

PSCI 2602B  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY  
Mondays 9:35am – 11:25am  
**Please confirm location on Carleton Central.**

Instructor: Laura Macdonald  
Office hours: Mondays 12:30 to 2:30 pm (In person without appointment - Or email me to arrange an in-person or Zoom meeting at another time or day)  
Email (preferred method of contact): [Laura.Macdonald@carleton.ca](mailto:Laura.Macdonald@carleton.ca)

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**Course description, objectives and learning outcomes:**

This course provides an introduction to the study of global political economy (GPE - also known as international political economy [IPE]). The course will help students make sense of some of the tumultuous changes occurring in the world at the current moment, including the election of Donald Trump in the United States, the growing China-U.S. economic rivalry, and the implications for Canada and North America.

The current context we are facing highlights the way in which politics and economics intersect globally in a dynamic but often messy fashion. In the first part of the course, we will learn about: what GPE is; how the field has evolved over time, and some of the dominant theoretical approaches to understanding the global political economy. In the second half we will delve into some of the key issues addressed in the field including the globalization of production, international finance, labour in the global economy, international trade, development, the global environment, and others.

Students who successfully complete this course should achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of the global political economy;
2. Critically evaluate leading theoretical approaches to the study of the GPE;
3. Identify the main features of the global political economy and how they have changed over time;
4. Assess the significance of selected issues in the global political economy.

Participation in TA sessions is mandatory. The tutorials provide you with an opportunity to discuss the lectures and readings and provide essential guidance on course requirements and assignments.

## Course Description

**In person** attendance in both lectures and tutorial groups is crucial for students to succeed in the course. **It is essential to do the required readings before the tutorials.** I also advise you to follow international news, especially related to the global economy. While you may find information about these issues from a range of on-line sources, you should make sure you exercise caution with regard to these sources, to ensure that they are credible.

Here are some examples of some credible on-line sources – this is just a starting point:

### Newspapers/Media:

- The Economist
- Financial Times
- Wall Street Journal
- Mercopress
- Al Jazeera
- Podcast: Ones and Tooze (on Apple Podcasts)

### Websites of Relevant Institutions:

- BRICS – [www.bricsforum.org](http://www.bricsforum.org)
- International Monetary Fund – [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)
- United Nations Economic and Social Council - [www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/papers.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/papers.htm)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – [www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)
- World Bank – [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
- World Trade Organization – [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)
- Group of Twenty – [www.g20.org](http://www.g20.org)

### Evaluation:

Participation and attendance in tutorials:	10%
Midterm	15% (February 3rd, in class timeslot, in lecture hall)
Research essay proposal:	10% (due February 14 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm )
Final research essay:	35% (due March 27 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm )
Final Exam	30% (will take place in person during formal exam period April 11 – 26 <sup>th</sup> . Do not schedule travel during this period. Exam schedule will be available February 14 <sup>th</sup> .)

**All assignments will be submitted and graded on Brightspace. Your assignments should be submitted in Word. Here is a link to a site where you can download the Microsoft Office suite:**

<https://carleton.ca/its/help-centre/get-microsoft-office-for-students/>

**Late Penalty: 3% per day. Extensions must be granted in advance, by the instructor, in writing. Late assignments will not be accepted more than 10 days after the deadline (unless you have been granted an extension).**

**Texts:**

There is one **required** text for this course, which will be available through the Carleton University Bookstore.

Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams, *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2024.  
Estimated price: \$75.25

I strongly urge you to purchase the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of this text as it is substantially revised from the previous edition. Other readings will be posted on the Brightspace site.

**Term work:**

**1) Participation and Attendance: 10%**

The tutorial sessions provide students with the opportunity to raise questions and to discuss with their peers and the T.A. the topics raised in the lecture and the readings. Participation in the TA sessions is mandatory. You should always attend your T.A. group prepared to discuss the assigned readings for that week. You will be evaluated based on your regular participation and willingness to engage in discussions, based on informed and respectful comments, **related to the readings**. Also note that raising good questions is as important as making comments. Attendance will be recorded but counts for only 1/3 of your participation grade (i.e. 5% of the 15%). Marks will be deducted if you consistently arrive late or leave early.

**2) In-class Midterm (on February 3<sup>rd</sup> - worth 15%)**

On this date you will write a mid-term test (50 minutes) in the lecture hall, in the first half of the class (9:35 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.). The test will consist of a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. It is designed to evaluate your knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories. The mid-term test will be based on the content found within the required readings of the previous class sessions, the lectures provided by the instructor, and the discussions on the readings and lectures in your TA group.

**3) Research essay proposal (due February 14<sup>th</sup> - worth 10%)**

You will write a proposal (around 3-4 pages double spaced) on the topic of your final essay. A list of topics/questions for the paper will be posted to Brightspace at the beginning of the term. The proposal should contain:

- a research question;
- short statement on why this is an interesting and important topic;
- a tentative hypothesis or argument;
- statement on your theoretical approach;
- annotated bibliography - with a short paragraph for each source which summarizes the content of the article and indicates how it will be useful for your final paper.

- First, cite the book, article, or document using the appropriate style (You must use a recognized citation style – eg APA or Chicago – see this resource: <https://library.carleton.ca/guides/help/citing-your-sources.>)
- Then, write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include one or more sentences that:
  - evaluate the authority or background of the author,
  - comment on the intended audience,
  - compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, or
  - explain how this work illuminates your research topic.
- You must include a minimum of 4 academic sources for your proposal (you will need to include other sources in the final paper).

#### **4) Research essay (due March 27<sup>th</sup> – worth 35%)**

You will write a research paper (7-9 pages or 2000 to 2500 words) on a topic related to the course. A list of topics and a rubric for evaluation will be posted to Brightspace. If you wish to write on any other topic you must get Professor Macdonald’s approval by email. The assignment will be graded based on the quality of your writing, research and analysis, the organization of the paper, the depth of research on the topic, and the coherence and originality of your argument. The essay should be posted to Brightspace by 11:59 pm on **March 27<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **Generative AI and this course (adapted from one of Peter Andrée’s course outlines)**

Generative Artificial Intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT, Jasper, GPT, Google’s Bard, Bing AI, etc.) are powerful new tools that can be helpful to social science researchers. However, the quality and validity of outputs from these tools varies considerably. Further, students in this course are being trained, in part, to think critically, and to strengthen their own writing skills.

For this course, students are expected to do their own research and write the entirety of their own assignments. Generative AI can be used as a guide to new topics, but no more. Students may use Generative AI tools to better understand topics at a general level, and to help them identify sources they may not have known about, much as one might use Wikipedia. As with Wikipedia, the validity of which also varies, text written by Generative AI tools should not be copied into a student’s assignment, or even quoted from directly.

Instead, students should find and work from original sources to inform their papers, and then cite those original sources in their list of references cited.

The instructor reserves the right to ask students to submit evidence of their own research (e.g. rough notes, screenshots of reference sources, etc.) and to participate in an oral defense of any submitted assignment.

I encourage you to express your own opinions and arguments (supported by evidence and justifications), to avoid “robot-speak”.

**For all assignments: Submission of work previously submitted to another course is an academic offense in this course.**

**Contact Policy** - Email is the best way to get in touch with Professor Macdonald or your TA. Students should remember the following things when emailing:

**ALWAYS** use your Carleton email account! Non-Carleton messages don't always get through.

**INCLUDE** the subject line "PSCI 2602B"

**ADDRESS** emails to the professor or TA (e.g. Dear Dr. Macdonald)

**SIGN OFF** with your first and last name and student number.

Email should be used for brief questions that can be answered quickly. If students want to discuss course material, assignments, or another matter in greater detail, they should see the professor during office hours or make an appointment. Normally we will respond within 24 hours to your email, only on business days (Monday to Friday) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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## Course Schedule

### Week 1 – January 6 - Course Details and Introduction: What is Global Political Economy (GPE)? And what is going on in the GPE?

#### No Tutorial Discussion this week

- What is GPE?
- Why is it important and useful for you to know about GPE?
- What are some of the key debates and issues that currently shape the field?
- What is currently shifting in the GPE?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 2

#### Videos:

"Has Globalization Failed Us?" CNBC International,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpNhSOVs-BU>

Interview: Oren Cass, "The Case for Trump's Tariffs"  
[https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/11/22/oren-cass-makes-case-for-trump-tariffs/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Black%20Friday%20Sale-%20Simple%20-%20112924&utm\\_term=general\\_marketing\\_non\\_subs](https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/11/22/oren-cass-makes-case-for-trump-tariffs/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Black%20Friday%20Sale-%20Simple%20-%20112924&utm_term=general_marketing_non_subs)

### Week 2: January 13 - Historical Development of the Global Political Economy

#### Tutorials start this week

- How have the relationships between states and markets shifted over time?
- What role did imperialism and colonial conquest play in shaping the contemporary GPE (and domestic political economies)?
- What role have hegemons (especially the UK and US) played in establishing the rules that govern the GPE and what types of resistance did they face?

#### Required reading:

- O'Brien and Williams, Chapters 3 and 4

### **Week 3: January 20 - Theories of GPE I: Economic Nationalism vs. Liberalism**

- What are the basic assumptions of economic nationalist and liberal theorists?
- What are their historical origins?
- What are their differences and similarities?
- What are their limitations and how relevant are they today?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 1, pp. 1-17.

Christine Margerum Harlen, "A reappraisal of classical economic nationalism and economic liberalism," *International Studies Quarterly*, 43, 1999, 733-744.

### **Week 4: January 27 - Theories of GPE II: Critical approaches**

- How do critical approaches to GPE differ from the "mainstream" approaches?
- What are their theoretical and historical roots?
- How relevant are these critical approaches today?

#### **Required readings:**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 1, pp. 17-22, Chapters 11 (Gender) and 12 (Race)

### **Week 5 – February 3 - Globalization Debate**

#### **First half of class: Mid-term**

What is globalization?

- What are the implications of globalization for the roles of states and markets?
- What historical factors led to the emergence of globalization?
- Are we de-globalizing now?
- What are the implications of the rise of China for the GPE?

#### **Required reading:**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 5.

Joseph Stiglitz, "The overselling of globalization," *Business Economics*, 52, 2017, 129–137.

*Foreign Policy*, no. 249, Summer 2023, pp. 9-14 (Matthew Duss and Ganesh Sitaraman, "The era of neoliberal foreign policy is over"; Aude Dernal, "US Foreign Policy must consider the Global South"; Adam Tooze, "America has dictated its economic peace terms to China").

### **Week 6 – February 10 - Global Trade**

**Research paper proposal due February 14th, 11:59 pm**

What are the most significant developments in global trade since 1945?  
What are the arguments in favour of and against free trade?  
Have we now returned to a period of global protectionism? How has the rise of China's economy affected trade policy?

**Required reading:**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 6

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, "Why the world still needs trade: The case for reimagining – not abandoning – globalization," *Foreign Affairs*, 102:4, 2023.

**February 17 – 21 WINTER BREAK – NO CLASSES**

**Week 7: February 24 - Transnational Production and Transnational Corporations**

How has global production changed in the last century?  
What has made transnational corporations so large and powerful?  
What role is played by global value chains and how do they operate?

**Required reading:**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 7

Frederick W. Mayer and Nicola Phillips, "Outsourcing governance: states and the politics of a 'global value chain world'," *New Political Economy*, 22:2, 2017, 134-152.

**March 3 – no class this week – instructor at a conference**

**Week 8: March 10 – Global Finance**

Are the world's monetary and financial systems really global (and multilateral)? Or are they still overwhelmingly reliant on the U.S. and the exercise of American power?  
What are the sources of global financial crises that are a recurrent theme in the current global economy?

**Required reading:**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapters 8 and 9

Richard Pettis, "The high price of dollar dominance," *Foreign Affairs*, June 30, 2023.

**Supplemental reading:**

Anshu Siripurapu and Noah Berman, Council on Foreign Relations,  
<https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/dollar-worlds-reserve-currency>

**Week 9: March 17 - Global Division of Labour**

How has the global division of labour changed over time?  
What resources do workers have at their disposal to improve their share of the profits generated by corporations?  
What are the implications of outsourcing production for class, race, and gender inequalities in the global economy?

**Required reading:**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 10

Alessandra Mezzadri, "Class, gender and the sweatshop: on the nexus between labour commodification and exploitation," *Third World Quarterly*, 37:10, 2016, 1877-1900.

**Week 10: March 24 - Development**

**Final research paper due March 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm Eastern.**

How do we measure development?  
What are the sources of inequality between Global North and Global South?  
What approaches have been proposed to promote development?

**Required reading:**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 13

Amartya Sen. "Introduction," *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 3-11, 1999

**Week 11: March 31 – Environment, Climate Change**

How does climate change relate to changes in the GPE?  
What are some possible scenarios for addressing environmental issues (including climate change) within the current GPE?

**Required reading:**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 14

Matthew Paterson, "Climate change and international political economy: between collapse and transformation," *Review of International Political Economy*, 28:2, 2021, 394-405.

**Week 12: April 7 – Review and Contemporary Global Governance of the GPE**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 18



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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](#).

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### 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 <sup>th</sup> floor
Library	
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501
Nideyinàn	
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory