

**POL 208Y: Introduction to International Relations**  
**Fall/Winter 2009-10**  
**Tuesday 4-6, Alumni Hall 100**

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Office hours: Tuesday 2-4pm

**Teaching Assistants:**

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**Prerequisites:**

This is a course on the study of international politics. We proceed with a discussion of major theoretical concepts and tools that have been developed in the study of international relations. In the first part of the course, we look at how both theory and history has shaped the study of international politics. The second part of the course addresses the major areas of international relations: security and conflict, political economy, and international institutions and organizations. We approach international politics from each of these three emphases, stressing the importance of all of them in understanding political outcomes. Finally, the third part of the course opens up a discussion on important topics that demand answers in our contemporary world: human rights, the environment, terrorism, and the rise of nationalism.

Although a knowledge and interest in current events is helpful in the course, the point of the class is not to know the international headlines, but to understand how to analyze political events and their consequences. The course will offer a survey of the major theoretical, historical, and topical aspects of international relations. This is a second-year course, and designed for those who have already taken other university-level, writing-based classes.

**Readings:**

There are two sources of required readings for this course. It is expected that students will complete the assigned readings *before* coming to class.

Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, eds. 2008. *The Globalization of World Politics, Fourth Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Available for purchase at the Toronto Women's Bookstore, located at 73 Harbord Street.

Coursepack for purchase: CSPI, 180 Bloor Street West Ste. 801 [coursepack.ca](http://coursepack.ca).

**Blackboard:**

This will be the primary way through which announcements and assignments will be distributed. You are **REQUIRED** to check this site regularly. **ALL** handouts and assignments will be distributed through Blackboard.

You must have a utoronto.ca account to access this service (please go to Robarts Library if you do not already have an account). It is your responsibility to log into Blackboard to access the information posted regarding the course (portal.utoronto.ca).

### **Course Requirements:**

In this course, you will be evaluated on the basis of two in-class midterms, a paper, a take-home test, and your participation in tutorial. The breakdown of your course grade is as follows:

Paper (November 10):	10%
Midterm 1 (December 1):	20%
Midterm 2 (February 9)	25%
Take-Home Test (March 30):	30%
Tutorial:	15%

All students' course grades will be given based on his/her performance on the assignments in the course, according to the above percentages. There are NO exceptions.

Midterms are closed-book, closed-note tests. The topics covered by each midterm will be clarified in lecture ahead of time. The paper will be a 4-5 page assignment. It will require no outside research to complete. The take-home test, due on the last day of the course, will be an 8-10 page assignment that will be cumulative in scope. It will require no outside research. The prompts for both assignments will be distributed at least two weeks before they are respectively due.

Tutorial attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Your tutorial leader will discuss themes from the readings and lecture, and review any questions that students may have. You may have assignments designed to clarify challenging material. Your grade in tutorial is based on attendance and informed participation. **Attending fewer than 60% of your tutorials can lead to a tutorial grade of 0%.**

Tutorials will meet beginning Week 5.

### **Accessibility Concerns:**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

### **Grade Appeals:**

If you are unhappy with a grade on an assignment, you may submit a written appeal the Head TA, explaining why you feel your grade on an assignment is unjustified. **You must submit this written appeal no later than two weeks after your assignment is returned.** Be warned: no regrades result in an automatic increase in the grade, as assignments must be evaluated anew. Your grade may stay the same, go up, or go down.

Please note: changes to student grades on assignments will only be considered if there is *demonstrable* clerical error in the calculation of a particular score. **You must submit a written appeal** in order to have a grade reevaluated.

If you are still unhappy after your TA's regrade, you may contact the Head TA to request an instructor regrade. These regrades will be granted only in cases where a regrade is deemed necessary by the Head TA or instructor.

**Other Rules and Regulations:**

Please read the following carefully. By registering in this course, you agree to abide by the rules below:

- 1) All work must be submitted *on time*, on paper in order to avoid penalty. There are no exceptions. No assignments will be accepted via email, fax, or under the instructor's door. You must come to class and turn in your assignments.
- 2) ALL assignments completed at home **MUST** be turned in at the *beginning* of lecture. Failure to do so will result in counting the assignment as **1 day late**. See #3.
- 3) The penalty for work turned in after the stated deadline will be 4 points *per day*, in fraction or whole. This includes holidays and weekends. No grace period, unless you have been granted an extension.
- 4) Extensions will only be granted with "good reason," and only with permission of the instructor of the course in advance of the assignment due date. Having work responsibilities, multiple assignments/exams in this and other classes, or "being stressed" are not "good reasons." Extensions are rarely granted, and only under extreme circumstances. *You must show documentation of your reason for requesting an extension* (e.g, doctor's note, hospital records).
  - a. For paper extensions, please speak directly to the Head TA.
  - b. For midterm extensions, please speak directly to Head TA.
  - c. There will be **NO** extensions granted on the take-home final.
- 5) All at-home assignments are to be typed, 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1" (2.5 cm) margins. DO NOT fudge these measurements. Staple your assignment in the upper left-hand corner.
- 6) You cannot "make up" missed tutorials with alternative assignments. If you have reasons for not attending a tutorial (trips, appointments, etc.), you should talk to you TA *before* the tutorial to make arrangements. Be aware that missing more than 40% of your tutorials can lead to a tutorial grade of 0%.
- 7) **ACADEMIC HONESTY:** When you use other people's words and ideas, you must properly cite them, whether these words come from the readings, the Internet, or in class. Failing to do so constitutes plagiarism, and is a very serious academic offense. Please consult myself or your TA if you have any questions. See also: [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).
- 8) **Final grades are final.** Please do not try to negotiate your grade with the instructor or your TA. Grades are calculated according to the above percentages, assessing your performance on all of the class assignments. **THEY ARE NOT ARBITRARY.** You should ask for help *before* an assignment – we are always happy to answer your questions. Making the effort before the grades are turned in will always be more beneficial to you than making the case afterward for why you need two extra points.

## Schedule of Topics and Readings:

### Fall Term

#### Week 1, September 15: Introduction

#### Week 2, September 22: Globalization

Baylis, Smith, and Owen (BSO), chapter 1

#### Week 3, September 29: Realism and Liberalism

BSO, chapters 5-7

#### Week 4, October 6: Constructivism and Critical Approaches

BSO, chapters 9, 10

#### Week 5, October 13: World War I and World War II

Carruthers, Susan L. 2001. "International History, 1900-1945" in *Globalization of World Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Eds. John Baylis and Steve Smith. New York: Oxford University Press. 64-89.

#### Week 6, October 20: The Cold War

Scott, Len. 2001. "International History, 1945-1990" in *Globalization of World Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Eds. John Baylis and Steve Smith. New York: Oxford University Press. 94-109.

#### Week 7, October 27: Theories of Conflict

Russett, Bruce, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella. 2010. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. Boston: Wadsworth. 193-212.

#### Week 8, November 3: Nuclear Weapons

BSO, chapter 22

Sagan, Scott. 1996/7. "Why do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb." *International Security* 21 (3): 54-86.

#### Week 9, November 10: The Challenge of "Terrorism"

BSO, chapter 21

Homer-Dixon, Thomas. 2002. "The Rise of Complex Terrorism." *Foreign Policy* 128: 52-62.

PAPER DUE AT THE **BEGINNING** OF LECTURE – **NO EXCEPTIONS**

#### Week 10, November 17: Democratic Peace

Owen, John M. 1994. "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace." *International Security* 19 (2): 87-104.

Layne, Christopher. 1994. "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace." *International Security* 19 (2): 7-15, and **ONE** of the cases listed on page 14.

Week 11, November 24: International Political Economy  
BSO, chapter 14

Week 12, December 1: Midterm Test 1  
Location TBA

### **Winter Term**

Week 13, January 5: International Debts and Inequities  
BSO, chapter 27

Birdsall, Nancy, Dani Rodrik, and Arvind Subramanian. 2005. "How to Help Poor Countries." *Foreign Affairs* 84 (4): 136-152.

Collingsworth, Terry, J. William Gould, and Pharis J. Harvey. 1994. "Time for a Global New Deal." *Foreign Affairs* 73 (1): 8-13.

Week 14, January 12: International Norms  
Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52 (4): 889-917.

Legro, Jeffrey. 1997. "Which Norms Matter? Revisiting the 'Failure' of Internationalism." *International Organization* 51 (1): 31-35.

Week 15, January 19: International Organizations: The United Nations Model  
BSO, chapter 18

Hurd, Ian. 2002. "Legitimacy, Power, and the Symbolic Life of the UN Security Council." *Global Governance* 8 (1): 35-51.

Week 16, January 26: International Law  
BSO, chapter 16

Week 17, February 2: The "New" Transnationalism  
BSO, chapter 19

Mathews, Jessica T. 1997. "Power Shift." *Foreign Affairs* 76 (1): 50-66.

Week 18, February 9: Midterm Test 2  
Location TBA

Reading Week, February 16

Week 19, February 23: The Environment  
BSO, chapter 20

Raustiala, Kal. 1997. "States, NGOs, and International Environmental Institutions." *International Studies Quarterly* 41: 719-734.

Week 20, March 2: Human Rights  
BSO, chapter 29

Neier, Aryeh. 1996. "The New Double Standard." *Foreign Policy* 105: 91-102.

Week 21, March 9: Dilemmas of Humanitarian Intervention

Barnett, Michael and Thomas G. Weiss. 2008. "Humanitarianism: A Brief History of the Present" in *Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power, Ethics*. Eds. Michael Barnett and Thomas G. Weiss. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 1-15, 21-36.

Slim, Hugo. 2000. "Fidelity and Variation: Discerning the Development and Evolution of the Humanitarian Idea." *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* 24 (1): 5-22.

Week 22, March 16: Identity in International Politics

Mansbach, Richard W. and Kirsten L. Rafferty. 2008. *Introduction to Global Politics*. New York: Routledge. 689-723.

Week 23, March 23: Dynamics of a Brave New World

Barber, Benjamin R. 1992. "Jihad v. McWorld." *The Atlantic Monthly* 269 (3): 53-65.

Fukuyama, Francis. 1989. "The End of History." *The National Interest*. 16: 3-18.

Kaplan, Robert D. 1997. "Was Democracy Just a Moment?" *The Atlantic Monthly* 280 (6): 55-80.

Week 24, March 30: Take-home test

DUE AT THE **BEGINNING** OF LECTURE – **NO EXCEPTIONS**