

**Syllabus for POL 470 Y**  
**Contemporary Issues in Foreign Policy**  
**2013-2014**  
**Wed. 2-4, NF Room 205**

Ambassador David S. Wright  
Kenneth and Patricia Taylor Distinguished Professor of Foreign Affairs

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Office hours: Mondays 10:00 - 11:00

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 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 regular attendance and active participation in discussions throughout the year. Marks are allocated as follows:

Class participation	20%
In class test (November 13)	20%
Written assignment (1000 words, due January 8)	20%
Oral presentations (January - March)*	10%
Original research paper (2000 words, due March 26) *	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:

"A Problem from Hell" - Samantha Power  
"The Utility of Force" - Rupert Smith  
"Descent into Chaos" - Ahmed Rashid  
"Confront and Conceal" - David Sanger

Current issues of foreign policy and ongoing international crises will be discussed each week. Students will be expected to keep abreast of current debate on these issues through publications such as:

*The New York Times*  
*The Economist*  
*Foreign Affairs* (selected articles will be assigned)

Subjects and case studies that will 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, Syria
4. The transformation of NATO from a Europe-oriented defence alliance to a global peacekeeper/peace builder
5. The consequences of September 11
6. War and nation building in Afghanistan
7. The war in Iraq and divisions in the West
8. Changing power relationships: the U.S., China
9. The practice of modern diplomacy
10. Politics and foreign policy in Canada



**INSTRUCTOR:**  
**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
**OFFICE HOURS**

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### **Assignments**

Assignments are due in class by 16:00 on the appropriate date noted above. If you know that you cannot make it to class on the day when the assignment is due you must make prior arrangements to avoid the late penalty.

### **Late Assignments**

Late assignments will be subject to a 4% late penalty per day (including weekends), starting after 16:00 on the due date. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date. If there are extenuating circumstances (illness, death in family) that prevent you from completing an assignment on time you must email the instructor as soon as possible, preferably before the deadline and no later than one week after the due date. Requests for extensions will be granted only if there are legitimate medical or compassionate grounds. Documentation (such as the UofT medical form) must be submitted.

### **Term Test**

Students who miss the midterm test must contact the professor within two days of the date of the test. Only authorized university excuses will be accepted. As a matter of fairness to all students, you will be required to support your written request with proper documentation. For example, such documentation might consist of UofT doctor's certificate (for an illness), an obituary or funeral announcement (for a bereavement.) A make up test will be scheduled, if appropriate.

### **Participation**

Participation and attendance are important aspects of the course. You are expected to come to class prepared to ask questions and to participate actively in discussions. Your

participation grade will be based on reasoned, thoughtful and informed contributions to such discussions. Students who miss a lecture will have to make arrangements to get notes from another student.

## **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your degree will be valued and respected as a true reflection of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Instructors are required to report any instance of suspected academic dishonesty to the Program Office.

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor
- Making up sources or facts
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers
- Misrepresenting your identity
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading
- Misrepresentation
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*

[www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac). If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact the Instructor. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information from available campus resources like the College Writing Centers [www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/centres/arts-and-science](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/centres/arts-and-science), the Academic Success Centre [www.asc.utoronto.ca](http://www.asc.utoronto.ca), or the U of T Writing Website [www.writing.utoronto.ca](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca).