

# **POL 208: Introduction to International Relations**

## **Part I - Fall 2017**

**Wednesday 10-12, ES1050**

**Professor Seva Gunitsky**

OH: T 1-3, 3052 Sid Smith

**Course Description (Fall Semester):** This course examines a number of major themes and issues in global politics, such as interstate conflict, state formation, nationalism, nuclear weapons, and the global order.

**Readings:** There is a required coursepack for this class, which contains all the readings and is available at Image X-Press (193 College Street).

**Blackboard:** You are required to check this site regularly. ALL handouts, updates and assignments will be distributed through Blackboard. It is your responsibility to log into Blackboard to access the information posted regarding the course ([portal.utoronto.ca](http://portal.utoronto.ca)).

**Head TA:** Christopher LaRoche ([christopher.laroche@utoronto.ca](mailto:christopher.laroche@utoronto.ca))

**Course Requirements:** In the first half of the course, you will be evaluated on the basis of one in-class midterm, a paper, and your participation in tutorial. The breakdown of your Fall course grade (50% of your final grade for the year) is as follows:

Paper (due Week 9):	10%
Midterm (Week 12):	25%
Tutorials:	15%

Please note that your tutorial grade for this semester will be assessed separately from the Winter semester.

Tutorials will meet beginning Week 3. There are no tutorials in Week 1, 2, 7, and 12.

The midterm is a closed-book, closed-note test that will cover concepts from both the readings and the in-class lectures. All students' grades will be given based on their performance on the assignments according to the above percentages. There are NO exceptions.

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, informed participation, and performance on in-class or take-home assignments, if applicable. **Attending fewer than 6 of your tutorials will lead to an automatic tutorial grade of 0%.**

**Laptops and cellphones:** if you are using laptops for purposes other than taking notes, please sit in the back or toward the edges, so as not to distract other students. The TAs will be able to see who's not following this rule, and may ask you to move if your behavior is rude or distracting. Please keep phones turned off or on silent mode.

**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 to your 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, and may improve or lower your grade.

**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).

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) service are described on the [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) web site.

**Final grades are final.** Please do not try to negotiate your grade with the 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 extra points.

## Course Schedule

**Week 1 — Sep 13.** Introduction. Themes in International Politics.  
No tutorials this week.

**Week 2 — Sep 20.** Global Politics and 'Human Nature'.  
No tutorials this week.

**Week 3 — Sep 27.** Realism and Liberalism.

**Week 4 — Oct 4.** The Rise of the State.

**Week 5 — Oct 11.** Political Culture and Nationalism.

**Week 6 — Oct 18.** The Evolution of the Global Order.

**Week 7 — Oct 25.** Killer Robots. The Long Unipolar Moment.  
No tutorials this week.

**Week 8 — Nov 1.** The Nuclear Revolution.

[Nov 8 – no class; Reading Week]

**Week 9 — Nov 15.** Domestic Theories of International Politics.  
Essay due in class.

**Week 10 — Nov 22.** Civil War and Internal Conflict.

**Week 11 — Nov 29.** From the Global to the Local.

**Week 12 — Dec 6.** *Midterm Test.*

Location TBA. Review sessions will be scheduled in advance. No tutorials this week.

## Readings

**Week 2 — Sep 20. Global Politics and 'Human Nature'.** (26 pages)

- Steven Pinker (2007) "A History of Violence" *The New Republic*, March 19 [5p]
- Chris Hedges (2002) Selections from *War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning*, p.1-7 [7p]
- Jared Diamond (2008) "Vengeance is Ours", *The New Yorker*, April 21, 2008 [9p]
- Margaret Mead (1940) "Warfare Is Only an Invention – Not a Biological Necessity."  
In *Conflict After the Cold War*, Pearson Longman, p.176-180 [5p]

### **Week 3 — September 27. Realism and Liberalism** (59 pages)

- Michael Crowley, "Why the White House Is Reading Greek History" *Politico*, June 21, 2017.
- Philip Ball (2006) "Raising Leviathan: The Brutish World of Thomas Hobbes," pp. 23-29 and "Order in Eden: Learning to Cooperate," pp. 410-428 in *Critical Mass: How One Thing Leads to Another*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
- Stephen Walt (1998) "International Relations: One World, Many Theories", *Foreign Policy*.
- Robert Axelrod (1984) "The Live-and-Let-Live System in Trench Warfare in World War I" in *The Evolution of Cooperation*. Basic Books, pp.73-87.
- play around on <http://ncase.me/trust/>
- Ikenberry, G. John, 'Liberal Internationalism 3.0', *Perspectives on Politics* 7.1 (2009): 71-87.

### **Week 4 — Oct 4. The Rise of the State.** (39 pages)

- Selections from Robert Bates (2001) *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. W.W. Norton, p.50-51, 56-69, 77-83. [15p]
- Olson, Mancur (1993) "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87.03: 567-576. [9p]
- Krasner, Stephen D. (1999) *Sovereignty: Organized hypocrisy*. Princeton University Press, Ch. 1, p.1-25 [25p]

### **Week 5 — Oct 11. Culture and Nationalism in Global Politics.** (48 pages)

- David McRaney (2011) Excerpt from "The Illusion of Asymmetric Insight" [5p]
- Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris (2003) "The True Clash of Civilizations" *Foreign Policy* 135, p.62-70 [8p]
- Excerpt from *Henry V* by William Shakespeare, c.1599 [1p]
- Wilfred Owen (1917) "Dulce et Decorum Est" [2p]
- Anthony Smith (1991) *National Identity*, Chapter 1. [18p]
- Takis Pappas (2016) "The Spectre Haunting Europe." *Journal of Democracy* 27(4) [14p]

### **Week 6 — Oct 18. The Evolution of the Global Order.** (59 pages)

- FLS Chapter 1 (35 pages)
- G. John Ikenberry, "The Myth of Post-Cold War Chaos" *Foreign Affairs*, May 1996 [5p]
- Richard Betts (2010) "Conflict or Cooperation: Three Visions Revisited." *Foreign Affairs*. [9p]
- John Mueller (1989) "The Obsolescence of Major War", p.146-157 in Richard Betts, ed., *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Pearson Longman [10p]

**Week 7 — Oct 25. Killer Robots and IR. The Long Unipolar Moment.**

No tutorials this week.

[readings TBA]

**Week 8 — Nov 1. The Nuclear Revolution.** (58 pages)

- Thomas Schelling (2005) Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech [11p]
- Kenneth Waltz (2012) "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb" *Foreign Affairs* July/August 2012, p.2-5 [4p]
- Eric Schlosser (2013) *Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, The Damascus Incident, and the Illusion of Safety*. New York: Penguin. Pages 167-72, 192-93 [8p]
- John Harris and Bryan Bender (2017) "Bill Perry is Terrified. Why Aren't You?" *Politico*, January 6 [14p].

[Nov 8 – no class; reading week]

**Week 9 — Nov 15. Domestic Theories of International Politics.** (63 pages)

*Essay due in class.*

- Erich Maria Remarque (1929) *All Quiet on the Western Front*, p.220-27 [8p]
- Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder (1995) "Democratization and War" *Foreign Affairs* 74.3, p.79-97 [19p]
- Matthew White (2005) "Democracies Do Not Make War on One Another...or Do They?" [16p]
- Azar Gat (2005) Selections from "The Democratic Peace Theory Reframed: The Impact of Modernity" *World Politics* 58.1, p.73-88, 97-100 [20p]

**Week 10 — Nov 21. Civil War and Internal Conflict.**

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, chapter 6: 234-289.
- Kalyvas, Stathis. 2011. "The Changing Character of Civil Wars, 1800-2009," in Hew Strachan and Sibylle Scheipers (eds.), *The Changing Character of War* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press): 202-219.

**Week 11 — Nov 29. From the Global to the Local.** (45 pages)

- Samuel Huntington (1991) Selections from "Democracy's Third Wave", *Journal of Democracy*, p.1-16 [16p]
- Lucan Way (2011) "The Lessons of 1989." *Journal of Democracy* 22(4):17-27[9p]

- Foa and Mounk (2015) "Across the Globe, a Growing Disillusionment with Democracy." *The New York Times*. (4p)
- Selections from "Out of Order? The Future of the International System." *Foreign Affairs* January 2017. (16p)

**Week 12 – Dec 6. Midterm Test.**

Location TBA. Review sessions will be scheduled in advance. No tutorials this week.

The midterm exam is a closed-book, closed-note test that will cover concepts from both the readings and the in-class lectures.