

**POL208Y**  
**Introduction to International Relations**  
**Fall/Winter Session 2010/2011**  
Day Section: Brennan Hall, Wednesday 12:00-2:00

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Office hours: Wednesday 2:30-4:00

This introductory course aims at developing critical analytical tools for understanding international politics. It is not a survey of current world events but rather a thematic exploration of major topics in international relations theory. As such this course has a strong theoretical and conceptual focus. International relations theory seeks to explain both conflict and cooperation in international relations and the interaction between them. An effective analytical tool has to help us better understand war, and at the same time improve our understanding of peace; we need to understand what allows the occurrence of arms races and terrorist attacks, yet equally what allows for regional trade agreements, alliances, and international organizations. International relations deal with a very broad range of topics, many of which will be introduced in this course.

The first part of the course provides an overview of the main “tools of the trade”- the key concepts and theories that would allow us to describe, explain, and understand the complex dynamics of world politics. The second part of the course focuses on different dimensions of international security and the causes and management of international conflict. While traditionally the study of international security was the main focus of students of international relations, in recent decades there has been a growing interest in the dynamics of the global economy. The third part of this course will therefore focus on the economic dimension of global politics, before moving to other issue areas which further demonstrate the constant tension between conflict and cooperation in international affairs- such as human rights, international law, environmental challenges, and international organizations. The course ends by exploring several scenarios for the future of the international system.

**Teaching Assistants**

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**Reading**

A reader containing the readings for this course is available for purchase at *The Copy Place*, 720 Spadina Ave. (next to the Beer Store), (416) 961-2679. A copy of the course reader will also be available on short-term loan at Robarts Library. **PLEASE**

**NOTE:** The reader does not contain all the required readings for this course. The remaining required readings are in electronic format, on the course's Blackboard site, under the heading "Course Documents."

### Course Requirements

The course meets for two hours of lecture, and one hour of tutorial per week. Tutorials will start meeting on Wednesday afternoon, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The locations and meeting times for the tutorials will be announced within the first few weeks of the semester.

Lectures, tutorials, and the readings are complementary—they do not overlap. Both lectures and tutorials presuppose familiarity with the readings. Active and productive participation in the tutorials is impossible in the absence of prior preparation. Students are responsible for all materials covered in the readings, the lectures and the tutorials. Readings that were not covered during the lectures *could*, and often *would*, appear in the midterms. On some weeks there is a relatively heavy reading load and it is therefore advisable to start studying well in advance.

Familiarity with international history and current affairs can assist you in this course. While it is not a formal requirement, being able to support your discussion with historical or contemporary examples is almost always a key to a stronger argument. It is therefore highly recommended that students read newspapers and follow news broadcasts or other media as a way to acquire knowledge on current affairs. This could be a helpful and enriching supplement to the readings and lectures of this course. Examples of news sources with good coverage of international affairs include: *The Economist*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*. Most of these sources can be easily accessed online.

The final grade for this course will be evaluated on the basis of the following components:

First written assignment (5-7 pages)	20%
First midterm	20%
Second written assignment (5-7 pages)	20%
Second midterm	25%
Tutorials	15%

Paper topics for the written assignments will be distributed in class two weeks prior to the submission deadline.

The midterms will take place during the regular lecture time, on the last meeting of each semester (weeks 12 and 24). Both tests will be closed book. Each midterm will include all the material covered during the semester (lectures, readings, tutorials and films). The second midterm, while focusing on the material taught during the winter semester, will have some limited cumulative dimensions.

Tutorials will be graded based on attendance, and informed in-class participation. Attending fewer than 60% of the tutorials, in either semester, could lead to a final tutorial grade of 0%.

## Blackboard

We will be using Blackboard in order to manage and coordinate this course. For this purpose, all students must have an active U of T e-mail address (if you have not already established a university e-mail account you can find information on how to do so at Robarts Library). Important course information, such as the essay prompts, will be distributed electronically through Blackboard. It is your responsibility to log on to the Blackboard website and obtain the posted information. Feel free to use the electronic forums and message boards for any course related topics. Please respect basic netiquette conventions when posting messages. To log-in, please visit: [portal.utoronto.ca](http://portal.utoronto.ca)

## Lecture Outlines

Lecture outlines will be posted online (Blackboard). When possible, the outlines will be posted prior to the lecture. The outlines point out the structure of the lecture, and the topics and central concepts it covers. As such, it can assist in note taking during the class and in reviewing the lecture material afterwards. Note, however, that the outlines are 'bare-bone' and cannot be used as a substitute for attendance and detailed lecture notes.

## Important Dates

October 6	Tutorials start meeting
October 13	First paper topic distributed
October 27	Papers are due (in class-before the beginning of the lecture)
December 1	First midterm
February 2	Second paper topics distributed
February 16	Papers are due (in class-before the beginning of the lecture)
April 6	Second midterm

## Rules and Regulations: Please note the following carefully!

- If you are unable to submit the term papers, or attend the midterms at the appointed time, you must request permission for an extension or a make up exam. In order to maintain fairness and efficiency in such a large course all such requests will be handled centrally rather than by each individual TA:  
All requests regarding paper extensions should be directed to the head TA, Kimberly Carter ([kimberly.carter@utoronto.ca](mailto:kimberly.carter@utoronto.ca)). All inquiries regarding midterm extensions should be directed to me.  
In almost all cases, requests for extensions and deferrals should be submitted ahead of time. All requests for extensions or deferrals should be submitted in writing.  
In general, extensions will not be granted unless it is a case of *unavoidable and unforeseeable* extenuating circumstances. In most cases, supporting documentation will be required before any extension is granted. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week of the late assignment or missed midterm.

- Normally, you will have two weeks to prepare a paper. The dates for the papers are clearly stated throughout this document. Plan your schedule accordingly! Extensions on paper submission are EXTREMELY rare.
- *Assignments in other courses are NOT grounds for an extension or a make up exam.*
- Written assignments are to be handed to your TA on the due date, as stated on the course syllabus *at the beginning of the lecture class*. Late submission will be penalized as follows: There is a 2% penalty for assignments received after class has begun but before 5 pm on the due date. After that the late submission penalty is 4% per each late day or fraction of a day, *weekends included*. The cut off time for the determination of a late day is 5pm (for example, submitting the first paper on Monday, October 20 will cost you 18 points!). Late-assignments should be submitted to the main desk of the Political Science Department (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Sidney Smith Hall). Students should make sure that late submissions are signed and dated by departmental staff. Only hard copies are acceptable, e-mailed or faxed assignments will not be accepted unless you have obtained prior approval from your TA.
- All papers should be printed, double spaced, 12 font, with proper margins, page numbers and securely stapled. Papers that go beyond the stated page limit for the assignment, or papers that do not conform to the directions above, may be penalized.
- In case of a missed midterm, it is the responsibility of the student to contact me as soon as possible (at the latest within a week of the original exam date) to arrange for a make up exam. The make up exam will normally take place within two weeks of the original exam date. Barring extreme circumstances, if the student does not complete the midterm within two weeks of the original exam, the student will receive a “0” grade for the exam.
- In all written assignments you must follow basic academic citation rules. All words and ideas of published works of other individuals should be properly acknowledged. Please consult your TA regarding his or hers preferred forms and rules of citation. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information please see the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism on <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>. Failure to understand what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse.
- No accommodation will be offered for missed tutorials, unless students have acceptable and adequately documented reasons for missing a tutorial as determined by their TA. Students should contact their TA to discuss such circumstances-preferably *prior* to the tutorial in question.
- If you have concerns regarding your grade (either a paper grade or a midterm grade) you should first discuss the matter with your TA. If this discussion does not resolve the problem you can submit a grade appeal to me. No appeal will be considered unless it is accompanied by a detailed written explanation of why you feel the grade

is unjustified, and unless the issue was first discussed in person with your TA. Once an appeal is submitted I will reexamine the entire assignment, not just the question or paragraph mentioned in the appeal. Since I will be re-grading the assignment anew, the appeal process can result in one of three outcomes: no change to the original grade, a higher grade, or a lower grade. Important deadlines: *Potential appeals must be discussed with your TA within two weeks of grade submission. If you wish to submit a written appeal to me, you must submit it within 10 days of the meeting with your TA.*

- THE FINAL GRADES IN THIS COURSE ARE FINAL. We will not round grades up or add a few points to the grade. The grades are not arbitrary; they reflect our assessment of your work. If you need to maintain a certain average, or get a specific minimum grade in this class, make sure that the quality your work warrants this grade. We will be happy to offer help prior to the paper/midterms. However, once the grades are in, we will not make any changes to the grade even if you are “only missing two points” and not rounding up the grade is “mean, evil and certain to ruin your life.”

### POL208 Film Club

Many of the themes and debates regarding international relations that we cover in this course are also debated and reflected upon in popular culture. Films which deal with such themes provide a useful companion to the material presented in lectures, tutorials and readings. Moreover, films provide an example of how complex theoretical debates are translated and transmitted into popular day-to-day discourse. This medium is, thus, a valuable tool for reinforcing and expanding on course material.

While the lectures often include some scenes from films and TV shows, both fiction and documentary, we will not have time to watch more extensive portions of such films during the lectures. To this end, we hold the *POL208 Film Club*. These are voluntary, extra curricular meetings that are held in the evenings 4 times each term. Each meeting includes a screening of a film (or a few selected scenes from several films), and a short discussion. The selection of films corresponds to the topics covered in the course. The list of films is very eclectic and includes classic as well as relatively recent films, fiction, documentary, and a few foreign films. These meetings are also an opportunity for a less formal time with faculty and TAs. We hope to be able to provide light refreshments for at least some of these screenings. The films are listed throughout the course outline.

**Note: ALL students should watch at least one of the following two films prior to the end of the fall semester- *Thirteen Days* and/or *Dr. Strangelove*. The film club will hold screenings of these films, but if you cannot attend those, the films are also available at Robarts and in most video stores.**

## FILM CLUB DATES:

1. **Waltz with Bashir** – Wednesday, October 27, 4:00pm, Location TBA
2. **Thirteen Days** – Wednesday, November 3, 4:00pm, location TBA
3. **Dr Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb** – Wednesday, November 10, 4:00pm, location TBA
4. **Battle of Algiers-** Wednesday, November 17, 4:00pm, location TBA
5. **Darwin's Nightmare** – Wednesday, February 2, 4:00pm, location TBA
6. **No Man's Land** – Wednesday, March 2, 4:00pm, location TBA
7. **The Cove** – Wednesday, March 9, 4:00pm, location TBA
8. **Shaking Hands with the Devil** – Wednesday, March 16, 4:00pm, location TBA

A Synopsis of each of the films is available on Blackboard under the Film Club section.

## Fall Term

Please note: All items marked with a [\*] are available online through the library's e-Resources. These items are therefore not included in the hard copies of the course reader.

### Basic Tools

#### 1. September 15: Introduction

Wagner, Harrison R. 2010. *War and the State: The Theory of International Politics*. The University of Michigan Press: Ann Arbor, pp. 1-12

Russett, Bruce, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella. 2000. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. Toronto: Wadsworth. pp. 3-23.

#### 2. September 22: Realism and Liberalism I

(\*) Drezner, Daniel W. 2010. *Theory of International Politics and Zombies*, Ch. 1

#### 3. September 29: Realism and Liberalism II

(\*) Jervis, Robert. 2003. "Understanding the Bush Doctrine." *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 118/3: 365-388.

#### 4. October 6: Critical Approaches

(\*) Ba, Alice and Matthew J. Hoffman. 2003. "Making and Remaking the World for IR 101: A Resource for Teaching Social Constructivism in Introductory Classes." *International Studies Perspectives*, 4:15-33.

(\*) Carter, Kimberly R. 2010. "Should International Relations Consider Rape a Weapon of War?" *Politics and Gender*. 6: 1-29

#### 5. October 13: Rational Choice

Russett, Bruce, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella. 2000. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. Toronto: Wadsworth. pp. 227-242.

Axelrod, Robert. 2006. "The Evolution of Cooperation." In Williams, Phil, Donald M. Goldstein and Jay M. Shafritz, eds. *Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in International Relations*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, pp. 331-335.

**Essay prompt for the first term paper distributed.**

## War, Conflict and Peace

### 6. October 20: War I

Russett, Bruce, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella. 2000. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. Toronto: Wadsworth. Ch. 8

### 7. October 27: War II

(\*) McDonough, David S. 2007. "The Paradox of Afghanistan." *International Journal*, 62: 620-641.

*Film: Waltz with Bashir*

**Papers are due (in class- prior to the beginning of the lecture).**

### 8. November 3: Crisis

(\*) Allison, Graham T. 2004. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *American Political Science Review*. 63/3: 689-718.

*Film: 13 Days*

### 9. November 10: Deterrence and the Nuclear Era

(\*) Waltz, Kenneth N. 1990. "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities." *The American Political Science Review*. 84/3:731-745.

(\*) Posen, Barry R. 2006. "We Can Live with a Nuclear Iran." *MIT Center for International Studies*: 1-3.

*Film: Dr. Strangelove*

### 10. November 17: Peace

Russett, Bruce. 1993. *Grasping the Democratic Peace*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Ch. 1-2.

*Film: Battle of Algiers*

### 11. November 24: Terrorism

(\*) Abrahms, Max. 2006. "Why Terrorism Does Not Work." *International Security*, 31/2: 42-78.

### 12. December 1: Midterm

## Winter Term

### International Political Economy

#### 1. January 12: Introduction to International Political Economy

Gilpin, Robert. 1987. *The Political Economy of International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 25-64

#### 2. January 19: Trade and Globalization I

Krasner, Stephen D. 2000. "State Power and the Structure of International Trade." In Jeffery A. Frieden and David A. Lake, eds. *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. pp. 19-36.

#### 3. January 26: Trade and Globalization II

(\*) Rodrik, Dani. 2000. "How Far Will International Economic Integration Go?" *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 14/1:177-186.

#### 4. February 2: North vs. South

Charlton, Mark. Ed. 2010. "Can Trade Liberalization Benefit Both Rich and Poor?" *International Relations*, Toronto: Nelson, pp.184-199.

(\*) Sachs, Jeffrey. 2001. "The Strategic Significance of Global Inequality." *The Washington Quarterly*. 178-198.

*Film: Darwin's Nightmare*

**Essay prompt for the first term paper distributed.**

### Islands of Cooperation

#### 5. February 9: International regimes and Organizations

(\*) Mearsheimer, John J. 1994. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security*, 19/3: 5-49.

(\*) Bolton, John R. 2000. "Should We Take Global Governance Seriously?" *Chicago Journal of International Law*. 1/2: 205-222.

#### 6. February 16: Regional Integration

(\*) Hoffmann, Stanley. 2000. "Towards a Common European Foreign and Security Policy?" *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 38/2: 189-198.

**Papers are due (in class- prior to the beginning of the lecture).**

### **7. March 2: International Law**

Coplin, William D. 2006. "International Law and Assumptions About the State System." In Williams, Phil, Donald M. Goldstein and Jay M. Shafritz, eds. *Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in International Relations*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, pp. 302-320

Charlton, Mark. Ed. 2010. "Do We Need an International Criminal Court?" *International Relations*, Toronto: Nelson, pp.375-393.

*Film: No Man's Land*

### **8. March 9: Environment**

Frieden, Jeffrey, David A. Lake and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2010. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co. pp. 444-475.

*Film: The Cove*

### **9. March 16: Human Rights**

Hoffmann, Stanley. 1981. *Duties Beyond Borders: On the Limits and Possibilities of Ethical International Politics*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. pp. 108-124.

(\*) Kausikan, Bilahari. 1993. "Asia's Different Standard," *Foreign Policy*, 92: 24-51.

(\*) Aryeh Neier. 1993. "Asia's Unacceptable Standard." *Foreign Policy*, 92: 24-51.

*Film: Shaking Hands with the Devil*

## **The Future of International Politics**

### **10. March 23: Rethinking the state- Reshaping Security**

Charlton, Mark. Ed. 2010. "Should Human Security Be the Core Value of Canadian Foreign Policy?" *International Relations*, Toronto: Nelson, pp.316-342.

### **11. March 30: Alternative Futures**

(\*) Huntington, Samuel. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations? The Next Pattern of Conflict." *Foreign Affairs*. 72/3: 22-28.

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

Barber, Benjamin. 1995. *Jihad Vs. McWorld: How Globalism and Tribalism are Reshaping the World*. New York: Balantine Books. Ch. 19 and afterward.

### **12. April 6: Midterm**