POL 208: Introduction to International Relations
Part I - Fall 2019
Wednesdays 10-12
Professor Seva Gunitsky
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4, Munk School 124N

Course Description (Fall Semester): This course examines some key themes and issues in global politics, including interstate war, state formation, nationalism, nuclear weapons, and the evolution of the global order.

Readings: There is a required coursepack for this class, which contains all the readings and is available at UT Pharmacy+Print (193 College Street).

Quercus: All handouts, updates and assignments will be distributed through Quercus. It is your responsibility to regularly access the information posted regarding the course.

Course Requirements: In the first half of the course, you will be evaluated on the basis of one in-class midterm, a 3-page policy brief, and your participation in tutorial. The breakdown of your Fall course grade (50% of your final grade for the year) is as follows:

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

Policy Brief: A 3-page essay that examines a key issue in Canadian foreign policy, offers concrete policy solutions, and uses arguments from the readings to support its conclusions. (Double-spaced, size 12 font, 1 inch margins).

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

Tutorials: Tutorials will meet beginning Week 2. There are no tutorials in Weeks 1, 9, and 12. Please note that your tutorial mark for this semester will be assessed separately from the Winter semester.

Your tutorial leader will discuss themes and answer questions dealing with the readings and lecture. Tutorial attendance is therefore crucial to your success in this course. Your grade in tutorial is based on attendance, participation, and a 2-page reading response. (Due by Week 7.)
**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 ask you to move if your behavior is rude or distracting. You may use phones for taking notes, but please keep them in 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](http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility).

**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. Regrades do not mean an automatic increase, as assignments must be evaluated anew. Your grade may stay the same, go up, or go down.

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:**
Course Outline

Week 1 — Sep 11. Introduction.
No tutorials this week.

Week 2 — Sep 18. Global Politics and ‘Human Nature’.

Week 3 — Sep 25. Realism and Liberalism.

Week 4 — Oct 2. The Rise of the State.


Week 7 — Oct 23. The Nuclear Revolution.

Week 8 — Oct 30. Domestic Theories of Global Politics.

[November 6 – no class, reading week]

Week 9 — Nov 13. Espionage and Civil Society. Urban Governance and IR.
Policy brief due Nov 15. No tutorial this week.

Week 10 — Nov 20. From the Global to the Local.

Week 11 — Nov 27. New Challenges in Global Politics.

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

Week 2 — Sep 18. Global Politics and ‘Human Nature’

• 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 25. Realism and Liberalism

  play around with http://ncase.me/trust/

Week 4 — Oct 2. The Rise of the State

  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]
  page 1-25 [26p]

Week 5 — Oct 9. Political Culture and Nationalism

• 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]
• Sheri Berman and Mariya Snegovaya (2019) “Populism and the Decline of Social
  Democracy” Journal of Democracy 30(3)
Week 6 — Oct 16. The Evolution of the Global Order


Week 7 — Oct 23. The Nuclear Revolution


Week 8 — Oct 30. Domestic Theories of International Politics

• Erich Maria Remarque (1929) All Quiet on the Western Front, p.220-27 [8p]
• Matthew White (2005) “Democracies Do Not Make War on One Another…or Do They?” [16p]

[Nov 6 – no class; reading week]

Week 9 — Nov 13. Espionage and Civil Society. Urban Governance and IR.


Week 10 — Nov 20. From the Global to the Local. (45 pages)

• Seva Gunitsky (2017) Selections from Aftershocks: Great Powers and Domestic Reforms in the Twentieth Century
Week 11 — Nov 27. New Challenges in Global Politics


Location TBA. No tutorials this week.