

PSCI 2601 A
International Relations: Global Politics

Wednesday 2:35pm – 4:25pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Brian C. Schmidt
Office: Loeb D687
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3, Wednesday 11am – 12pm.
E-mail: brianschmidt@cunet.carleton.ca

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. It is most helpful if you complete the assigned reading 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. (Bookstore price \$75.95). Both used and new copies of the 3rd edition are acceptable.

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) | 20% |
| Due: 10/7, 10/21, 11/11, 11/25 | |
| • Paper Assignment (due 11/4) | 30% |
| • Final Exam (TBD during final exam period, December 12-23) | 35% |

VI. Evaluation in Detail

1. Participation: Attendance of 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 with 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 understood 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 October 7

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, or feminism.

Assignment Two: due October 21

Select one of the following:

- a. Is war between the United States and China inevitable?
- b. What was the Cold War?
- c. Are we still in a unipolar world?

Assignment Three: due November 11

Select one of the following:

- a. What is nuclear proliferation?
- b. What is terrorism?
- c. What is the Bretton Woods system?

Assignment Four: due November 25

Select one of the following:

- a. What are human rights?
- b. Does might make right?
- c. What is peacekeeping?

3. Paper Assignment: You are required to write a 5-page (1500 words) paper that is due on **November 4**. You are required 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 with 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, or constructivism – offers the most persuasive critique of either realism or liberalism?
- c. What does the current international order look like?

4. Final Exam: The final exam is comprehensive in nature. It will test your knowledge 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 (December 12 - 23).

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. AI Policy

The use of generative AI is not permitted in the completion of the written assignments for the course.

“As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.”

IX. Course Schedule

Week 1 (September 9) Course Introduction

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 1

Week 2 (September 16) 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 (September 23) Liberalism

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 3

Additional reading for tutorial:

Michael Doyle, "Why They Don't Fight: The Surprising Endurance of the Democratic Peace," *Foreign Affairs* 103, 4 (July/August 2024): 135-141.

Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, "Liberal World: The Resilient Order," *Foreign Affairs* 97, 4 (July/August 2018): 16-24.

Week 4 (September 30) 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 (October 7) International History

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 2

Additional reading for tutorial:

Reading: Robert Pearce, "The Origins of the First World War," *History Review* 27 (March 1997). You may also be interested in the following website: <http://ww1.canada.com/>

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 (October 14) World Order: Old and New

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 10

Additional reading for tutorial:

Stephen M. Walt, "The Predatory Hegemon: How Trump Wields American Power," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 105, No. 2, (March/April 2026): 8-23.

Ngaire Woods, "Order Without America: How the International System Can Survive a Hostile Washington," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 104, No. 3 (May/June 2025): 82-93.

Week 7 (October 21) International Security

Heywood and Whitman, chs. 12,13

Additional reading for tutorial:

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

Vipin Narang and Pranay Vaddi, "How to Survive the New Nuclear Age," *Foreign Affairs* 104, 4 (July/August 2025): 122-139.

Week 8 (October 28) No class – Fall Break

Week 9 (November 4) 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.

Odd Arne Westad, "Sleepwalking Toward War: Will America and China Heed the Warnings of Twentieth-Century Catastrophe?" *Foreign Affairs* 103, 4 (July/August 2024): 78-89.

Week 10 (November 11) 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.

Robert E. Lighthizer, "The New Trade Order: Restoring Balance to a Broken Global Economy," *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 105, No. 3 (May/June 2026): 57-69.

Week 11 (November 18) International Law and the United Nations

Heywood and Whitman, chs. 15, 19

Additional reading for tutorial:

Thant Myint-U, "Can the United Nations Be Saved? The Case for Getting Back to Basics," *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 103, No. 6 (November/December 2024): 167-173.

Oona A. Hathaway and Scott J. Shapiro, "Might Unmakes Right: The Catastrophic Collapse of Norms Against the Use of Force," *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 104, no. 4 (July/August 2025): 80-93.

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

Week 12 (November 25) 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 13 (December 2) Poverty and the Environment

Heywood and Whitman, chs. 16, 17

Additional reading for tutorial:

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

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

Week 14 (December 9) Conclusion

Heywood and Whitman, ch. 22

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/safety/resources/>

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/>

Good2Talk: 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 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 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

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#). Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

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](#).

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