

Syllabus for POL 470 Y
Contemporary Issues in Foreign Policy
2011-2012
Wed. 2-4, VC Room 304

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This senior seminar involves a critical assessment of foreign policy issues and contemporary international problems. The focus is on the real world of political decision making.

The time period covered is from the fall of the Berlin Wall until the present day. Major events or crises that helped to shape the current international political scene will be highlighted. Professor Wright will analyze in some detail issues in which he was directly or indirectly involved.

The seminar will require active participation in class throughout the year. Marks are allocated as follows:

Class participation	20%
First written assignment (1000 words, November)	20%
Second written assignment (1000 words, January)	20%
Oral presentations (January - March)*	10%
Original research paper (2000 words, March) *	30%

*Each student will make an oral presentation to the seminar in the spring term, based on the research paper he or she will be preparing. The list of subjects for these papers will be circulated separately.

Required reading (available at Bob Miller book room, 180 Bloor, lower level):

"A Problem from Hell" - Samantha Power
"The Utility of Force" - Rupert Smith
"Descent into Chaos" - Ahmed Rashid
"The Inheritance" - David Sanger
"Getting Back in the Game" - Paul Heinbecker

Students will be expected to keep abreast of current debate on foreign policy issues through publications such as:

The New York Times
The Economist
Foreign Affairs

"GPS", Fareed Zakaria's weekly program on CNN, gives excellent insight into the current international agenda.

Subjects and case studies to be covered include the following:

1. The collapse of the Soviet Union - reasons, western response, consequences
2. The wars in the Balkans and "ethnic cleansing" - Bosnia, Kosovo
3. International military intervention in response to humanitarian crises, questions of legitimacy and effectiveness - Rwanda, Darfur, Libya
4. The transformation of NATO from a Europe-oriented defence alliance to a global peacekeeper/peace builder
5. The causes and consequences of September 11
6. War and nation building in Afghanistan
7. The war in Iraq and divisions in the West
8. U.S. power in international affairs, the rise of China
9. The practice of modern diplomacy
10. Politics and foreign policy in Canada

August 18, 2011

