

PSCI 1002A
Global Political Issues

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 14:35 – 17:25
Confirm location on Carleton Central

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Office: Loeb A611 (office extension # 2773)

Office Hours: Mondays & Fridays 3-5 p.m.

Course Description and Goals:

This course introduces students to the global dimensions of political and economic power. Over the past two decades there has been a tremendous growth in the number of institutions, policies and organisations that operate across – and even ‘beyond’ – state borders. This course investigates these transnational spaces in terms of their histories, functions, and political implications. In order to do so, the course will approach the study of ‘global politics’ as (somewhat) distinct from the more traditional field of ‘international relations’. The latter is primarily focused on the politics of war, peace, diplomacy and great power rivalry. In contrast, global politics investigates a wider – and more complex – range of political and economic interdependencies that unite and divide humanity.

The course is built around a set of core questions: How does Western imperialism continue to inform the distribution of benefits and inequalities within the global capitalism? Who ‘governs’ global politics? What distinct roles are performed by international organizations (IOs), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), multinational corporations, and social movements within this framework? Furthermore, the preceding twenty years has produced new schemes for ‘globalizing’ policies that were previously carried out by states. This is evident in areas such as economic governance & development, public health, democracy promotion and environmental policy. We will interrogate these spaces of integration along a number of criteria: Does such cooperation produce workable solutions for a majority of people? Does global policymaking have democratic legitimacy? What political alternatives exist for replacing the current framework of global governance?

The course is divided into three sections. Section one explores the history of global political and economic integration. Here we also discuss the problem of how to conceptualise the exercise of ‘power’ within global politics. The second section shifts to an empirical analysis of important spaces of contemporary global politics. In what areas has global cooperation and policy become most robust? Section two devotes significant time to assessing global economic governance. This is because global capitalism remains the most important element in determining the life-chances and physical security of

populations worldwide. Other topics to be explored include: public health; democratization & security; and the institutional framework of global governance. The final section focuses the insights and concepts from the course on a particular case study: food & agriculture. With rising food costs and looming agricultural shortages, the food supply has emerged as a formidable problem for global politics. Through examining the world food system, many of the limitations of global governance will become evident.

Upon completing the course, it is expected that students will be able to articulate informed answers to the following questions:

- What role was played by European imperialism in the formation of global political and economic integration?
- How is 'power' organized across global political and economic systems?
- Why does economic governance constitute the most important space of global politics? How is it related to issues of trade, inequality, development and corporate power?
- What progress has global governance made in addressing problems around public health, poverty, resource management, democracy and security? What significant challenges remain? Can you point to some potential ways forward?
- What economic and social problems result from the organization of the global food system? Why do these remain neglected issues within global governance? What are the likely future consequences of inaction?

Readings:

There are two **required texts** for the course. These are available for purchase at Haven Books (43 Seneca St. /corner of Seneca & Sunnyside).

Steven Spiegel, Elizabeth Matthews, Jennifer Taw & Kristen Williams (2012) *World Politics in a New Era (5th edition)*. Oxford University Press.

Robert Paarlberg (2010) *Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press.

Note: Additional readings are available in one of three ways: (1) Book chapters from non-course texts will be placed on WebCT (2) Journal articles can be accessed via the subscription databases of MacOdrum Library (3) Certain journal articles are provided a web address within the course outline

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participation & Attendance 10%

Concept Tests 30% (2 @ 15% each)
* in-class on July 19th & August 2nd

Current Events Essays 30% (2 @ 15% each)
* due in-class, on July 24th & August 9th

Final Exam 30%
* TBA: (August 18th-23rd)

Attendance and Participation:

Students are required to attend lecture. Lectures will be used to provide additional context and examples not found in the readings. In order to receive the full ten points, students must attend lecture and (periodically) participate in discussion of course material. Six of the ten points are allotted exclusively based on attendance. There is no possibility of making up lost attendance points. The remaining four points are reserved for 'participation'. There are two ways to participate. The first is to raise issues, in class, that pertain to the lectures, readings, or relevant current events. The last thirty minutes of most classes will be reserved for this purpose. The second option is similar to the first; with the difference that students can raise issues and questions during office hours, rather than in class. This is intended to provide those students uncomfortable with speaking in class an opportunity to receive full participation points.

'Concept' Tests:

Two concept tests will be given. Tests will be given at the beginning of class and use the following format: Students are provided a list of twelve concepts that constitute important themes, ideas, problems, (etc.) from the course. From the potential list of twelve, eight are selected. Answers must include the following: (1) an identification and definition of the concept (2) a statement as to the significance of the concept in relation to the course material. In other words, why is the concept important for understanding global politics? (3) an example of the concept, when appropriate. In terms of length, a substantial paragraph is expected. You will have one hour to complete the test.

Current Events Essays:

This assignment comprises the writing component of the course. In order to assist you with the transition to academic writing, some class time will be used to discuss proper writing mechanics. The current events essays represent a hybrid between a research paper and a critical analysis. Your first task will be to select a substantive article that reports on a contemporary global political issue, problem or event. Second, your essay must begin with a concise description of the problem discussed in the article. Third, the essay must be used to provide additional 'context' to assist the reader in understanding the importance of the problem beyond what appears in the article. This 'context' can be historical, conceptual or political; it is your decision as to how to effectively contextualize the problem. This portion of the essay necessitates doing outside research. At a minimum, each essay must include the use of two 'proper' academic sources. This includes journal articles, scholarly books, and government documents (limit the latter to one per essay). The fourth (and final) requirement asks you to conclude with an 'informed analysis' of the problem. This means you will compose a reasoned argument – not a simple statement of opinion – that provides your perspective on the problem. Possible questions for framing your analysis might include the following: Does the problem seem solvable in some way or, conversely, does it appear intractable? What leads you to this conclusion? Is this a problem best be managed through global

institutions and policy-making? Why or why not? Do you believe that one side (or party) of the issue presents a more persuasive or 'just' case? How so? Or, alternatively, is the issue too complicated for discerning simple right and wrong?

Your essays will be graded using the following criteria: (1) clarity and relevance in describing and summarizing the article (note: you must attach a copy of the article to the essay) (2) effectiveness in background research and contextual analysis (3) persuasiveness and clarity of the informed analysis (4) adherence to the proper mechanics and rules of academic essay writing. Essays should be between eight and ten pages. Late essays will be penalized 5% per weekday.

Sources for Current Events on Global Politics:

The following is a list of periodicals and websites that provide ample coverage of global political issues. It is not required that your article comes from one of these sources. That said, you must use a legitimate news source, and the article must be substantial. Do not use blog entries, self-published articles, or stories from wire services (e.g. AP or Reuters). Regularly consulting the sources below will also help students for participating in class discussion.

The New York Times: www.nyt.com (also for purchase around Ottawa)

Washington Post: www.washingtonpost.com

Christian Science Monitor: www.csmonitor.com

Economist (access through Carleton library, or for purchase around Ottawa):

www.economist.com

BBC: www.bbc.co.uk

Deutsche Welle: www.dw-world.de (German source with impressive global coverage)

The Guardian: www.guardian.co.uk

Financial Times: www.ft.com

Jane's: Defence & Security Intelligence & Analysis (available thru Carleton library)

Final Exam:

Your final exam will be held during the formal exam period (TBA: August 18th – 23rd). The exam will consist of two parts. The first part amounts to a third concept test, and covers material from the last third of the course. The second portion involves an essay that requires students to synthesise and apply material covered throughout the course. Students will be given three questions to choose from. The essay questions will be posted on WebCT three days prior to the exam. There is no definitive length requirement for this portion of the exam. What is most important is that students compose an informed and detailed answer that utilizes concepts, cases and arguments from the lectures and readings. The final exam is three hours in duration.

Other Relevant Policies on Assignments and Evaluation:

- ✓ Your first concept test and currents essay will be returned, with written feedback, well in advance of the drop deadline (August 15th)
- ✓ Attendance is obligatory on days concept tests are given. Make-up tests will not

- be given; unless you have a documented medical absence, or a very persuasive case for missing class.
- ✓ Essays are due in class on the days indicated on the outline. The PSCI drop box should only be used if you miss class, or are submitting late essays. [Note: essays submitted to the drop-box after 4pm are stamped with the date of the following day].
 - ✓ No email submissions of essays will be accepted.
 - ✓ Students have a right to appeal any grades received on assignments. In order to do so, you must adhere to the following policy. First, you must organize a meeting with the TA who marked your assignment. Second, you must arrive to the meeting prepared with reasons why you believe your grade was unfair, keeping in mind the requirements of the assignment. If you still remain unsatisfied with the grade – and the rationale provided by the TA – you may then appeal directly to the Instructor.

Course Schedule

Section 1: History, Theory & ‘Power’ in Global Politics

July 3rd

Course Introduction & Overview: Globalization as a Political Problem

- No required readings
- Distribution and discussion of course outline
- Discussion of select concepts and terms (so show up!)

July 5th

The Emergence of a Global Political System: Economics & Empire

- Spiegel, pp. 77-107; 158-198.

July 10th

Theorizing Power & Change in the Global Political System

- Spiegel, pp. 1-54
- Edkins, J. (2008) “Why Do We Obey?” in *Global Politics: A New Introduction*, pp. 123-146.

Section 2: The Spaces of Global Politics

July 12th

Global Political Economy I: From Embedded Liberalism to Neoliberalism

- Spiegel, pp. 111-126
- Harvey, D. (2005) “Introduction”; “Freedom’s Just Another Word...” & “Uneven Geographic Developments”, in *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, pp. 1-38; 87-119.

July 17th

Global Political Economy II: Trade, Finance & Inequality in the Global Economy

- Film (in class): *Inside Job* (2010)
- Spiegel, pp. 338-377
- Reich, R. (2007) “How Capitalism is Killing Democracy” *Foreign Policy* (August 15) access article @ www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2007/08/15/how_capitalism_is_killing_democracy

July 19th

Global Political Economy III: Development & Economic Migration

- Spiegel, pp. 379-425
- Schlosser, E. (2004) “In the Strawberry Fields”, in *Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market*, pp. 77-108.
- * Concept Test # 1 (1 hour, in class)

July 24th

Global Governance I: The Rulers

- Spiegel, pp. 493-541
- * Submit Current Events Essay # 1

July 26th

Global Governance II: The Resistors

- Gautney, H. (2010) “The Alternative Globalization Movement and World Social Forum”, in *Protest and Organization in the Alternative Globalization Era: NGOs, Social Movements and Political Parties*, pp. 85-110.
- Robinson, I. (2007) “The Consumer Dimension of Stakeholder Activism: The Antisweatshop Movement in the United States”, in *Nongovernmental Politics*, pp. 200-221.

July 31st

Global Public Health and Demographic Challenges

- Spiegel, pp. 427-454
- Osterholm, M. (2007) “Unprepared for a Pandemic” *Foreign Affairs* (March/April) 86(2): 47-57.

August 2nd

The Global Politics of Security & Democratization

- Spiegel, pp. 293-335.
- Hobsbawm, E. (2004) “Spreading Democracy” *Foreign Policy* (September 1) access article @ http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2004/09/01/spreading_democracy
- Goldstone, J. (2011) “Understanding the Revolutions of 2011” *Foreign Affairs* (May/June) 90(3): 8-16.
- * Concept Test # 2 (in class, one hour)

Section 3: Case Study on Global Food and Agriculture

August 7th

Economic Power in the Global Agro-Food System

- Paarlberg, pp. 20-31; 127-138; 174-190.
- Patel, R. (2007) “Introduction”, in *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World’s Food System*, pp. 1-19.
- Film (in class): *Food, Inc.* (2008)

August 9th

Population & Global Agriculture: Food Aid, Hunger, & Feeding Nine Billion (by 2050)

- Paarlberg, pp. 8-19; 32-69; 70-80.
- * Submit Current Events Essay #2

August 14th

Resistance & Reform in the Global Agro-Food System

- Paarlberg, pp. 139-154.
- Rosset, P. (2006) “Foreword”; “Introduction” & “Alternatives for a Different Agriculture and Food System”, in *Food is Different: Why We Must Get the WTO Out of Agriculture*, pp. xv-15; 68-80.
- Jaffee, D. (2011) “Fair Trade and Development: A Changing Paradigm”, in *The Politics of Fair Trade: A Survey*, pp. 87-104.

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **(June 8, 2012 for early summer term examinations and July 27, 2012 for late/full summer term)**.

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).

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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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

Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

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.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, 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.