

POL 208: Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2021

Mondays 10-12

Professor Seva Gunitsky

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

Readings: All the required readings will be posted online on Quercus. No other materials are necessary for the course. Completing the readings ahead of time will be crucial both for understanding the lectures and for your participation in the tutorials.

Tutorial Instructors: In general, the TA assigned to your tutorial is your first point of contact for any questions regarding course logistics, assignments, missing work, requests for re-grade, general concerns, and any other administrative matters. The head TA, Dafe Oputu (dafe.oputu@mail.utoronto.ca) will also be available to help with these questions when necessary.

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: You will be evaluated on the basis of a 3-page essay, your participation in tutorial, and a final exam. The breakdown of your course grade is as follows:

Short Essay (due Week 9):	25%
Tutorials:	15%
Final Exam:	60%

Short Essay: A 3-page essay on a prompt that will be provided to you later in the semester. (Double-spaced, size 12 font, 1 inch margins).

Final Exam: the exam will be online only. More information about the final exam will be provided later in the semester.

Tutorials: Tutorials will meet beginning Week 2. There are no tutorials in Weeks 1 and 7. Your grade in tutorial is based on attendance (5%), participation (5%), and a 2-3-page reading response (5%, due by Week 7.)

Tutorial attendance: Your tutorial leader will discuss course themes and answer questions dealing with the readings and lectures. Tutorial attendance is therefore crucial to your success in this course. Each unrecorded absence (see next section) will decrease your attendance mark by 2.5%, so missing two or more tutorials without recording your absence

on ACORN will result in an attendance mark of zero. It will also negatively impact your participation mark (subject to the TA's discretion) and your ability to successfully answer questions on the final exam. So don't miss tutorials if you can help it!

Absences and Illness Verification for Tutorials: For 2021-22, the Verification of Illness form (or "doctor's note") is not required. Students who are absent from academic participation for any reason (e.g., COVID, cold, flu and other illness or injury, family situation) and who require consideration for missed academic work have been asked to record their absence through the ACORN online absence declaration. The absence declaration is considered sufficient documentation to indicate an absence and no additional information or documentation should be required when seeking consideration from an instructor. Students should also advise their instructor of their absence. Instructors can contact their Undergraduate Administrators if they have questions or would like confirmation for a particular student.

Laptops and cellphones (in-person only): 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. Certainly no videos or other uses of the laptop that will *distract the students around you*. The TAs will ask you to move or leave if your behavior is rude or distracting. If you use phones for taking notes, 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>.

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:

See www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize.

Course Outline

Week 1 — Sep 13. Introduction.

No tutorials this week.

Week 2 — Sep 20. Global Politics and ‘Human Nature’.

Week 3 — Sep 27. Realism and Liberalism.

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

[October 11 – no class, Thanksgiving break]

Week 5 — Oct 18. Political Culture and Nationalism.

Week 6 — Oct 25. The Evolution of the Global Order.

Week 7 — Nov 1. Urban Governance and IR. Intergovernmental Organizations and Climate Change. Information Warfare.

[November 6 – no class, reading week]

Week 8 — Nov 15. The Nuclear Revolution.

Week 9 — Nov 22. Domestic Theories of Global Politics.

Week 10 — Nov 29. From the Global to the Local.

Week 11 — Dec 6. New Challenges in Global Politics.

Readings

Week 2 — Sep 20. Global Politics and ‘Human Nature’

- Steven Pinker (2007) “A History of Violence” *The New Republic*, March 19 [5p]
- 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 27. Realism and Liberalism

- Philip Ball (2006) “Raising Leviathan: The Brutish World of Thomas Hobbes,” pp. 23-29 and “Order in Eden: Learning to Cooperate,” pp. 410-428 in *Critical Mass: How One Thing Leads to Another*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
- Robert Axelrod (1984) “The Live-and-Let-Live System in Trench Warfare in World War I” in *The Evolution of Cooperation*. Basic Books, p.73-87.
- Ikenberry, G. John, ‘Liberal Internationalism 3.0’, *Perspectives on Politics* 7.1 (2009): 71-87.
- play around with <http://ncase.me/trust/>

Week 4 — October 4. The Rise of the State

- Selections from Robert Bates (2001) *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. 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]
- Krasner, Stephen D. (1999) *Sovereignty: Organized hypocrisy*. Princeton University Press, Ch. 1, page 1-25 [26p]
- Joshua Keating (2020) *The Decline of the Nation-State*, Slate, April 29

Week 5 — October 18. 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 — October 25. The Evolution of the Global Order

- G. John Ikenberry, “The Myth of Post-Cold War Chaos” *Foreign Affairs*, May 1996 [5p]
- John Mueller (1989) “The Obsolescence of Major War”, p.146-157 in Richard Betts, ed., *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, 2nd edition, Pearson Longman [10p]
- Jeff Colgan (2019) “Three Visions of International Order.” *The Washington Quarterly* 42(2)
- Tanisha Fazal and Paul Poast (2019) *War is Not Over*. Foreign Affairs Sep/Oct 2019

Week 7 — November 1. Urban Governance and IR. Intergovernmental Organizations and Climate Change. Information Warfare.

Readings TBD. No tutorials this week.

Week 8 — November 15. The Nuclear Revolution

- Thomas Schelling (2005) Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech [11p]
- Kenneth Waltz (2012) “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb” *Foreign Affairs* July/August 2012, p.2-5 [4p]
- Eric Schlosser (2013) *Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, The Damascus Incident, and the Illusion of Safety*. New York: Penguin. Pages 167-72, 192-93 [8p]
- John Harris and Bryan Bender (2017) “Bill Perry is Terrified. Why Aren’t You?” *Politico*, January 6 [14p]
- Nina Tannenwald (2018) “How Strong is the Nuclear Taboo Today?” *The Washington Quarterly* 41:3

Week 9 — November 22. Domestic Theories of International Politics

- Erich Maria Remarque (1929) *All Quiet on the Western Front*, p.220-27 [8p]
- Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder (1995) “Democratization and War” *Foreign Affairs* 74.3, p.79-97 [19p]
- Matthew White (2005) “Democracies Do Not Make War on One Another...or Do They?” [16p]
- Azar Gat (2005) Selections from “The Democratic Peace Theory Reframed: The Impact of Modernity” *World Politics* 58.1, p.73-88, 97-100 [20p]
- Rachel Kleinfeld (2020) *Do Authoritarian or Democratic Countries Handle Pandemics Better?* Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 31

Week 10 — November 29. From the Global to the Local.

- Samuel Huntington (1991) Selections from “Democracy’s Third Wave”, *Journal of Democracy*, p.1-16 [16p]
- Lucan Way (2011) “The Lessons of 1989.” *Journal of Democracy* 22(4):17-27 [9p]
- Seva Gunitsky (2017) Selections from *Aftershocks: Great Powers and Domestic Reforms in the Twentieth Century*

Week 11 — December 6. New Challenges in Global Politics

- Selections from “Out of Order? The Future of the International System.” *Foreign Affairs* January 2017. (16p)
- Fareed Zakaria (2019) “The Self-Destruction of American Power” *Foreign Affairs*
- Joshua Busby (2019) “A Warming World.” *Foreign Affairs*
- Ron Deibert (2019) “The Road to Digital Unfreedom” *Journal of Democracy*