

POL108Y Global Networks 2009-2010

Monday 12-2, Convocation Hall
Professors Ron Deibert and Janice Stein
Munk Centre for International Studies
University of Toronto

Exclusion: POL100Y, POL102Y1, POL103Y1

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Course Description

Pol108 Global Networks is an introduction to global politics, with a special focus on the emergence of networks as a new phenomenon on the world political landscape. After reviewing major features and concepts of global politics, the course analyzes the structure and function of global networks, ranging from transnational corporations to networks of terror and criminals, and global civil society networks. Throughout the course, we examine how networks challenge some of the traditional ways we think about international relations, including the nature of state sovereignty, global governance, citizenship, accountability and legitimacy. In 2009-2010, we pay particular attention to the 'dark' criminal networks and the way they influence power politics.

All information about Pol108, including lecture schedule, required readings, assignments, tutorial assignments and course news, can be found on the course website at <http://www.pol108.net/>.

It is essential that all students enrolled in Pol108 familiarize themselves with the website and visit it continuously throughout the term. Although the basic parameters of the course have been set, including lecture topics, course text, and assignments, the required and recommended weekly readings may change as current events dictate. The first time you visit the site, register as a user, make sure to select 'receive email notifications of announcements and changes to the website', and spend some time exploring its features.

Course Readings

All required weekly readings are available online on the course website. They should be read BEFORE the week's lecture. Some readings can only be accessed after you have familiarized yourself with the UofT electronic journals website. It is strongly recommended that you spend the first week downloading all of the required readings for the course.

There are also three books that you are required to read to complete the course's major assignment. Copies of these books have been placed on order at the Toronto Women's Bookstore (73 Harbord Street, west of Spadina). The books are also widely available at libraries, bookstores and for purchase online.

- **Misha Glenny, *McMafia: A Journey through the Global Criminal Underworld* (House of Anansi Press: 2008)**
- **John Le Carré, *The Mission Song* (Hodder and Stoughton: 2006)**
- **Gretchen Peters, *Seeds of Terror: How Heroin is Bankrolling the Taliban and al Qaeda* (St. Martin's Press, 2009)**

Other Requirements

To facilitate active participation in lectures all students are required to purchase an *iclicker* or a Classroom Response System. They have been placed on order with the St. George Campus Bookstore at 214 St. George Ave. They are available with all cashiers. You may want to enquire about used *iclickers* as they may also be available. *iclickers* have to brought to each lecture as they will be used for voting, polling and quizzes.

Assignments and Grading

Summary:

- 1) Midterm exam (15%): In-class, November 30, 2009. Location TBA.
- 2) Essay (30%): Due March 1, 2010 at the BEGINNING of the lecture
- 3) Lecture Participation (10%)
- 4) Tutorials Participation and Presentations (10%)
- 5) Final exam (35%): Date TBA.

Detailed Description of Assignments:

1) Midterm exam (15%)

In-class November 30, 2009. Location TBA.

2) Essay and Critical Annotated Bibliography (30%)

There is only one major assignment in this course, which comprises a significant portion of your final grade. The assignment is due on March 1. DO NOT START WORKING ON THIS ASSIGNMENT THE WEEK BEFORE IT IS DUE. To do well, you have to begin working on the paper well before the deadline. In other words, start reading the three assigned books NOW!

The assignment has two parts: an analytical paper and an annotated bibliography.

PART 1:

The analytical paper draws on the three books that have been assigned as mandatory reading in the course: *McMafia*, *The Mission Song* and *Seeds of Terror*. These books have been carefully selected, because they reflect important themes in global politics that we examine in this course. These themes include, but are not limited to: humanitarianism, human rights, human rights networks and activism, conflict, colonialism/post-colonialism, global corporations, markets, states, ‘dark’ networks, religion and politics, war crimes, crimes against humanity, non-governmental organizations, peacekeeping, civil and ethnic conflict, and international institutions.

In the first part of the assignment, you will 1) identify a theme for investigation that appears in the three books, 2) develop an interesting analytical question about that theme, 3) explain why your research question is important; 4) trace how your research question connects to the scholarly literature, and 5) explain how you would do research on your question if you had time, the funding, and access to the places and people that are important to your story.

Part 1 should be 15 double-spaced pages with one-inch margins, using 12-point Times New Roman font. To conserve paper, please print double-sided.

PART 2:

The second part of this assignment is a critical annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is a series of brief but critical summaries of what has been written on your theme. You will need a minimum of 10 entries, each of which focuses on a book, a book chapter, or a peer-reviewed journal article on the debates and issues of your theme (excluding the three books that have been assigned in the course). The quality of your sources is important and will be assessed. **Your sources must be acceptable academic sources** (i.e., No Wikipedia, news articles, popular books). A MAXIMUM of THREE sources may be internet-only sources. Your TA will discuss with you what sources are acceptable for this assignment. Each entry should have 3 parts:

- A brief summary of the argument (one paragraph)
- Analytical review (one to two paragraphs)
 - What are the strengths/limitations of this source?
 - How is this source similar to or different from other sources?
 - What are the strengths/weaknesses of the arguments in this source?
- How does the source contribute to your theme/project (one short paragraph)?

Part 2 should be 10 double-spaced pages with one-inch margins, using 12-point Times New Roman font. To conserve paper, please print double-sided.

3) Lecture Participation (10%)

Lectures are a crucial component of the course, as here you are introduced to major themes and topics, you deepen your understanding of your readings and you are given the opportunity to interact with the professors and special guests. The interaction with the professors will be facilitated by the *iclickers*. You will be asked to vote on issues, state an opinion or answer questions. Lecture Participation is worth 10% of your final grade in the course. This constitutes a substantial portion of your final mark and simply showing up and NOT participating will not be sufficient for a good grade.

The 10% of the lecture mark will be broken down as follows:

- 5% participation (2.5% for each semester)
- 5% **in-class quiz** (2.5% for each semester)

To get the marks it is imperative that you bring your *iclicker* to each lecture as it will be required weekly and used to assess your performance.

4) Tutorials (10%)

Tutorial (and lecture) Schedule:

September 14 – first lecture, no tutorials

September 21 – lecture, no tutorials

September 28 lecture – tutorial sign up – it is imperative that you attend this lecture

Week of October 5 – lecture and FIRST tutorial (presentation sign up)

Week of October 12 – no lecture or tutorial on October 12; tutorials resume on October 13

Week of October 19 – lecture and tutorials

Week of October 26 – lecture and tutorials

Week of November 2 – lecture and tutorials

Week of November 9 – there will be a lecture on November 9 AND November 11.

Monday tutorials (ONLY) will meet on Wednesday, November 11, to make up for Thanksgiving. NO other tutorials will happen this week.

Week of November 16 – lecture and tutorials

Week of November 23 – lecture and tutorials

Week of November 30 – Midterm exam during lecture time, NO tutorials

Week of January 4 – lecture and tutorials (midterm returned and presentation sign up)

Week of January 11 - lecture and tutorials

Week of January 18 - lecture and tutorials

Week of January 25 - lecture and tutorials

Week of February 1 - lecture and tutorials

Week of February 8 - lecture and tutorials
Week of February 14 – reading week – NO lecture or tutorials
Week of February 22 - lecture and tutorials
Week of March 1- lecture only (Paper Due), NO tutorials
Week of March 8 – lecture only, NO tutorials
Week of March 15 – lecture only, NO tutorials
Week of March 22 – lecture only, NO tutorials
Week of March 29 – Last lecture and Review Tutorial

The tutorials are designed to allow you to debate important issues, ask questions, and discuss the theories and concepts of the course. Your TA will play an important role in helping you to design your paper, give feedback on your tests and assignments, and answer questions about difficult concepts. In addition, tutorials are a place where you can interact with your fellow students and learn from each other. The tutorial is worth 10% of your final grade in the course. This constitutes a substantial portion of your final mark and simply showing up and NOT participating will not be sufficient for a good grade.

The 10% of the tutorial mark will be broken down as follows:

- 4% participation and attendance (2% for each semester)
- **3% presentation** in the First Semester

During the first tutorial in the semester you will sign up for the date of your presentation. The presentation is meant to draw analytical connections between the current real world events and required readings in the course. It is also meant to stimulate class discussion. You should pick a current event or a news item, describe it very briefly and analyze it in terms of the weekly reading. You should also pose 2 questions about the topic that are not answered in your analysis. You will have 5 minutes to present and will be assessed on the analytical depth and ability to engage the class in discussion. You should avoid reading.

- **3% Research presentation** in the Second Semester

During the first tutorial in the semester you will sign up for the date of your presentation. The presentation should outline the progress you made in preparing your major paper – the theme, the analytical question, why do you find it interesting, etc... You are encouraged to ask questions and seek feedback. The presentation is meant to help you organize your thinking and elicit comments on your work so far as well as suggestions. It is expected that students presenting in the second week of January will be in different stages of readiness than somebody presenting in February. This will be accounted for in the marking scheme.

5) Final Exam (35%)

Date and Location TBA

NOTE: Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their essays and assignments before handing in to the Department. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on Plagiarism at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>.

Policy Regarding Late Papers and Extensions

The essay/critical annotated bibliography is due at the BEGINNING of the lecture on March 1st. Any paper received after the first 20 minutes of the lecture will be considered late, and will have 2% deducted from its final grade. The penalty for late papers is 2% per day, excluding weekends.

You should hand in your late assignment in the Political Science Department, on the 3rd floor of Sidney Smith Hall. Please familiarize yourself with the hours that the office is open and with the specific procedures for handing-in late work.

Extensions must be requested as much in advance as possible, and are only granted under exceptional circumstances. You must provide official documentation (e.g. official medical certificate, death certificate, letter from your registrar, letter from Accessibility Services) justifying the extension. If you wish to request an extension, email the Head TA directly (pol108headta@gmail.com).

TVO Events at the Munk Centre

Throughout the academic year, TVO's "The Agenda" will take place in the Campbell Conference room at the Munk Centre for International Studies. This is a unique opportunity for students to hear speakers debate about current political and social issues. TVO reserves a limited number of spaces for POL108 students to attend as members of a live studio audience. Students have the opportunity to engage with the speakers during the show by asking questions and participating in the show. This is also an opportunity for students to receive extra bonus marks in the course. For each show that a student attends, they will receive 1% bonus on their final mark. Since space is limited, there will be a registration announcement in the week prior to the show, and students MUST register with the head TA in order to attend the event and receive credit.