
**University of Toronto — St. George Campus
Department of Political Science**

**POL 208Y1 Y: Introduction to International Relations
(Summer 2020)**

Instructor: Dr. Mark Yaniszewski
Office: n/a
Office Hours: (see below for alternatives)
Classroom: Online only
Class Time: n/a
Tutorials: (see “Participation or Alternatives” section below)

E-mail: mark.yaniszewski@utoronto.ca

Contact

Since the course is being taught online this year, there are no formal office hours. Instead, e-mail will be the primary method of contact except, perhaps, for more complex consultations (e.g., discussing the writing assignment) when phone or video conferencing maybe an option. In any event, e-mails will be answered within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours over the weekend — although in practice most e-mails will be answered much, much faster than this.

- Please use your official UT e-mail account when communicating with the instructor and/or TAs as the University’s anti-spam software may inadvertently block e-mails from other accounts.
- Students should check their UT e-mail and **Quercus** regularly for messages, updates, and other important information from the instructor.

Overview

This introduction to international politics course deals, broadly, with understanding conflict and cooperation, problems of security and welfare, processes and patterns of global politics, and ethics and international affairs. The course is heavily oriented towards developing a critical understanding of world affairs and accordingly has a strong theoretical and conceptual focus.

This course is divided into several sections. In the first section, students will explore selected Grand Theories of International Relations (e.g., Realism and Liberalism). The second section will cover selected Mid-Range Theories (e.g., the Bureaucratic Politics Model). The third section investigates the subfield of International Political Economy. And the course concludes by investigating a series of issues with contemporary relevance (e.g., the IMF and the World Bank, economic sanctions, the use of force, peacekeeping, the International Criminal Court, and various global hotspots).

Distribution of Marks

Students will be graded on the basis of the following requirements:

- Participation or Alternatives = 20%
- Midterm Assessment (Week of June 17-25) = 25%
- Essay Assignment = 25%
- Final Assessment (Week of August 19-27) = 30%

Participation or Alternatives

This course will run completely online. That means that the kinds of live, in-person tutorials that are traditionally part of this course will not be run this term. Instead, students will be offered various alternatives to live, in-person tutorials.

Needless to say, this is a very, very dynamic situation. The limitations of the University's online technology (especially with respect to live, online interactions) are still being explored. Teaching Assistants have yet to be assigned. And it is also obvious that not all students have equal access to the internet and/or are comfortable engaging online.

To address these (and other) concerns, students should expect to have a variety of participation options to choose from this term. Depending on student interest and the availability of appropriate technology, we may be able to offer students the option of earning their participation grade by participating in live, "virtual" tutorials involving small groups of students and the TAs. Depending on student interest and the availability of appropriate technology, we may be able to offer students the option of earning their participation grade by participating in TA-moderated "chat rooms." And we will certainly be able to offer students the option of earning their participation grade by completing a series of small analytical writing assignments.

At this time, the exact nature of these alternatives — as well as their respective due dates

— are unknown. Details on these alternatives will be made available as soon as possible (most likely shortly after TAs are assigned to the course). It can be said with certainty, however, that none of these options will have a due date before the May long weekend. This will give everyone — instructors and students alike — the chance to get everything organized. Please watch for updates and additional details on **Quercus**.

Essay Assignment

Topics and Associated Requirements

A detailed list of assigned topics and other requirements for the Essay Assignment will be posted to **Quercus**.

Essay Assignment Due Dates

Completed assignments should be submitted to the appropriate **Quercus** drop box according to the following schedule.

The **Essay Assignment** will be due by **8:00 pm on Thursday August 6th**. **Late assignments** will be accepted within one week of the original due date (e.g., late Essay Assignments will be accepted until **8:00 pm on Thursday August 13th**) and will be assigned a **-15% (flat rate) penalty**. (To emphasize: the late penalty is a flat rate penalty. Papers five minutes late, one day late, five days late, or any variation therein receive the same -15% penalty.) **Assignment not completed within one week of the original due date will receive an automatic grade of 0%.**

Late penalties will only be waived in the case of illness (or similar serious circumstances). Otherwise, extensions will not normally be granted. This is university — not high school — so failing to properly balance your school, work, and life commitments or letting the dog eat your homework (or whatever) are not legitimate excuses for failing to complete an assignment on time.

Turnitin.Com

Unless a problem is identified/suspected, you are *not* required to submit your assignment to Turnitin.com prior to submission. If, however, a problem is identified/suspected, you may be required to obtain certification from Turnitin.com. In this case, the student(s) in question will be contacted. To avoid problems and help demonstrate that your paper is not plagiarized, students should save their rough work (e.g., early drafts of their assignments, copies of reference materials, etc.).

Midterm and Final Assessments

Given the unique circumstances in which this course is being held, the situation with respect to midterms and examinations has been quite fluid. **At this time, it is expected that midterms and examinations will take the form of open-book, take-home assessments. Specifically, students will, on the designated day, be given a two-hour window to complete and return their individual assessment.** This format is, however, subject to change.

Lectures and Course Readings

This course is being taught online this term. The instructor will, however, endeavour, as much as possible, to maintain the structure and format of a conventional course. To that end, lectures will be delivered as audio files. Additional materials (e.g., maps, charts, and diagrams associated with individual lectures) will regularly be posted to **Quercus**.

In most cases, lectures will be posted at a rate faster than would normally be the case with a live, in-person class. Students can then judge for themselves how fast to access this material.

As for course readings, there is no textbook for this course. Instead, students are expected to read the readings listed in the section below. Most readings are available through the library's e-journal/e-book collection or direct from the publisher. If you are having trouble accessing these readings, consult the instructor, TAs, or any reference librarian.

Grand Theories of International Relations

Section 1: Unit 1 — Course Overview and Introduction

David A. Lake, "Theory is Dead, Long Live Theory: The End of the Great Debates and the Rise of Eclecticism in International Relations," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (September 2013), pp. 567-587.

[The relevance of different kinds of theory to the study of international relations.](#)

Section 1: Unit 2 — The Realists

Christoph Frei, "Politics Among Nations: Revisiting a Classic," *Ethics & International Affairs*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (Spring 2016), pp. 39-46.

[A short review of the most famous work of the most famous Realist.](#)

Section 1: Unit 3 — The Liberals

James Wood Forsyth Jr. and Ann Mezzell, “Through the Glass — Darker,” *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 13, No. 4 (Winter 2019), pp. 18-36.

[A critique of various Liberal approaches to the study of International Relations.](#)

Section 1: Unit 4 — The English School

Barry Buzan, “The English School: A Neglected Approach to International Security Studies,” *Security Dialogue*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (April 2015), pp. 126-143.

[An article by the English School’s most prominent living advocate.](#)

Section 1: Unit 5 — Constructivism

Liang Tuang Nah, “Explaining North Korean Nuclear Weapons Motivations: Constructivism, Liberalism, and Realism,” *North Korean Review*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Spring 2013), pp. 61-82.

[How different theories \(including Constructivism\) explain events in North Korea.](#)

Section 1: Unit 6 — Critical Theory / Postmodernism

Andrew Linklater, “The Achievements of Critical Theory,” in *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*, eds. Steve Smith, Ken Booth, and Maysia Zalewski (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 279-298. [\[UT e-book\]](#)

Richard Dawkins, “Postmodernism Disrobed,” *Nature*, Vol. 394, No. 6689 (July 9, 1998), pp. 141-143.

[A review of Critical Theory and a very short critique of Postmodernism.](#)

Section 1: Unit 7 — Feminist Theories of International Relations

Charlotte Mertens and Maree Parry, “‘Sexurity’ and Its Effects in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo,” *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 38, No. 4 (April 2017), pp. 956-979.

[Contemporary feminist theorizing on the topic of international relations.](#)

Mid-Range Theories of International Relations

Section 2: Unit 1 — *Groupthink* and the Bay of Pigs Crisis

Troy E. Smith, “The Road to High-Quality Decision-Making: Understanding Cognition and the Phenomenon of Groupthink,” *American Intelligence Journal*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (2016), pp. 70-73. [To access this item, do the following:](#)

- [Go to the UTM Library Homepage](#)
- [Select Popular](#) (under the listing for **Databases**)
- [Scroll down and select JSTOR](#)

- **Log-in** — if you are not already logged-in
- **Type** “The Road to High-Quality” (with the “ ” marks) in the search box
- Select **Item Title** from the dropdown menu to the right of the search box
- Select **Search** and a link to the article **PDF** will appear

Groupthink and what to do about it.

Section 2: Unit 2 — Bureaucratic Politics & the Cuban Missile Crisis

David A. Welch and James G. Blight, “The Eleventh Hour of the Cuban Missile Crisis: An Introduction to the ExComm Transcripts,” *International Security*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Winter 1987-1988), pp. 5-29.

Optional Reading

McGeorge Bundy and James G. Blight, “October 27th, 1962: Transcripts of the Meetings of the ExComm,” *International Security*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Winter 1987-1988), pp. 30-92. The first reading is an introduction to the second reading which consists of a transcript of JFK’s meetings with his key advisors on probably the most critical day of the Cuban Missile Crisis. It is a unique window into the crisis and (if you get the chance) the second reading is well worth at least “skimming” to get a better understanding of the crisis and how the participants reacted.

Section 2: Unit 3 — The So-Called “Great Man in History”

Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, “Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In,” *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (Spring 2001), pp. 107-146. A classic work which helped revive an academic genre.

International Political Economy

Section 3: Unit 1 — Theories of International Political Economy

Terence Hutchison, “Adam Smith and *The Wealth of Nations*,” *Journal of Law & Economics*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (October 1976), pp. 507-528.

The history of the most famous Political Economist and his most famous work.

Midterm Assessment Period — June 17-25

This test covers Sections 1-3 inclusive

Additional details will be provided as the date of the test approaches

Contemporary Issues

Section 4: Unit 1 — The IMF and World Bank

Martin Ravallion, “The World Bank: Why It Is Still Needed and Why It Still Disappoints,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (Winter 2016), pp. 77-94.

[The World Bank: Good, Bad, or Indifferent?](#)

Section 4: Unit 2 — Political and Economic Sanctions

Margaret Doxey, “Reflections on the Sanctions Decade and Beyond,” *International Journal*, Vol. 64, No. 2 (Spring 2009), pp. 539-549.

Edward Fishman, “Even Smarter Sanctions: How to Fight in the Era of Economic Warfare,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 96, No. 6 (November-December 2017), pp. 102-110.

[Can sanctions work?](#)

Section 4: Unit 3 — The United Nations and the Use of Force

Gabriël H. Oosthuizen, “Playing the Devil’s Advocate: The United Nations Security Council is Unbound by Law,” *Leiden Journal of International Law*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (January 1999), pp. 549-563.

[Are there any legal limits to the power of the Security Council?](#)

Section 4: Unit 4 — Humanitarian Interventions

Ellen Brun and Jacques Hersh, “Faux Internationalism and Really Existing Imperialism,” *Monthly Review*, Vol. 63, No. 11 (April 2012), pp. 36-48.

[A critique of Humanitarian Interventions.](#)

Section 4: Unit 5 — International Terrorism

Christopher C. Harmon, “Five Strategies of Terrorism,” *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Autumn 2001), pp. 39-66.

[Title says it all.](#)

Section 4: Unit 6 — The International Criminal Court

Omar G. Encarnación, “International Justice on Trial,” *Current History*, Vol. 110, No. 732 (January 2011), pp. 32-37.

[The pros and cons of the ICC.](#)

Section 4: Unit 7 — History and Evolution of Peacekeeping

Maxwell Cohen, “The Demise of UNEF,” *International Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Winter 1967-1968), pp. 18-51.

[This article is a history of the UNEF during the Suez Crisis. Pay particular attention to](#)

pages 36-51 and skim the rest.

Section 4: Unit 8 — Peacekeeping’s Unintended Consequences

Reed M. Wood and Christopher Sullivan, “Doing Harm by Doing Good? The Negative Externalities of Humanitarian Aid Provision during Civil Conflict,” *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 77, No. 3 (July 2015), pp. 736-748.

S  verine Autesserre, “The Crisis of Peacekeeping: Why the UN Can’t End Wars,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 98, No. 1 (January-February 2019), pp. 101-118.

Odomovo S. Afeno, “The Exploitation of Civilians by Peacekeeping Soldiers in Africa: The Motivation of Perpetrators and the Vulnerability of Victims,” *Conflict Trends*, No. 2 (2012), pp. 49-56. Available online: <<http://www.accord.org.za/publications/ct/>>

These two articles cover the kinds of things that can happen when peacekeeping goes wrong. Note that the link to the second article goes to the journal’s homepage. You will have to browse to the appropriate issue.

Section 4: Unit 9 — Global Hotspots

Ely Ratner, “Course Correction: How to Stop China’s Maritime Advance,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 96, No. 4 (July-August 2017), pp. 64-72.

“On Perilous Ground: Skirmishing Between South Asia’s Two Nuclear Powers May Spiral into Something Far More Serious,” *Economist*, Vol. 430, No. 9132 (March 3, 2019), pp. 17-19.

Final Assessment Period — August 19-27

This test overlaps the previous test and covers Sections 2, 3, and 4

Additional details will be provided as the date of the test approaches

Important Notices

(i) Use of Electronic Devices

University is a place to do work. And work time is not the time to play games, chat, listen to music, send text messages, or participate in other recreational activities. Consequently, as a courtesy to the instructor, the teaching assistants, and other students, the use of cell

phones, iPods, PDAs, and other electronic devices for recreational purposes during lectures and tutorials is strictly forbidden. Students violating this rule will be subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, being asked to leave the classroom. Only in exceptional circumstances (e.g., for world renowned brain surgeons on call at a local hospital) will this policy be waived. [For students listening to lectures at home, there is \(obviously\) no means to enforce these rules, but students will have a much more rewarding educational experience if they voluntarily adopt these practices.](#)

(ii) Written Assignments

All students should also keep a duplicate copy of their assignments. Students must also note that it is a serious academic offense to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses or to pass off another person's work as their own (i.e., plagiarism). At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on their assignment and/or show their rough work before a final assignment grade is determined. A detailed statement on plagiarism — what it is and how to avoid it — is attached to the end of this handout.

(iii) Failure to Complete Course Requirements

Students must complete all course requirements. Failure to do so (e.g., missing an examination without cause) will subject the student to the relevant Departmental and University regulations (e.g., possibly failing the course.)

(iv) Make-Up Tests (Excluding Final Exams)

As stated in the Academic Calendar, students who miss a term test for reasons entirely beyond their control may, within one week of the missed test, submit to the instructor a written request for special consideration explaining the reason for missing the test, and attaching appropriate documentation, such as a medical certificate or a Verification of Illness or Injury form (www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). [Note that the rules related to medical notes may be different in 2020 due to the ongoing health emergency.](#)

If a written request with documentation cannot be submitted within one week, the instructor may consider a request to extend the time limit. No student is automatically entitled to a second (i.e., makeup) test.

(v) Notice of Collection (e.g., Privacy)

The University of Toronto respects your privacy. The information on medical certificates is collected pursuant to section 2(14) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971. It is collected for the purpose of administering accommodations for academic purposes based on medical grounds. The department will maintain a record of all medical certificates received. At all times it will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

For questions, please refer to www.utoronto.ca/privacy or contact the University's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Office at 416-946-5835. Address: Room 201, McMurrich Bldg., 12 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A1.

(vi) Final Assessments

Final **Assessments** will be held during the period set by the Registrar's Office. **Except in the case of serious medical (or similar) problems, substitute Assessments will normally not be given.**

(vii) Accessibility Services

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach the Instructor and/or the Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Accessibility Services has two offices (Robarts Library, 1st Floor and 215 Huron Street, Suite 939). Staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations.

Please call (416-978-8060) or email (accessibility.services@utoronto.ca) or check the website (<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/Home.htm>). The sooner you let them know your needs the quicker they can assist you in achieving your learning goals.

(viii) Academic Advising and/or Students' Personal Problems

If you find yourself in difficulty (e.g., struggling to complete assignments or facing one of life's many challenges) and the problem is too big to handle on your own, the University of Toronto has a wealth of resources to assist you. But you have to take the first step: "Consult your College Registrar — Your reliable first stop."

A WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an academic offence with a severe penalty.

It is essential that you understand what plagiarism is and that you do not commit it. In essence, it is the theft of the thoughts or words of others, without giving proper credit. You must put others' words in quotation marks and cite your source(s). You must give citations when using others' ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Plagiarism is unacceptable in a university.

The University of Toronto provides a process that faculty members must initiate when they suspect a case of plagiarism. In the Department of Political Science, suspected evidence of plagiarism must be reported to the Chairman.

A faculty member may not mark an assignment or assess a penalty if he or she finds evidence of plagiarism – the matter must be reported. The Chairman, or Dean, will assess the penalty.

The following are some examples of plagiarism:

1. Submitting as your own an assignment written by someone else.
2. Quoting an author without indicating the source of the words.
3. Using words, sentences, or paragraphs written by someone else and failing to place quotation marks around the material and reference the source and author.

Using either quotation marks or reference alone is not sufficient. Both must be used!

4. Adapting an author's ideas or theme and using it as your own without referencing the original source.
5. Seeking assistance from a friend or family member in respect to work you claim as your own.

If you are not sure whether you have committed plagiarism, it is better to ask a faculty member than risk discovery and be forced to accept an academic penalty.

Plagiarism is **cheating**. It is considered a **serious offence** against intellectual honesty and intellectual property. Penalties for an undergraduate can be **severe**.

At a minimum, a student is likely to receive a "0" mark for the assignment or test in question. But a further penalty is often assessed, such as a further reduction from the course mark or placing a permanent notation of the incident on an academic record.

Some website listed below on avoiding plagiarism:

"How to Use Sources and Avoid Plagiarism" - available at:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

and

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/documentation>

Other Advisory Material available at: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/home>