

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
WINTER/SPRING 2021**

**POL 208 H1S L5101 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Lecture: Wednesday, 10AM-12noon EST

Tutorials: Various times (See Announcements on Quercus site)

**Instructor:** Louis Pauly

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Office hours: Wednesday, 2-4PM EST (By appointment; see course calendar on Quercus site)

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**Overview**

This course provides an orientation to the dynamic and interdisciplinary field of international relations. It aims to encourage a critical understanding of the politics and policies shaping a rapidly changing global system. The course combines history and theory as it examines global conflict and cooperation in both security and economic arenas, the evolution of global governing authority, and the ethical and practical challenges of collective action at the system level.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the course is offered remotely. Its central elements are a weekly lecture and tutorial per week. On-line quizzes, tutorial participation, and a writing assignment will determine final grades. (See below for details.) The discussion board on our Quercus site is also open and moderated to encourage dialogue on the themes of the course.

**Textbook**

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, eds. *The Globalization of World Politics*, [Eighth Edition](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. (Paperback version available for purchase from the University of Toronto Bookstore. An e-version is also available on a rental basis at <https://uoftbookstore.vitalsource.com/products/the-globalization-of-world-politics-john-baylis-v9780192559586>)

**Prerequisite**

4.0 credits or 1.0 POL credit

**Exclusions**

POL208Y1/POL208Y5/POLB80H3/POLB81H

### **Assignments, grading, course structure:**

Four of five quizzes (10% each for 40% of final grade); essay topic description (10%; 200 words maximum); completed essay (30%; 1500 words maximum); tutorial attendance and participation (20%).

Course assignments and general communications will be coordinated and managed on a dedicated Quercus site open to all registered students. Assignments will be graded on a scale of 0-100 points and then weighted as specified above in the calculation of final grades. The penalty for unexcused lateness in handing in the essay assignments will be 5 points for each late day.

### **Lectures**

The first hour of each weekly session (Zoom webinar) will be focused on the themes of assigned readings, which should be read ahead of time. The second hour will usually feature a dialogue with guests from around the world.

Students are expected to attend lectures synchronously, if at all possible. To accommodate students in distant time-zones during this unusual year, each lecture will be recorded and placed on our Quercus site for one week from the time of original delivery. They will then be deleted. Thus, asynchronous viewing is permitted but time-limited; it will not be penalized but is not encouraged. All students should keep up with course content on a weekly basis. Power Point slides connected with any lectures will be available on our Quercus site until the end of the term.

Please note that the lectures are proprietary. They should be viewed on our Quercus site and should not be recorded, downloaded or saved. Of course, we all know that anything posted on-line these days can never be considered completely secure. In this regard, please note that the course does cover issues considered sensitive in many countries. Internet connections may be monitored by local authorities, and they are in any case subject to local laws and practices. But by trying to keep our personal communications limited to those enrolled in the course, we hope to facilitate open discussion among ourselves. Take your own notes for future reference, just as you would if the lectures were being delivered in a face-to-face setting. Despite the atypical delivery method, if you keep up with the readings, attend all lectures and tutorials, you will build the same foundation for future courses that you would have built during “normal” times.

### **Tutorials**

Tutorials, synchronous and led by our dedicated team of teaching assistants, are mandatory. They will be held every week for 50 minutes, except for the first and last weeks of the course. They will provide the prime venue for face-to-face interaction in small groups in real-time. Open-minded conversation and respectful debate stimulated by the readings and lectures are expected. TAs will also be offering advice and guidance on the writing assignment. Missing more than two weekly tutorials will have a negative impact on grades, so attendance is key. Active participation will have a positive impact on grades.

### **Quizzes**

The quizzes are short exercises designed to consolidate knowledge as we move quickly through the course. Each quiz will be based on required readings and the content of lectures up to the time it occurs. The quizzes will be open-book. On each of the five days noted below, ten multiple-choice questions will go live on our Quercus site at 1PM EST. You may access them anytime during the following 24 hours, but once they are opened on your personal computer you have only one-hour to complete the ten questions. Readings therefore should be completed ahead of time. The four quizzes with the highest grades will be included in the final grade. No extra credit will be given, but one missed quiz or one quiz with a low grade will therefore not affect final grades. Because of the generous scheduling, there will be no make-up quizzes or other special accommodations. Students

should record the dates of the quizzes in their calendars at the beginning of the course and manage time commitments accordingly.

### Essay

The course writing assignment asks each student to examine a contemporary problem that crosses national borders, the solution of which likely requires deep cooperation among relevant political authorities. Part V in our textbook provides plenty of examples, but others surely exist. (For example, forced migration, food insecurity, rules to guide a fair and open trading system, climate change, terrorist financing, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cross-border financial instability, the external effects of failed states, the insecurity of global communications systems, the prevention of future pandemics.) Students will choose their own topics. A brief note setting out the topic and explaining why it was chosen must be uploaded to our Quercus site on February 3 by 11:59PM EST. Throughout the next two months, research should be done on the topic. On March 31, a completed essay must be uploaded by 11:59PM EST. The essay should provide a brief historical summary of the evolution of the problem to date, and it should then present an argument as to why the problem is so difficult to solve. In so doing, it should make explicit the theoretical approach the writer finds most convincing in supporting that argument. Discussions on how to analyze such problems and write such essays will comprise essential elements of tutorials.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offences and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

### **Writing assistance:**

Students are encouraged to contact the writing centres of the university and in their colleges to help develop writing skills. The centres provide group workshops to help overcome common writing problems, and work individually to help clarify your ideas. Please consult their website for more information: <https://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning/>. In addition, follow this link for a useful overview of the transition to university-level writing assignments: <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/general/transition-to-university/>

### **Accessibility:**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. The Office of Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060 ([accessibility.utoronto.ca](http://accessibility.utoronto.ca)) is in place to assist. Please note again, however, that since the quizzes in this course are open-book, available for a 24-hour period, and designed to accommodate the unusual personal and geographic circumstances of all students during this unusual year, no special quiz accommodations will be available. They must be completed during the times scheduled below.

### **Email:**

This class is very large and it will be challenging to respond in a timely fashion to emails. Before emailing teaching assistants or the instructor, please do the following:

- Use the Quercus discussion boards to communicate with each other, as you might be able to help one another answer common questions.
- Reach out first to your assigned TA, who is there to help and will get to know you during tutorials.
- Post questions relevant to weekly lectures and conversations on-line during our time together.

- Reach out to the head TA, William O'Connell, if you are having problems that can't be handled by your assigned TA; include the course code (POL208) in the subject heading.
- If you still need to email the instructor directly, please do the following:
- Include the course code (POL208) in the email subject heading;
  - Write from your University of Toronto email account;
  - Treat emails as a professional form of communication;
  - Keep messages succinct and focused on clear questions.

### **Grade appeals:**

Quizzes will mainly assess factual knowledge. Grading appeals are not anticipated. The essay requires clear prose, a convincing argument, and demonstrated understanding of relevant history and politics associated with the topic chosen. All grading will be carried out by the assigned TAs under common rules set by the instructor. Very limited grounds for appeal will exist. If students nevertheless wish to appeal a grade, they must first request that their assigned TA re-mark their work. In making such a request, they must include a short paragraph identifying how and why they think the grade received did not accurately evaluate the work submitted. (Be aware that marks may go either up or down during the appeal process.) If, subsequent to that first appeal, students remain convinced that the mark is incorrect, they may appeal to the Head TA, William O'Connell. Appeals must include: 1) the originally submitted work 2) the original comments on the work, any appeal comments, and 3) a short paragraph explaining why the work merits a higher mark. The head TA will consult with the instructor. (Once again, be aware that final marks could go either up or down as a result of any appeal.)

### **Readings and other assignments:**

All required readings will come directly from our textbook. (Baylis, Smith, and Owens, eds. *The Globalization of World Politics*. See above.) Weekly required assignments are marked with an asterisk\* below. Supplementary (but not required) readings and video recommendations are also occasionally noted. Consult our Quercus site regularly during the term for other recommendations.

Again, we will be covering a lot of ground in a relatively short time—and under the challenging circumstances posed by the pandemic. The readings, lectures, and tutorials will provide each student with the same substantive background they would receive if the course were being offered in-person. Alas, the extra value and extra incentive that comes from personal interaction is unavoidably missing. So, students are well advised to exercise an extra bit of self-discipline in devoting a couple of quiet hours per week to completing the reading assignments carefully and in advance of the weekly lectures, to looking over supplementary materials, and to interacting with one another in tutorials. Students are also encouraged to organize small, informal study groups among themselves. Note, however, that the quizzes and essay assignments are expected to be competed individually.

For additional reading of direct relevance to the course, the following books are recommended.

Margaret MacMillan, *War: How Conflict Shaped Us*, Random House, 2020.

Kathryn Lavelle, *The Challenges of Multilateralism*, Yale, 2020.

Amrita Narlikar, *Poverty Narratives and Power Paradoxes in International Trade Negotiations and Beyond*, Cambridge, 2020

Christian Reus-Smit, *International Relations: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, 2020.

Thomas Homer-Dixon, *Commanding Hope: The Power We Have to Renew a World in Peril*, Knopf Canada, 2020.

Jon R. Lindsay, *Information Technology and Military Power*, Cornell, 2020.

Igor Shoikhedbrod, *Revisiting Marx's Critique of Liberalism: Rethinking Justice, Legality and Rights*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.

Amy Verdun et al., eds., *European Union Governance and Policy Making: A Canadian Perspective*, University of Toronto, 2018.

Norrin Ripsman et al., *Neoclassical Realist Theory of International Politics*, Oxford, 2016.

Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: The History of an Idea*, Penguin, 2012.

Alan Alexandroff, ed. *Can the World Be Governed? Possibilities for Effective Multilateralism*, Wilfrid Laurier, 2008.

Edgar Grande and Louis Pauly, eds. *Complex Sovereignty: Reconstituting Political Authority in the Twenty-First Century*, University of Toronto, 2007.

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## **Course Calendar**

### **January 13: Introduction**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Introduction and Chapter 1.

### **January 20: Historical context**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapters 2 and 3.

Watch a film on World War I. Among the possibilities: *They Shall Not Grow Old*; *The Somme*; *Paths of Glory*; *All Quiet on the Western Front*; *1917*; *World War I (BBC)*.

### **January 27: Contemporary setting**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapters 4 and 5.

Watch the videos and read the text at <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/the-holocaust>

### **FIRST QUIZ**

### **February 3: Theoretical frameworks**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapters 6, 8, and 12.

Watch a film on nuclear weapons and their implications, like *White Light/Black Rain*; *The Bomb*; *Resan*; *Command and Control*; *Trinity and Beyond*.

### **ESSAY TOPIC NOTE DUE**

## **February 10: Critical perspectives**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapters 7, 9, 10, and 11.

### **SECOND QUIZ**

## **February 24: The problem of war**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapter 13, 14, 15.

## **March 3: A global economy and its implications**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapters 16, 17, 18.

Watch a film on the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, like "Panic"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QozGSS7QY\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QozGSS7QY_U), "Inside Job," or "Too Big to Fail."

### **THIRD QUIZ**

## **March 10: International law and organization**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapter 19, 20.

## **March 17: World society and its governance**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapters 21, 22.

### **FOURTH QUIZ**

## **March 24: Nationalism and regionalism**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapters 30 and 23.

## **March 31: Global environmental and economic challenges**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapters 24, 25, 26, 27.

Watch a documentary on the problem of climate change like: *True North; An Inconvenient Truth; The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour; Before the Flood; Chasing Ice.*

### **COMPLETED ESSAY DUE**

## **April 7: Global security, human security, and political authority**

\*Baylis, Smith and Owens, Chapters 28, 29, 31, 32.

### **FIFTH QUIZ**