

**POL 208Y: Introduction to International Relations**  
**Fall/Winter 2011-12**  
**Wednesday 6-8, BA1160**

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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. 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. We approach international politics from each of these three emphases, stressing the importance of all of them in understanding political outcomes.

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

For purchase at the U of T bookstore:

Drezner, Daniel W. 2010. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Frieden, Jeffry A, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Interests*. New York: Norton.

Everything else: posted on Blackboard, accessible through hyperlink where applicable.

**Simulation:**

In the second half of the course, we will be participating in *Statecraft*, which is a simulation game that will run for 10 weeks. Students will be organized into “countries” according to tutorial section. The game will cost about 30 USD to play for the 10 weeks. Participating in the game is required, and students should consider *Statecraft* one of the texts of the course.

**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:

Midterm 1 (December 6):	25%
Midterm 2 (February 29):	25%
Collaborative paper (April 3):	20%
<i>Statecraft</i> quiz (by Week 13 tutorial)	5%
<i>Statecraft</i> performance	10%
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 collaborative paper will be an 8-10 page assignment. It will require no outside research to complete. It will be due on the last day of class. Participation in *Statecraft* will be evaluated according to performance on the quiz(es) and/or two-pagers, details TBA. You will be given time in lecture and/or tutorial to work with your groups on *Statecraft*.

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. In the second half of the course, your tutorial leader will give you time to work on your *Statecraft* simulations. 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 75% of your tutorials can lead to a tutorial grade of 0%.**

Tutorials will meet beginning Week 4.

### **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.

### **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 or take tests.
- 2) ALL assignments completed at home MUST be turned in at the specified time. 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 Head TA 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 makeups, please speak directly to Head TA.
  - c. There will be NO extensions granted on the collaborative paper. NONE.
- 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 25% of your tutorials will 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 extra points.

### **Schedule of Topics and Readings:**

#### **Fall Term – What defines the international community? Tools, definitions, and classic puzzles**

##### Week 1, September 14: Introduction

Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (FLS), Introduction

##### Week 2, September 21: Starting at the Beginning of IR

FLS, Chapter 1

##### Week 3, September 28: Structural Approaches, Realism and Liberalism

Drezner, 1-66

##### Week 4, October 5: Social Approaches, Constructivism

Drezner, 67-97.

[Carpenter, R. Charli](#). 2003. "Women and Children First': Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-95." *International Organization* 57 (4): 661-694.

##### Week 5, October 12: Institutional Approaches, Interests and Choices

FLS, Chapter 2

##### Week 6, October 19: Rationality and Rational Choice

FLS, 75-79.

[Kahler, Miles](#). 1998. "Rationality in International Relations." *International Organization* 52 (4): 919-941.

##### Week 7, October 26: Nuclear War, Crisis, and Decision-making

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

[Allison, Graham](#). 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *The American Political Science Review* 63 (3): 689-718.

Week 8, November 2: Theories of Conflict – International Sources  
FLS, Chapter 3

Week 9, November 9: Theories of Conflict – International Commitments  
FLS, Chapter 5

Week 10, November 16: The Democratic Peace and Domestic Sources of War  
FLS, Chapter 4

[Rosato, Sebastian](#). 2003. "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory." *American Political Science Review* 97 (4): 585-602.

Week 11, November 23: International Political Economy  
FLS, Chapter 6

Week 12, November 30 Midterm Test 1  
Location TBA

**Winter Term – What are some contemporary international issues? Using tools and definitions**

Week 13, January 11: International Debts and Inequities  
FLS, Chapter 9

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

NOTE: *Statecraft* begins this week. Make sure you read the manual and understand the basics of the simulation. You CANNOT play without taking the quiz.

Week 14, January 18: International Organizations: The United Nations Model  
[Hurd, Ian](#). 2002. "Legitimacy, Power, and the Symbolic Life of the UN Security Council." *Global Governance* 8 (1): 35-51.

[Voeten, Erik](#). 2005. "The Political Origins of the UN Security Council's Ability to Legitimize the Use of Force." *International Organization* 59 (3): 527-557.

Week 15, January 25: International Law  
[Finnemore, Martha and Stephen J. Toope](#). 2003. "Alternatives to 'Legalization': Richer Views of Law and Politics." *International Organization* 55 (3): 743-758.

[Slaughter, Ann-Marie, Andrew S. Tulumello, and Stepan Wood](#). 1998. "International Law and International Relations Theory: A New Generation of Interdisciplinary Scholarship." *The American Journal of International Law* 92 (3): 367-397.

Week 16, February 1: International Norms

Guest lecturer: Prof. Lisa Forman, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Munk School of Global Affairs

[Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink](#). 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52 (4): 887-917.

[Forman, Lisa](#). 2008. "'Rights' and Wrongs: What Utility for the Right to Health in Reforming Trade Rules on Medicines?" *Health and Human Rights Journal* 10 (2): 37-52.

[Klotz, Audie](#). 1996. "Norms and Sanctions: Lessons from the Socialization of South Africa." *Review of International Studies* 22 (2): 173-190.

Week 17, February 8: The "New" Transnationalism

[Bob, Clifford](#). 2002. "Merchants of Morality." *Foreign Policy* 129: 36-45.

[Cooley, Alexander and James Ron](#). 2002. "The NGO Scramble: Organizational Insecurity and the Political Economy of Transnational Action." *International Security* 27 (1): 5-39.

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

Week 18, February 15: The Challenge of Terrorism

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

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

Reading Week, February 22

Week 19, February 29: Midterm Test 2

Location TBA

Week 20, March 7: Human Rights

FLS, Chapter 11

[Taylor, Ian](#). 2008. "Sino-African Relations and the Problem of Human Rights." *African Affairs* 107 (426): 63-87.

Week 21, March 14: Dilemmas of Humanitarian Intervention

[Barnett, Michael](#). 2009. "Evolution Without Progress? Humanitarianism in a World of Hurt." *International Organization* 63 (4): 621-663.

[Weiss, Thomas G.](#) 1999. "Principles, Politics, and Humanitarian Action." *Ethics and International Affairs* 13 (1): 1-22.

Week 22, March 21: The Environment  
FLS, Chapter 12

[Bernstein, Steven.](#) 2002. "International Institutions and the Framing of Domestic Policies: The Kyoto Protocol and Canada's Response to Climate Change." *Policy Sciences* 35: 203-236.

Week 23, March 28: 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, April 4: Collaborative Paper DUE  
Location and time TBA.