

PSCI 281: World Politics
University of Waterloo
Fall 2012
Monday & Wednesday, 12:30-13:20
PAS 2083

Tutorials:
DIS 101 09:30-10:20F RCH 106
DIS 102 09:30-10:20F RCH 209
DIS 103 10:30-11:20F RCH 209
DIS 104 10:30-11:20F HH139

****Syllabus subject to change up to the first day of classes. Most up-to-date copy posted to D2L website*****

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Office: HH 312

Office Hours: Monday, 2-3pm; Wednesday, 1-3pm.

Contact Policy: The best way to contact me is by email or to come to office hours.

Pre-Requisites: PSCI 101 or 110 strongly recommended.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the question, concepts, theories and ideas that inform the discipline of international relations. We make extensive use of case studies, current events, and simulations to study what motivates states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and even individuals to behave the way they do in the international arena. We use the themes of power, ethics, identity, and conflict to help understand world politics, and touch on issue areas including war, colonialism, trade, religion, protest, and the environment.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Explain the basics of theories of international relations, and use them to analyse contemporary issues
- Locate most of the countries of the world on a map
- Write an informed op-ed about a contemporary global issue, and revise it on deadline
- Write, and correctly reference, a two-page persuasive memo, and revise it on deadline
- Orally brief a superior, and respond articulately to questions, and provide a copy of that briefing in writing.
- Engage in informed debate with colleagues

The Fine Print

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>.

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin (portions of this section are adapted from David Welch).

All assignments in this course will be submitted using Turnitin software. The University requires that the following statement be listed on the syllabus of all courses using Turnitin software:

Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment

screened by Turnitin. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Why use Turnitin?

While I do use Turnitin to monitor plagiarism (your paper is likely to get a second read-through if you have a particularly high percentage of duplicated sentences – but note that a high score does not necessarily mean plagiarism), the more important reason is to allow you to check your citations before you submit a paper. Turnitin generates an “originality report” which compares your paper to a database which includes published material and other student papers. Incorrect citation is the single biggest Academic Integrity problem I run into, and using Turnitin helps to combat that *before* you hand in the paper so you don’t lose marks and you aren’t accused of plagiarism. If you hand in papers with incorrect citations, you are likely to get an invitation to a friendly citation lesson from your T.A.

Legal & Ethical Considerations

If you choose not to use Turnitin: the instructor or your TA will administer a 15-minute oral examination based on your paper. The oral exam must be scheduled *before* the due date of the assignment, but will be held at the instructor’s convenience. If you choose not to use Turnitin, your assignments must be submitted to Dr. Kitchen’s dropbox by the time indicated on the assignment. If you submit a paper on the due date but after the due time, it will usually be marked as submitted the following morning. If you submit an assignment on a weekend, email me a copy of the assignment and at the same time, put a copy in my drop box. *If and only if* I find a copy in my box Monday morning, *and* it corresponds exactly to the emailed copy, I will mark the assignment as submitted at the time and day I receive the email. For assignments submitted by email or on D2L, you are responsible for ensuring that files are uncorrupted and submitted as a .pdf document.

Here are some things you might consider when making your decision:

1. Turnitin’s servers reside in Montreal, which means retrieval of information held on them is subject to Canadian law, but not American law (ie, the Patriot Act).
2. You retain copyright of your assignments.
3. Your assignments are added to a database *internal to the University of Waterloo*. That means your paper is kept indefinitely, but *only other UW papers will be compared to it*. For instance, Turnitin will be able to check next year’s PSCI 281 assignments against this year’s assignments, but professors teaching courses at other universities will not be able to compare their student papers to your paper.
4. Turnitin is a for-profit enterprise that makes money by maintaining a large database of published and student papers and charging a fee to Universities to use the plagiarism detection service. You don’t get a royalty for submitting your written work to their database. However, you do get the benefit of the citation-checking service.

Evaluation

Please see the course website for details of all assignments.

Map Quizzes 0%

Most tutorials will begin with a 10-minute map quiz featuring a random region of the world. These quizzes are not marked, and collaboration and other forms of “cheating” are encouraged. The blank quizzes (and the answer keys) are posted on the class website.

Tutorial Participation 10%

Tutorial participation is mandatory. Students are expected to participate actively in tutorial, and it is not possible to receive a passing grade on this portion of your final mark strictly by attending all classes. Each student will receive a base mark out of 10 according to the rubric posted to the class website. **Each student gets one ‘free’, unquestioned absence. After that, you will lose one point (from the base mark) per session you miss, regardless of the excuse.** This is because tutorial learning takes place in class discussion and activities, and that time can’t be ‘made up’ the way a written assignment can be. See “evaluation of participation” on the course website.

Op-Ed and Op-Ed Revision 20%

An op-ed is a short, persuasive essay related to current events or a topical issue. On your appointed date, you will write an op-ed of no more than 800 words and send it to the Opinions Editor at the Hagey Free Press, together with a covering letter requesting they consider it for publication. The editor will get back to you with comments and edits within 48 hours, and give you a deadline for revisions of approximately 24 hours later that you will have to meet if you want to be published. Completed editorials will be published on the course website. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** If you have an appropriate excuse (verification of illness form, letter from counselling services, etc.) you may consult with Dr. Kitchen about choosing a new date.

Due Date: varies. See website for details.

2-page Memo and Memo Revision 20%

The two-page memo is the currency of information in government and the policy world. Your two-page memo will make an argument and recommendations for action. See the list on the website for options, or run your own idea past Dr. Kitchen. You will have an opportunity to revise your memo based on your TA’s comments.

Due Date: Friday, October 5, midnight. Revisions due Friday, November 2, midnight.

Briefing 10%

No matter what career you choose, you are likely to be required, on occasion, to communicate information to your superiors in the form of a briefing. In this assignment, you will be required to brief your superior (TA or instructor) in one of the roles, and on one of the topics, listed on the course website (or run your own idea past Dr. Kitchen!). Be prepared to answer questions!

Due Date: varies. See website for details.

Briefing Note 10%

Your oral briefing will be followed by a written briefing note that contains and, where necessary, elaborates on, your oral briefing.

Due Date: Friday, November 30th, midnight.

Final Exam 30%

The final exam will be scheduled during the December exam period. The exam will focus on theories and concepts drawn from across the entire course.

Late Policy

Extensions are granted at the discretion of the instructor and **only** with appropriate documentation from the OPD or Counselling Services, or with the Verification of Illness Form. Other extensions and accommodations are granted rarely and are at the discretion of the instructor.

Where late assignments are accepted, they are penalized at the rate of 1% of the *weighted final grade* per day, including weekends (astute students will notice that this is equivalent to 1% of your final mark in the course). For example: If a student receives 40/50 on an assignment worth 20%, the weighted final grade is 16/20, and if the student hands in the assignment 1 day late, she would receive a mark of 15/20.

An assignment is considered one day late if you submit it to D2L after the time it is due on the due date. If you submit it the next day, it is also considered one day late. Two days after the due date is two days late, etc.

Extra Credit

If you don't like the marks you have received in the course, there are two ways of improving them. There are no other ways of receiving extra credit, and **no late extra credit assignments will be accepted.**

1. Blog Post on Public Lecture: Up to 2%

Attend a public lecture on an international topic at CIGI, the Balsillie School, or in the Political Science Department (other public talks must be approved by Dr. Kitchen). Write a blog post of at least 500 words and post it to the discussion forum on LEARN. Draw on concepts of foreign policy addressed in the class or in the readings. You will receive a mark out of 4 and will be awarded ½, 1, 1 ½, or 2 bonus points accordingly. You may write as many blog posts as you like, but will receive bonus points for only one. Deadline: Friday, November 30th, midnight.

CIGI Events: <http://www.cigionline.org/events>

BSIA Events: <http://www.balsillieschool.ca/events>

PSCI Events: <http://politicalscience.uwaterloo.ca/profiles/PSCISpeakerSeries.htm>

Note: not all the events listed at these links are public.

2. Exam Questions: Up to 3%

Write a short answer or multiple choice question (and provide the answer) to the exam database on the LEARN website. The exam databank will be useful as a study tool for you, and I will draw particularly good questions from it to use on the final exam. You may submit as many questions as you like, at any time, but no more than 2% bonus will be awarded. The bonus will be awarded in ½ point increments. A question which I use more-or-less verbatim on a final exam or make-up exam will be awarded one point. A good question that I have to revise or re-write will receive a ½ point. Points are awarded solely at the instructor's discretion. The deadline will be announced in class once we know the date of the final exam (usually mid-November).

Texts

The required text for this course is:

Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, *Global Politics: A New Introduction* (Routledge, 2009).

This will be abbreviated as EZ on the syllabus. I recommend purchasing this text. It is available at the bookstore (paperback). One copy is on 3-hour reserve at the Dana Porter library.

There are also several required readings related to the assignments in this text:

Adam Garfinkle, *Political Writing: A Guide to the Essentials* (ME Sharpe, 2012).

I recommend purchasing this text if you plan to major in political science or have an interest in political writing. It is available at the bookstore (paperback) and can be purchased or rented as an ebook from the publisher's website: <http://sharpe-etext.com/product/political-writing>. A copy is also on 3-hour reserve at the Dana Porter library.

We also read a few chapters from:

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, *The Globalization of World Politics*.

This will be abbreviated as BSO on the syllabus. I do not recommend purchasing this book new, since we only read a small portion of it. If you wish to own the text, it is readily available used. The fourth (2007) or fifth (2011) editions will both be fine; I provide page references for the fifth edition (2011). The 5th edition will be on reserve at the Dana Porter library. There is also at least one copy of this text in the Political Science Department's lounge. Please use it only in the lounge. If you steal it, karma will get you.

Since I read the *Hunger Games* trilogy, I have been thinking about how well many of the events the books illustrate key points about world politics. So while the *Hunger Games* (and its sequels) are *absolutely not* required reading, if you want to follow along, or if you were planning to read the books and don't want to be spoiled, put them on your fiction list for sooner rather than later. If you have

no interest in Katniss and her ilk, fear not; we'll also make loads of other pop culture references (and you should feel free to suggest your own – I would really appreciate it).

Thematic Reading

In addition to the weekly reading, you must complete the following readings about the themes around which this course is based. In some cases, these readings are also assigned in particular weeks. There is no deadline for completing the reading, but I suggest bearing the following in mind:

- a) the beginning of the semester is always less busy than the end of the semester
- b) we will begin referencing the context in these chapters immediately
- c) you definitely want to have read it before you submit any assignments

Power: EZ, Chapter 6.

Ethics: EZ Chapter 5, 20.

Identity: EZ Chapter 4.

Conflict: EZ Chapter 16, 17.

Reading about Writing and Presenting

In addition to the weekly reading and the thematic reading, you must complete the following readings about writing. Complete the assigned reading before the due date of the assignment in question.

For the op-ed assignment:

Garfinkle, Chapter 6.

Informed Opinions, “Op Ed Elements”, available online at: <http://informedopinions.org/?q=node/18>

For the memo assignment:

Garfinkle, Chapter 9.

I also recommend reading Chapters 2 and 3 of Garfinkle, on good writing generally. You can ignore the curmudgeonly parts about television rotting your brain, which are ridiculous.

For the briefing:

“Effective Army Briefing” available online at http://www.uc.edu/armyrotc/ms2text/MSL_201_L08a_Effective_Army_Briefing.pdf (You’re probably not the army, but the tips apply regardless).

Todd Reubold, “Fight the Powerpoint” available online at <http://www.slideshare.net/treubold/fight-the-powerpoint> (I can’t find a version with an audio track, but you’ll get the point).

Jane Forgay, the Political Science librarian, has also set up a course webpage with the links referred to in the library session, as well as some other useful resources. Access it here:

<http://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/content.php?pid=94627&sid=3019593>

Ms. Forgay is also available for individual consultations.

Schedule of Classes

Monday, September 10: Object Lesson: Kitchener-Waterloo and World Politics

No assigned readings.

Wednesday, September 12: Syllabus Review; Discussion of Intro

EZ, Introduction

Friday, September 14: Library session with Jane Forgay, Political Science librarian

All tutorials on this day will meet at the normal time, but in room PAS 1229. Please bring your laptop or tablet if you have one. (And don’t worry if you don’t; we’ll be working in pairs or groups in any case).

The librarian will be providing us with some information on sources for use in your written assignments, and a lesson on citations.

Monday, September 17: What is Theory for? / How do we think about the world?

EZ, Chapter 2

Wednesday, September 19: Paradigms of International Relations: the “Mainstream”

“Theory in Action: Realism”, Between Nations Series, Soomo Publishing. Available online at: <http://youtu.be/UnKEFSVAiNQ>

“Theory in Action: Liberalism”, Between Nations Series, Soomo Publishing. Available online at: <http://youtu.be/tZbDMUaqwE8>.

For reference:

BSO, Chapter 5, “Realism”

BSO, Chapter 6, “Liberalism”

Friday, September 21: Review of Paradigms

Monday, September 24: Paradigms of International Relations: the “Bridge”

BSO, Chapter 8, “Marxism”

“Theory in Action: Constructivism”, Between Nations Series, Soomo Publishing. Available online at: http://youtu.be/kYU9UfkV_XI

For reference:

BSO, Chapter 9, “Social Constructivism”

Wednesday, September 26: Paradigms of International Relations: the “Critics”

BSO, Chapter 10, “Post-structuralism”

Friday, September 28: Review of Paradigms

Monday, October 1: How is the World Organized I: The Nation State

EZ Chapter 6, Chapter 9

Wednesday, October 3: How is the World Organized II: Colonialism

EZ, Chapter 11

For reference: BSO, Chapter 11, “Post-Colonialism”

Friday, October 5: Case Study on Neo-colonialism

Monday, October 8: Thanksgiving. No class scheduled.

Wednesday, October 10: How is the World Organized III: International Organizations

The North Atlantic Treaty, 1949. http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm

The Charter of the United Nations, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

This is a light reading week. Next week is a comparatively heavy reading week, so start ahead. This week and next, please also make time to attend a showing of the film "Battle in Seattle". Times TBA. If you are unable to attend, please make time to see the film on your own.

Friday, October 12: Presentations

Monday, October 15: Case Study: the Rwandan Genocide

Michael Barnett, 1997. "The UN Security Council, Indifference, and Genocide in Rwanda" *Cultural Anthropology* 12(4): 551-578 http://home.gwu.edu/~barnett/articles/1997_indifference_ca.pdf

Wednesday, October 19: Non-State Actors & Civil Society

Martha Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, 1999. "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Conflicts" *International Social Science Journal* 159, 89-101.

Friday, October 19: Discussion: Battle in Seattle

Monday, October 22: What if we don't think in human terms?

EZ, Chapter 3.

Garrett Hardin, 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons" *Science* 162(3859), 1243-1248

Wednesday, October 24: Ethics

EZ, Chapter 15.

BSO, Chapter 12, International Ethics

Friday, October 26: Case Study: Ethics

Monday, October 29: What makes meaning in the world I: Identity

EZ, Chapter 4.

Wednesday, October 31: What makes meaning in the world II: Religion

EZ, Chapter 5.

Friday, November 2: Presentations

Monday, November 5: What makes meaning in the world III: Gender

Review EZ chapter 4; no further reading.

Wednesday, November 7: Case Study

Friday, November 9: Presentations

Monday, November 12: Economics I: Trade

EZ, Chapter 12

Wednesday, November 14: Economics II: Equality and Inequality

EZ, Chapter 13 and 14.

Friday, November 16: The Oil Game

Monday, November 19: Security I: The Basics of Conflict

EZ, Chapter 16

Wednesday, November 21: Security II: The Cold War

John Mearsheimer, 1990. "Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War" *The Atlantic Monthly* 266(2) 35-50.

Friday, November 23: Presentations

Monday, November 26: Security III: Contemporary Issues

EZ, Chapter 17.

Jacques Hymans, 2012. "The Good News About Nuclear Proliferation" *Open Canada*. August 16.

<http://www.opencanada.org/features/the-good-news-about-nuclear-proliferation/>

David Sanger, 2012. "Mutually Assured Cyberdestruction?" *The New York Times*, 2 June.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/03/sunday-review/mutually-assured-cyberdestruction.html?pagewanted=all>

Wednesday, November 28: Security IV: More Contemporary Issues

Readings TBD

Friday, November 30: Security Simulation

Monday, December 3: Review / Conclusion

EZ Chapter 20.