

POL 208Y:
Introduction to International Relations
Fall/Winter 2009-10
Wed 18-20, BA1160

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Prerequisites:

This is a course on the study of international politics. The aim the course is to understand and to analyze international political events and their consequences. The course will offer a survey of the major theoretical, historical, and topical aspects of international relations. 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 have shaped the study of international politics. The second part of the course will address security, wars and conflicts, from WWI to current civil and ethnic conflicts. The third part will focus on peace and cooperation and discuss international mechanisms to mitigate opposition of interests. The fourth part will deal with global issues, from human rights to the environment. Different approaches will help us to better understand these important issues.

Readings:

There is one main source of required readings for this course. It is expected that students will complete the assigned readings *before* coming to class. Other additional readings will be given in advance of each class and will be posted electronically on Blackboard.

Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, (Eds), *The Globalization of World Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4th Edition, 2008. Available for purchase at the University of Toronto Bookstore, 214 College Street and at Toronto Women's Bookstore at 73 Harbord Street.

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 (January 27):	10%
Midterm 1 (December 02):	20%
Midterm 2 (February 10):	25%
Take-Home Test (March 31):	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 5-7 pages 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 3.

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 re-grades 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 also note that changes to student grades on assignments will only be considered if there is *demonstrable* 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 re-grade, you may contact the Head TA to request an instructor re-grade. These re-grades will be granted only in cases where it 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 will be given, 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 disregard 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 your 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 do not hesitate to consult myself or your TA if you have any questions. Feel free to consult also: <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>.
- 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. Office hours are there for you, so please use them. 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 09: Introduction

Week 2, September 16: Making sense of Globalization.

Baylis, Smith, and Owen (BSO), Chap. 1.

1) Theoretical Tools

Week 3, September 23: Realism(s)

BSO, Chap. 5.

Week 4, September 30: Liberalism(s)

BSO, Chap. 6.

Week 5, October 07: Constructivism(s)

BSO, Chap. 9.

2) Security, Wars and Conflicts

Week 6, October 14: Total Wars

BSO, Chap. 3.

Week 7, October 21: The Cold War

BSO, Chap. 4.

Week 8, October 28: Contemporary Conflicts

BSO, Chap. 12.

Week 9, November 04: International Terrorism

BSO, Chap. 21.

Please Note: No Class on November 11th

Week 10, November 18: Nuclear Weapons

BSO, Chap. 22.

Sagan, Scott. "Why do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb."

International Security, Vol. 21, n°3 (Winter, 1996-1997), pp. 54-86.Fred C. Ikle, "Nuclear abolition, a reverie," *The National Interest*, Vol. 103, (Sept-Oct 2009): pp.4-7.Week 11, November 25: Decision-makers, Decision-makingBruce Russet, Harvey Starr and David Kinsella, *World Politics, The Menu for Choice*, Wadsworth 9th Ed., Chap. 7, pp. 163-189.Week 12, December 02:

Mid-Term Test n°1. (Don't forget a pen!!!)

Location TBA

3) Creating and Managing Peace and Cooperation**Winter Term**Week 13, January 06: The Democratic PeaceJohn M. Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace." *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Autumn, 1994), pp. 87-125.Immanuel Kant, "To Perpetual Peace", in Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*, WW Norton & Co., 1st Ed., 2001, Chap. 11, pp. 392-396.John Hogan, "The end of War", *New Scientist*, July 04-10 2009, pp. 38-41.Week 14, January 13: International Political Economy

BSO, Chap. 14.

Week 15, January 20: International Law and International Norms

BSO, Chap. 16.

Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink, "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization*, Vol. 52, n°4, (Autumn 1998), pp. 889-917.

Week 16, January 27: International Organizations: The UN model

BSO, Chap. 18.

Mats Berdal, "The UN's Unnecessary Crisis", *Survival*, Vol., 47, n°3, (Autumn 2005), pp. 07-32.Paper due **at the beginning** of lecture. No exception!!!Week 17, February 03: Transnational Actors

BSO, Chap.19.

Week 18, February 10:

Mid-Term Test n°2. (Again, a pen will be necessary)

Location TBA

Please note: Reading Week for February 17.

4) Global issuesWeek 19, February 24: Environmental Issues

BSO, Chap. 20.

Week 20, March 03: Human Rights

BSO, Chap. 29.

Amartya Sen, "Universal Truths: Human Rights and the Westernizing Illusion", *Harvard International Review*, Vol. 20, n°3, (Summer 1998), pp. 40-43.Suzanne Katzenstein and Jack Snyder, "Expediency of the Angels", *The National Interest*, Vol. 100, (March-April 2009), pp. 58-65.Week 21, March 10: Humanitarian Intervention and Human Security

BSO, Chap. 28 and Chap. 30.

Michael Walzer, "The argument about humanitarian intervention" and Michael Ignatieff, "Intervention and state failure", both in *Dissent*, Vol. 49, n°1, (Winter 2002), pp. 29-37 and pp. 114-123.Week 22, March 17: Regionalism in International Affairs

BSO, Chap. 25.

Week 23, March 24: Future Order(s) in World Politics

BSO, Chap. 32.

Josef Joffe, "The default power: the false prophecy of America's decline", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 88, n°5, (Sept-Oct 2009), pp. 21-35.Leslie H. Gelb, "Necessity, choice, and common sense: a policy for a bewildering world", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 88, n°3, (May-June 2009), pp. 56-72.Week 24, March 31: Questions unansweredTake-home Test due **at the beginning** of lecture. No exception!!!