Introduction to International Relations POL208
University of Toronto
January 11-April 4, 2024
Thursdays, 5-7 PM, ES1050

Dr. Madison Schramm
Madison.schramm@utoronto.ca

TAs:
TaruneeK Kapoor: taruneeK.kapoor@mail.utoronto.ca
TUT0101 Day/Time Monday 2:00 PM - 3:00
TUT0201 Day/Time Monday 3:00 PM - 4:00

Dafe Oputu: dafe.oputu@mail.utoronto.ca
TUT5102 Day/Time Thursday 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
TUT0602 Day/Time Friday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Roberta Rosania Gerevasi: roberta.rosaniagerevasi@mail.utoronto.ca
TUT0301 Day/Time Friday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
TUT0401 Day/Time Friday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Carley Chavara: carley.chavara@mail.utoronto.ca
TUT0302 Day/Time Friday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
TUT0402 Day/Time Friday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
TUT0502 Day/Time Friday 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Cheng Xu: cheng.xu@mail.utoronto.ca
TUT5101 Day/Time Thursday 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
TUT0601 Day/Time Friday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Gabriel Mimoune: gabriel.mimoune@mail.utoronto.ca
TUT0501 Day/Time Friday 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
TUT0102 Day/Time Monday 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
TUT0202 Day/Time Monday 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Course Description
This course will introduce students to major theories and debates in International
Relations. The class is designed to cover diverse theoretical traditions within the discipline and the implications of these theories for topics such as international political economy and nuclear politics. The focus will be on theoretical arguments and their underlying logic, designed to help students better understand the world we live in and provide them with the tools for analyzing various international events. Our discussions will be guided by and grounded in understanding how these theoretical frames can help us understand the ongoing war in Ukraine. By the end of the term, students should have the intellectual building blocks to understand, criticize, and apply these (and other) theories of International Relations.

Learning Objectives
• Identify tensions and commonalities between theories of IR
• Identify levels of analysis between theories and topics
• Synthesize theories and apply to contemporary challenges facing the world
• Learn how to read arguments thoroughly and thoughtfully
• Discuss what theories appeal to them and which ones challenge their views

STATEMENT ON ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LAND
This course takes place on land that has been in relation with Indigenous people and societies since time immemorial. The Elders Circle of the University of Toronto has provided the following statement on acknowledgement of traditional land: We would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit. The territory was the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

Revised by the Elders Circle (Council of Aboriginal Initiatives) on November 6, 2014. Available at: https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/fnh

Requirements
Readings
Students must complete all required readings before the lecture and tutorial. All required readings will be available to students on Quercus. In addition to the assigned readings, students are greatly encouraged to read coverage of the ongoing war in Ukraine in a major international news organizations such as the BBC, the Guardian, the New York Times.

Attendance and Participation (15%)
Tutorials will meet beginning in week 3. Attendance and active participation in all tutorials is required. In tutorial, your TA 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 participation mark and your ability to successfully answer questions on the final exam. There are no tutorials in weeks 1, 2, 8, and 11.

*Reading Quizzes (20%: 2 in total):* *Wednesday 9:00 am, February 7 and March 13*

Students must complete 2 reading quizzes throughout the semester posted Wednesday at 7 AM, February 7 and March 13 via Quercus for a 15-hour period (Between Wednesday 7 AM and 11:59 PM). Quizzes are open book and should take no more than 30 minutes. Students must take quizzes independently and are not allowed to work together. Students are responsible for tracking deadlines, and requirements, and confirming submission of assignments.

*Questions (5%):* *Due Wednesday, February 14, by 9 AM*

Students will be required to submit 2-3 questions related to the course content. Are there any readings that students would like to discuss further? Are there any outstanding questions regarding the theoretical frameworks and concepts? Are there remaining empirical questions? More details to follow. Students are responsible for tracking deadlines, requirements, and confirming submission of assignments.

*Short Response Paper (30%):* *Due Monday February 26 by 9 AM*

Students will be asked to describe and analyze the applicability of two of the three following theoretical lenses: Constructivism, Realism, and Liberalism to the movie *Arrival*. Detailed directions to follow. (Plagiarism or other acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. See full statement below) Students are responsible for tracking deadlines, requirements, and confirming submission of assignments.

*Final Exam (30%):* *Examination period, date TBA*

The final exam will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, and 3-4 short answer questions, and will cover material from throughout the semester.

**Late Assignments**

Late work (without a granted extension) will be reduced by 5 percentage points for every day late. Students will only be granted extensions with documentation and under extenuating circumstances. Other coursework and other forseen circumstances are not grounds for an extension.

Students requesting an extension after the deadline are required to have their registrar contact their TA and confirm the need. Students will not be granted an extension requested more than two weeks after the deadline under any circumstances.

**Appeals and Re-Grading Policy**

The first thing to do is to wait. The TA will not discuss your assignment for at least 48 hours after the assignment has been returned to you. Your TA is your first point of contact. Since your TA marked your assignment in the first place, it is only fair to have them explain why you received the mark you did. If you are not satisfied with their explanation as to why you received the grade you did, you may ask them to re-grade your paper. Be aware, however, that this does not guarantee your mark will be raised. It could go up, down, or remain the same.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Submitted through</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial attendance and participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Throughout semester</td>
<td>In person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Wednesday, February 14 by 9:00 am,</td>
<td>Via Quercus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Quizzes (1)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Posted Wednesday 9:00 am, February 7 and March 13</td>
<td>Via Quercus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Response Paper</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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**Course Policies and Procedures:** This course will use Quercus to disseminate all course-related information and assignments. It is your responsibility to log on to Quercus regularly and obtain relevant information. All written assignments must be submitted through Quercus.

**Communication Information**
You are responsible for checking Quercus and your UofT e-mail regularly. Your TA is your point of contact for all questions related to the course, including queries about course material, requests for extensions, and accommodations. When corresponding by e-mail, please put “Introduction to International Relations” at the beginning of the subject line, followed by the subject of your e-mail (for example: “Introduction to International Relations: Question about Feminist Theory”). The TA will not respond to emails over the weekend or after 5PM during weekdays. Unless an emergency, responses will take 48-72 hours.

**Accessibility**
Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please contact Accessibility Services at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca.
http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/contact-us

**Academic Integrity**
Please refer to the Seven Grandfathers of Academic Integrity:
https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/wpcontent/uploads/Seven_Grandfathers_in_Academic_Integrity.pdf

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

**Use of Artificial Intelligence** (ChatGPT, GitHub Copilot, and open-source models that you have trained and/or deployed yourself.)

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools is strictly prohibited in all course assessments unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor. This includes, but is not limited to...
to, ChatGPT, GitHub Copilot, and open-source models that you have trained and/or deployed yourself. You may not interact with, nor copy, paraphrase, or adapt any content from any generative AI for the purpose of completing assignments in this course. Use of generative AI will be considered use of an unauthorized aid, which is a form of academic misconduct under the Code of Behavior on Academic Matters.

This course policy is designed to promote your learning and intellectual development and to ensure that our evaluations are a fair and accurate assessment of your learning. You should aim to understand course content at a level that far exceeds what an automated tool can achieve. Our course—and in particular, each assignment—is designed to help you attain true mastery of the course content.

The University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) 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. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information from me or other available campus resources: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University’s plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (https://uoft.me/pdt-faq). You may opt out of this tool by contacting the instructor as early as possible in the semester to make alternative arrangements. Writing Centres:
http://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/ Academic Success:
http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc How not to Plagiarize:
http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize/ RESOURCES Writing

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Support
Students can visit www.writing.utoronto.ca for information and advice on all aspects of academic writing. Students are encouraged to make use of the college writing centers for individualized consultations on their written assignments. Interested students should book their appointments with the writing centers early, as they fill up fast. Information about the writing centers is available at http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-andscience. Students
can also take advantage of the Library’s free “Writing Plus” academic skills workshop series, described at http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus. International students can find information about the English Language Learning program (ELL), which includes practice opportunities for improving oral communication and critical reading skills, at http://www.artscl.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell. Registrar Support: Students are encouraged to contact their registrar promptly if they experience unexpected challenges during the course that may require accommodations.

Health and Wellness:
Students can access a wide range of programs and services to support their health and wellbeing. Many of these programs are listed at: https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/

Crisis Support:
Students in distress can access a range of free crisis lines available from the University of Toronto and the City of Toronto, as listed below:
• University of Toronto: https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/support-when-you-feel-distressed/

Most of these crisis lines are available 24 hours a day and some address specific problems that students may be experiencing. Immediate assistance is available as follows:
• My SSP for University of Toronto Students: 1-844-451-9700.
• Good 2 Talk Student Helpline: 1-866-925-5454
• Gerstein Crisis Centre: 416-929-5200
• Distress Centres of Greater Toronto: 416-408-HELP (4357)
• The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH): 250 College Street (walk-in)

You are not alone: please get help if you’re experiencing difficulties or are in distress.

Reading and Schedule


2. January 18: Key terms and Concepts [No Tutorial]
Reus-Smit, Christian, and Duncan Snidal, eds. The Oxford handbook of international
relations. Oxford University Press, 2008 Chapter 2 “The State and International Relations”


Recommended

I. Theoretical Traditions


Recommended


4. February 1: Liberalism [Recorded Lecture via Quercus Module]


Bell, Duncan. "What is liberalism?." Political theory 42.6 (2014): 682-715.


Recommended


Reading Quiz Wednesday, February 7

5. February 8: Rationalist Theories and Psychological Approaches


Stein, Janice Gross. "Building politics into psychology: The misperception of threat."
Political psychology (1988): 245-271


Recommended


Questions Due via Quercus, Wednesday, February 13, 9:00 AM

6. February 15: Constructivism


Recommended


NO CLASS Reading Week
Paper Due Monday, February 26, 9:00 AM via Quercus

II. Theoretical Traditions: Whose IR?

7. February 29 Feminist Theory


8. March 7: Hierarchy and the Global South (Guest Lecture) [No Tutorial]


**Reading Quiz Wednesday, March 13**

**9. March 14: Race and IR**


**Recommended**


**IV. Select Subfields and Topics**

**10. March 21: Great Power Competition**


**11. March 28: IPE [No Tutorial]**
Strange, Susan. "The persistent myth of lost hegemony." *International organization*


12. April 5: Civil War and Insurgency


Recommended:


Final Exam TBD