for 1 day late). Weekends count as 1 day late.

### Take Home Exam (25%)

The final exam for this course will be an open book take-home exam. The exam will be focused on long-form essay questions and will cover material from the entire course. Sources must be cited appropriately in either Chicago, APA, or MLA styles. Students will be issued the examination questions at the end of the final class on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The exam is due on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and must be submitted electronically via cuLearn. It is acceptable to participate in group discussions as you prepare for the written exam, but your exam must be written by you alone.

## **5. Class Format**

Classes will be held synchronously every Monday and Wednesday between 8:35 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. The first part of the class will be an online lecture with slides delivered through the Big Blue Button (BBB) online learning platform. For students who are unfamiliar with BBB I highly recommend you [watch this tutorial for students](#). The instructor will create the BBB session 10-15 minutes before class and you will be able to join by opening cuLearn and clicking on the BBB session for that day. The slides for the lecture will also be uploaded to cuLearn before class.

As this is an online class the etiquette for participation is slightly different. At the beginning of the lecture I will mute the microphones for all students. If you have a question you can type it out in shared chat or you can set your status icon to 'raised hand'. (You can change your status by clicking on your name in the participants box.) Once I see your raised hand icon I will make sure you are unmuted so you can ask your question over the microphone.

The lecture component of the class will last approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes with a short break in the middle. The final 50 minutes of the class will be in the form of smaller discussion groups in separate BBB sessions.

## **6. Course Schedule & Assigned Readings**

### **Class 1 – May 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Course Introduction: Studying International Relations*

- Introduction (pages 8-18),
- Chapter 2: The rise of the modern international order

### **Class 2 – May 6<sup>th</sup>**

*Liberalism*

- Chapter 6: Liberal internationalism
- ® Ikenberry, "The end of liberal international order?", (pages 7-23)

### **Class 3 – May 11<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Realism*

- Chapter 8: Realism
- © Kirshner, “The tragedy of offensive realism”, (pages 53-69)

### **Class 4 – May 13<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Marxism & Critical Theory*

- Chapter 7: Marxist theories of international relations
- Robert Cox, “Social forces, states and world orders: beyond international relations theory”, (pages 126-135)

### **Holiday – May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*\*no class\*\*\***

### **Class 5 – May 20<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Constructivism*

- Chapter 12: Social Constructivism
- © Allan, Vucetic, & Hopf, “The Distribution of Identity and the Future of International Order: China's Hegemonic Prospects”, (pages 1-31)

### **Class 6 – May 25<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Post-colonialism and Feminism*

- Chapter 10: Post-colonial and decolonial approaches
- Chapter 9: Feminism

### **Class 7 – May 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Globalization*

**\*\*\*Online Quiz #1 covering classes 1-7\*\*\***

- Chapter 1: Globalization
- Farrell and Newman, “Will the Coronavirus End Globalization as We Know It?”

### **Class 8 – June 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### *International Security & Nuclear Proliferation*

- Chapter 15: International and global security
- Chapter 29: Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

### **Class 9 – June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### *Law and Race in World Politics*

- Chapter 19: International law
- Chapter 18: Race in world politics

### **Class 10 – June 8<sup>th</sup>**

#### *International Organizations and Global Health*

- Chapter 20: International organizations in world politics
- © Youde, “The Development of a Counter-Epistemic Community: AIDS, South Africa, and International Regimes”

### **Class 11 – June 10<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Trade and Nationalism*

- Chapter 27: Global trade and global finance
- Chapter 30: Nationalism, national self-determination, and international relations

### **Class 12 – June 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Whither Globalization? Critically Assessing Alternatives*

#### **\*\*\*Online Quiz #2 covering classes 8-12\*\*\***

- © MacKay & LaRoche, “Why Is There No Reactionary International Theory?”, (pages 234–244)
- Musgrave, “The Grim Fantasia of a Civilizational War”
- Bell, “The Anglosphere: new enthusiasm for an old dream”

## **7. Academic Accommodations**

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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** 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*). 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*).

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to

exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**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:

- 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;
- 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 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.

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 and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays

not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**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

**Approval of final grades:** 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 cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.