PSCI 281: World Politics
Spring 2017
Tuesdays 2:30-4:20 RCH 309

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Ettinger
Email Address: aaron.ettinger@uwaterloo.ca
Office Location: Hagey Hall 348
Office Hours: Mondays 3-5pm, or by appointment
Teaching Assistants: Peter Augustinavicius paugustinavicius@uwaterloo.ca
Zahra Rizvi zhrizvi@uwaterloo.ca
TA Offices: Hagey Hall 346; times TBD

***Reading list begins on page 6***

Contact Policy
The best way to communicate with me is by email at the address listed above. I do my best to answer all queries within 24 hours. When you send an email please observe some common-sense rules of email etiquette. Always include “PSCI 281” in the subject line; begin the message with a greeting and sign off with your own name. Use your uwaterloo email address to prevent your message from going to the junk folder. Regarding office hours, I have a general open door policy and you may drop in anytime, though forewarning would help. I also hold formal office hours. Your TAs are also available for consultation based on their own office hours and email policies.

Course Description
PSCI 281 is a survey of major theories in the discipline of International Relations. It is designed to familiarize students with issues and approaches that are essential to understanding and explaining world politics. Major themes will arise including war and peace, national security, the structure of anarchy, the role of the state, international institutions, identity formation, exploitation, gender and race, and international ethics. As a second-year course, PSCI 281 builds the analytical skills required for more advanced studies of world politics, security studies, globalization, foreign policy and geographical area studies. The course will follow two parallel tracks. First, as an introduction to the discipline, PSCI 281 examines the major theoretical traditions that define the way world politics is perceived and the way policy is written. The major theories are realism, liberalism, Marxism, neo-liberalism, neo-realism, social constructivism, feminism, post-colonialism, post-structuralism, and international ethics. Within each theoretical tradition, the course will analyze their central concerns, core assumptions, conceptual tools and the policy prescriptions they entail. Accordingly, students will read classic and contemporary works of IR theory alongside a traditional textbook. Second, PSCI 281 will track the evolution of IR theory alongside a history of world politics in the twentieth century. As we will discuss,
academic theory has always evolved in response to world events. Therefore, this course will also provide a history of world politics and a history of academic IR in the twentieth century.

**Prerequisites**
Prerequisites include any one of INTS 101, PSCI 100; or PSCI 150.

**Expectations**
(1) *Come to class*: A university education is a privilege and tutorial discussions can be illuminating. More instrumentally, the world is run by those who show up. Wise students will attend all classes. It’s as simple as that.

(2) *Keep up with your work*: I expect you to attend class having read the assigned material. Assignments must be submitted by the time and date indicated. As always, late penalties will apply. A list of key dates appears on the final page of this syllabus.

**Course Objectives:**
By the end of this twelve-week course, students will be able to:

(1) Identify and explain the main theories of International Relations  
(2) Apply International Relations theories to a real-world topic  
(3) Research and write clearly on a contemporary topic in world politics  
(4) Speak confidently in tutorials about International Relations theory and world politics

**Texts**
There is one required text for this course:


New and used copies of the textbook are available at the UW book store. This text has also been used in previous versions of this course so there should be many used copies for sale. NOTE: I am working from the 6th edition of this book (the green cover) so do not buy another edition. Additional required readings will be posted to LEARN.
Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Nine meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>June 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>July 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>July 28-August 11</td>
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</table>

10%  Tutorials

Students will meet nine times with a teaching assistant for structured tutorials. The purpose of the tutorial is to discuss readings and lecture material, and to work through ideas for the research paper. The schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIS 101 and 104</th>
<th>DIS 102 and 103</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 8</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 15</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 16</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>No Tutorial May 22</em></td>
<td><em>No Tutorial May 23</em></td>
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<td>Monday, May 29</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 30</td>
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<td>Monday, June 5</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 6</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>No Tutorial June 12</em></td>
<td><em>No Tutorial June 13</em></td>
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<td>Monday, June 19</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 20</td>
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<td>Monday, June 26</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 27</td>
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<td>Monday, July 3</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 10</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 11</td>
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<td>Monday, July 7</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 18</td>
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20%  Midterm Exam

A midterm exam will be written in-class on Tuesday, June 13. It will cover the IR theories discussed in the first five weeks of lectures. The exam will consist of two essay questions and multiple choice. All material will be derived from readings and lectures.

35%  Final Exam

A final exam will be held during the scheduled exam period July 28-August 11. It will be a cumulative exam in which you will write two essay questions and answer multiple choice questions.

35%  Research Essay – 1700-2000 words – due July 21 at 11:59pm

In this research paper, you will apply international relations theory to world politics. You will undertake research on an issue-area in world politics and use *one IR theory from the course* to explain that issue-area. Your paper will be organized around the following questions:

How does [theory] explain [issue area]? What does it tell us about the issue-area?

This research paper is analytical and argumentative. It is argumentative because you are making a distinctive claim about a set of facts. Your paper must offer a thesis that synthesizes the facts of
your case in a way that allows you to arrive at a general conclusion about the case. More colloquially, your paper must be able to forward a thesis statement that answers “so what?” It is analytical because you will apply the conceptual tools of your chosen IR theory to explain a real-world issue.

To get started, you much choose a theory that you find appealing and a topic you find interesting.

**Which topic?** Use the textbook chapters 22-31 for ideas. If you wish to write a paper on a topic not in these chapters, it must be approved by Dr. Ettinger.

**Which theory?** You may select according to your interests though, as you will learn, some theories are more suitable for explaining certain topics.

**How should this paper be organized?** One third should be spend explaining the relevant theory. The rest should be spent explaining your issue area.

**What makes a good paper?** A logical and clear use of theoretical concepts to explain your issue-area, and an insightful answer to “so what?”

**How should the paper be researched?** To develop your knowledge about the issue-area, you must undertake outside research including academic and non-academic sources. Academic sources are books published by university presses and peer-reviewed journals that maintain high standards for publication. These are the gold standard for scholarly research and the most reliable sources of information for university-level research. The library search function is an excellent place to start and its results page indicate peer reviewed sources. Google Scholar is also highly effective at searching for academic work. There are quality non-academic sources out there as well, including policy reports from reputable organizations, government documents, newspapers and periodicals. As you all know, the internet is a swamp of bad information. Avoid sources that maintain no editorial standard for publication.

**How many sources do I need for the paper?** You need as many sources as is necessary to make your point. There is no magic number but I would say if you have under five sources, then you haven’t worked hard enough. You should also know that is no virtue in meeting the bare minimum. The more widely you read, the more intelligent your work will be. The more intelligent your work, the happier I will be. I’m sure you’d like me to be in a good mood when I read your work, right?

**Do I need a bibliography?** Yes. Always. If you are unsure about how to organize your bibliography, consult the back of the textbook for examples of how to do it right.

**What citation style?** Use in-text citations that look like this (Last Name Year: page number). The last name corresponds to the bibliography entry. If you are used to footnotes or some other style, I don’t care. You’ll need to get used to this style for this course.

**I'm terrified of plagiarism. How much should I cite?** Learning how to cite properly is a skill that takes practice. As a rule, always cite facts and figures that you’ve come across, arguments that are made by other people, and direct quotations. Stringing together a bunch of other peoples’ ideas is not research, it’s pantomime. If you discover that you are citing the same person’s name every sentence or so, then you are substituting someone else’s thinking for your own. This will not get good grades. The best papers are the
ones that reflect your own analytical thinking, supported where necessary and appropriate by the research of others.

**Can I use quotations?** Yes, but not as a substitute for your own thinking. You may borrow ideas from others as long as you paraphrase and then credit the original author.

**Can I use block quotations?** Rarely and only when it is worth quoting at length. Otherwise summarize the passage and cite the source properly. In a paper of limited length, you should not waste words repeating what someone else says. I want to know what you think.

**Can I cite the slides?** Fine but if your research consists mostly of my work, then you have not done enough research. Check the notes section under the slide for the sourcing of the material that appears on screen.

**Other style requests from your professor:**

*Font* – Times New Roman (anything else will drive me nuts)

*Font size* – 12-point font (thank you)

*Margins* – 2.54 cm / 1 inch margins

*Page numbers* – beginning on the first page of text, not the title page

*Headings* – Yes, you can use headings and subheadings in your submitted work.

**Late Policy:**

**Research paper is due** July 21 at 11:59pm on LEARN. Papers submitted after the deadline will be assessed 8% for the first day and 3% for every day thereafter. Extensions may be granted only with justifiable reason. Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting extensions.

**Grade Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>% Range</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>% Range</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>F+</td>
<td>42-49</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>35-41</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>62</td>
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**Schedule of Topics:**

*Week 1: Tuesday, May 2: Introductions and the Making of “World” Politics (14~ pages)*
Week 2: Tuesday, May 9: Realism (33 pages)

Tim Dunne and Brian C. Schmidt. “Realism” in Baylis, Smith and Owens, Ch. 6. Pp 99-112.


Len Scott, “International History 1900-90” in Baylis, Smith and Owens, Ch. 3. pp. 50-65.

Tutorial discussion: Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of world politics?

Week 3: Tuesday, May 16: Liberalism (24 pages)

Tim Dunne, “Liberalism” in Baylis, Smith and Owens, Ch. 7. 113-125.


Tutorial discussion: Realism versus Liberalism? Which is more appealing?

Tuesday, May 23: No Lecture or tutorials this week

Week 4: Tuesday, May 30: Marxism (40 pages)


Continues on the following page...


Tutorial discussion: Is world politics inherently exploitative?
Week 5: Tuesday, June 6: English School (31 pages)


*Tutorial discussion: Why does Canada do what it does in world affairs?*

Week 6: Tuesday, June 13: ***Midterm Exam***

*No Tutorials this week*

Week 7: Tuesday, June 20: Neo-Liberalism and Neo-Realism (28 pages)


*Tutorial discussion: Should we be enthusiastic or skeptical about global governance?*

Week 8: Tuesday, June 27: Social Constructivism in IR (27 pages)


*Tutorial discussion: What are the social constructs in your life? What assumptions about the world change when they are seen as socially constructed?*

Week 9: Tuesday, July 4: Feminist IR (30~ pages)


Tutorial discussion: What would world politics be like without patriarchy?


Week 10: Tuesday, July 11: Post-Colonialism (29 pages)


Tutorial discussion: Is world politics racist?

Week 11: Tuesday, July 18: Post-Structuralism (33 pages)


Tutorial discussion: Essay workshop

***Friday, July 21: Research Paper Due at 11:59pm***

Week 12: Tuesday, July 25: Globalization and World Politics in the 21st Century (28 pages)


University Regulations

Academic Integrity
Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.
Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,


Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, Student Petitions http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult Student Grievances http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, Student Appeals http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): Academic Integrity http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): Academic Integrity Office http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you need to request special accommodation, please communicate with me as soon as possible. This way we can arrange for the proper arrangements with little disruption.

**Key Dates in this Course:**

**Week 1 – Tuesday, May 2:** The Making of “World” Politics

**Week 2 – Tuesday, May 9:** Realism

**Week 3 – Tuesday, May 16:** Liberalism
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time/Week</th>
<th>Events/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 23</td>
<td>No Class, Monday schedule moved to Tues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 – Tuesday, May 30</td>
<td>Marxism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 – Tuesday, June 6</td>
<td>English School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 – Tuesday, June 13</td>
<td>Midterm Exam, no tutorials this week</td>
</tr>
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<td>Week 12 – Tuesday, July 25</td>
<td>International Ethics and 21st Century World Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28-August 11</td>
<td>Final Exam schedule</td>
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