

PSCI 281: World Politics

Spring 2014

Tuesday, 11:30am-2:20pm, EV2 2002

Instructor: Laura Reidel

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Office Location: Hagey Hall 340

Office Hours: Monday 10-11am

Contact Policy: Instructor will reply to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. If you're a twitter user, follow @UWpsci281 where many of the articles discussed in class will be posted.

Course Description: This course will introduce the key theories, concepts and debates of the discipline of international relations. We will use case studies and current events to bring these theories and debates to life. An important component of the class will be a simulation that students will be required to prepare for, participate in and write a report on. Each class will be divided into lecture time (11:30-1pm) and seminar time (1:15-2:20pm).

Pre-Requisites: One of PSCI 100, PSCI 101 or PSCI 110 strongly recommended.

Course Objectives:

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

- Explain basics of theories of international relations and use them to analyze contemporary issues.
- Locate most of the countries of the world on a map.
- Write clear reports and essays on current events in international relations.
- Engage in informed debate with colleagues.

University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

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, [Student Discipline http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71).

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](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). In addition, consult [Student Grievances http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes](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](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

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

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

Texts:

John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, 2014, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (Sixth Edition), Oxford University Press. (Required)

*Referred to as BSO in class schedule

Text is available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.

Text on on 3-hour reserve at the Dana Porter Library.

News articles required for class will be posted on the class LEARN site, and on twitter @UWpsci281.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments:

Assignment #1:

Seminar Participation (15%)

- This class will include a bi-weekly seminar. Students will be graded not only on attendance and active participation in class discussions and seminars, but also on the quality of their comments.
- Students who demonstrate : (a) that they have read the assigned readings, (b) are able to apply lessons to current events, and (c) are able to critically analyze class material will receive high marks.
- Participation in the simulation will count towards participation grades.

Assignment #2:

Simulation : Preparatory Research Report (10%)

- This is a group project, and as such, the '**Group Assignment Checklist**' must be submitted.
- Students will be assigned a 'role' in the simulation that may be a country, international organization (IO) or non-governmental organization (NGO).
- Students will be expected to prepare a **5 page** research report in advance of the seminar that explains the position of their country/IO/NGO on the topic of the seminar.
- A detailed description of this assignment will be handed out in class.
- The research report must include the objectives and preliminary strategy for the role you have been assigned.
- All research must be properly cited, using **APA style**.

Assignment #3:

Simulation : Final Report (15%)

- This is an individual assignment, which will be due one week after the simulation.
- The final report will require students to step away from the “role” they played in the simulation and reflect on what they learned, and how theories of international relations help to understand the topic of the simulation.
- This assignment should be **5 to 6 pages** in length.
- Possible questions to address:
 - How relevant is realism to this topic? How relevant is liberalism? How relevant are other theories?
 - What advice would you give to UN negotiators who are attempting to find a diplomatic solution to this crisis?
 - What should be done to aid the civilians in this crisis?
 - What should the world’s major powers do to influence this situation?
- All research must be properly cited, using **APA style**. You are not required to do research for this assignment, but if sources are referred to, they must be properly cited.

Tests & Examinations:

Test #1:

Mid-term Exam (25%)

- The mid-term exam will cover topics from the first half of class. It will consist of ‘Identify and Explain’ questions and short essay questions.
- The mid-term will be written in class on June 10 at 11 :30am.

Test #2:

Map quiz (5%)

- Each class will begin with a short exploration of a selection of countries. Students will complete a short quiz to test their retention of this knowledge. The quiz will take place in the final seminar of the class (for each section).

Final Examination:

Final Exam (30%)

- The final exam will cover material from the entire course, with an emphasis on the topics covered in the second half of the course. It will consist of ‘Identify and Explain’ questions and short essay answers.

Extra Credit:

Choose your own adventure (up to 5%)

- This assignment rewards students who follow current global news.

- Students who would like extra credit may choose a current global news story and prepare a short report, analyzing this current event through the lens of any of the lessons from class.
- To receive extra credit, students must :
 - Submit the news article and a brief outline of their report to the instructor at least **two business days** before the class they will present it in (ie. Friday before seminar).
 - Make a brief presentation to the class (during seminar), and the article will then be discussed in our seminar.
 - Submit a 1-2 page written report to the instructor at the beginning of the seminar.

Late Policy:

(Adapted from Veronica Kitchen)

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. 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.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class (ie. 11:30am) on the due date.

Policy About Collaborative Work:

The 'Group Assignment Checklist' must be used and submitted for group assignments. In this class, this applies to the simulation, and the preparatory research report.

Other Course Policies:

- It is not possible to pass the course unless all assignments have been handed in.
- After assignments are handed back, there will be a 24 hour 'black out period' in which the instructor will not discuss the assignment or grades.

Schedule:

**Each week's readings will include at least one news article. These articles will be made available through the course LEARN page (and twitter @UWpsci281). The article assignments will be posted before each class to allow for current events to be included in class discussion.*

Week 1 (May 6): Introduction and overview

Reading 1: No assigned readings.

Note:

- Guest speaker : Jane Forgay, UW's political science librarian
- Seminar time will be used to divide the class into two seminar groups, and discuss any questions about the course outline and assignments/tests.

Week 2 (May 13): Introduction to World Politics

Reading 1: BSO Introduction & Ch. 1

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Seminar Group A

Week 3 (May 20): Realism and Neo-realism

Reading 1: BSO Ch. 6, and Ch. 8 → p. 128-131

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Case study : Ukraine & Russia
- Seminar Group B

Week 4 (May 27): Liberalism & Neo-liberalism

Reading 1: BSO Ch. 7, and Ch. 8 → p. 132-136

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Case study : Syria
- Seminar Group A
- **Simulation Preparatory Research Report DUE**

Week 5 (June 3): Other theories – Marxist & Post-colonial theories

Reading 1: BSO Ch. 9 & 12

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Case study : The legacy of colonialism
- Seminar Group B

Week 6 (June 3): Mid-term exam

Week 7 (June 17): Actors & Institutions

Reading 1: BSO Ch. 20, 21

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Case study : Conflict in Darfur – the role of the UN and non-governmental actors
- Seminar Group A

Week 8 (June 24): Conflict & Security

Reading 1: BSO Ch. 20, 21

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Case study : The Arab Spring
- Simulation Group B

Week 9 (July 8): Human Rights & Human Security

Reading 1: BSO Ch, 29, 30

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Case study : Enforcing international human rights standards – the crisis in the Central African Republic
- Simulation Group A
- **Group B : Simulation Final Report Due**

Week 10 (July 15): Global Environmental Governance

Reading 1: BSO Ch. 22

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Case study : Private Environmental Governance
- Guest lecture : Dr. Jason Thistlethwaite

Week 11 (July 22): Identity - Gender & Nationalism

Reading 1: BSO Ch. 17, 25

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Case study : Nationalism in Catalonia & Quebec
- Seminar Group B
- **Group A : Simulation Final Report Due**

Week 12 (July 29) International Political Economy & Development

Reading 1: BSO Ch. 16, 28

Reading 2: News article TBA

Note:

- Case study : Poverty & inequality
- No seminar. Q&A about exam.

Appendix A : Group Assignment Checklist

Please read the checklist below following the completion of your group assignment. Once you have verified these points, hand in this signed checklist with your group assignment.

1. All team members have referenced and footnoted all ideas, words or other intellectual property from other sources used in the completion of this assignment.
2. A proper bibliography has been included, which includes acknowledgement of all sources used to complete this assignment.
3. This is the first time that any member of the group has submitted this assignment or essay (either partially or entirely) for academic evaluation.
4. Each member of the group has read the full content of the submission and is assured that the content is free of violations of academic integrity. Group discussions regarding the importance of academic integrity have taken place.
5. Each student has identified his or her individual contribution to the work submitted such that if violations of academic integrity are suspected, then the student primarily responsible for the violations may be identified. Note that in this case the remainder of the team may also be subject to disciplinary action.

Course:

Assignment:

Date:

Name (Print)	Signature	Section Contributed	Section Edited