

University of Western Ontario: Department of Political Science

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 9511A**

# **International Relations**

Fall 2021

Mondays 11:30-1:30, Social Sciences Centre (SSC) 4105

## **Course Director**

Dr. Adam Harmes

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## **Course Description**

This course provides students with an advanced introduction to the politics of international relations and foreign policy with an emphasis on contemporary issues and cases. The first part of the course examines different approaches to foreign policy and international relations including realism, liberalism, neoconservatism, libertarianism, populist conservatism, social conservatism, and progressivism. The second part of the course examines the debate between these approaches across different issues and cases. The course also examines the institutions, history, and politics of Canadian foreign policy. For PhD students, the course assignments focus on the explanatory theories of IR - such as neorealism, liberalism, constructivism, and critical theory - that will form the basis for their comprehensive exam.

## **Course Learning Objectives**

### Student Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to: describe and apply the key approaches to international relations and foreign policy; recognize and critique the application of these approaches across key debates in international relations; acquire knowledge of the history of the international system including key institutions, actors, and events; acquire knowledge of contemporary policy issues and debates in international relations; demonstrate an understanding of Canada's role in global affairs including key institutions, actors, and events; identify and describe some of the key tools and techniques of foreign policy; acquire knowledge of and apply research skills related to primary and secondary documents; communicate ideas regarding the nature of international relations in a variety of written and oral mediums to a diverse set of audiences.

### PhD-Specific Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, PhD students will be able to: recognize the differences between prescriptive and explanatory approaches and debates in international relations; describe and apply the key explanatory theories of international relations including key authors and concepts; situate

different explanatory approaches within the history of the IR subfield including the ‘great debates’; recognize the differences between ontology, epistemology, and method and situate them in terms of the different explanatory approaches and the history of the IR subfield; acquire knowledge and communicate ideas in preparation for the Qualifying Field Exam.

### **Course Structure**

This is planned as an in-person course with 2 hour weekly seminars comprised of class discussions focused around the readings assigned for each week. If it becomes an online course due to Covid, weekly seminars will be conducted synchronously on Zoom in the scheduled class time. In either case, attendance and participation are required.

### **Required Readings**

All course readings are posted on the course OWL website in the ‘Resources’ folder and then the ‘Readings’ folder under their specific week. All readings in the folders are required readings.

### **Course Assignments**

#### MA Students

Weekly Reading Summaries/Participation	20%
Take Home Assignment #1	20%
Primary Research Essay	40%
Take Home Assignment #2	20%

#### PhD Students

Weekly Reading Summaries/Participation	20%
PhD Exam Prep Paper #1	20%
Take Home Assignment #1	10%
PhD Exam Prep Paper #2	20%
PhD Exam Prep Paper #3	20%
Take Home Assignment #2	10%

### **Assignment Due Dates**

All assignments are due on OWL by 11:55 p.m. on the due date. PhD Exam prep papers must be emailed to me directly by 11:55 on the due date. After that, they will receive the late penalty designated for each assignment. All assignments must be submitted as PDF files.

#### MA

Sunday nights	weekly reading summary as per the course topic schedule (see p.6)
25 Oct (Monday)	Take Home Assignment #1 will be posted after the class
29 Oct (Friday)	Take Home Assignment #1 due
19 Nov (Friday)	Primary Research Essay due
5 Dec (Sunday)	all weekly reading summaries submitted as a single document
6 Dec (Monday)	Take Home Assignment #2 will be posted after the class
10 Dec (Friday)	Take Home Assignment #2 due

PhDs

Sunday nights	weekly reading summary as per the course topic schedule (see p.6)
8 Oct (Friday)	PhD Exam Prep Paper #1 due
25 Oct (Monday)	Take Home Assignment #1 will be posted after the class
29 Oct (Friday)	Take Home Assignment #1 due
12 Nov (Friday)	PhD Exam Prep Paper #2 due
26 Nov (Friday)	PhD Exam Prep Paper #3 due
5 Dec (Sunday)	all weekly reading summaries submitted as a single document
6 Dec (Monday)	Take Home Assignment #2 will be posted after the class
10 Dec (Friday)	Take Home Assignment #2 due

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ASSIGNMENT DETAILS**Weekly Reading Summaries/Participation**

For every class, students must submit a 1 page, typed, single-spaced summary of that week's readings. The summary must be in sentence format with your name typed at the top.

The summary should summarize the key concepts and/or examples from the readings. They should be organized by concepts/examples and aim to synthesize the material from the different readings. They should NOT be a reading-by-reading summary. The summaries must also include quotations and page citations from the readings using the in-text, bracketed format with the author surname and page number: e.g. (Smith, 345). No bibliography or endnotes are required. The aim is to demonstrate that you have done the reading and engaged with the main concepts rather than trying to summarize every concept/section. Just summarize the key concepts and/or examples and don't worry about trying to cover everything. An example is posted in the OWL site.

Weekly reading summaries are due on OWL by 11:55 p.m. on the day before the class. After that, they will receive the late penalty. All analyses must be submitted as PDF files. The weekly summaries must be saved and then submitted as a single document to turnitin.com through the course OWL site by 11:55 p.m. on the day before the last class.

Students will receive comments on their first summary only to ensure they understand what is expected. The summaries will then receive an overall grade of either: 0-69 (unacceptable), 78 (good), 82 (very good), or 86 (excellent). Each late summary will drop the overall summaries grade by 2/100. Summaries will be graded based on:

- covering the most important readings and concepts (and not just the short media articles)
- the amount of detail included from the readings
- strong use of relevant quotes and page citations
- good organization and synthesis of the material

Participation will be graded based on attendance, participation in class and group discussions, and based on a peer assessment. Each missed class (excluding documented absences) will result in a 1/100 reduction in your grade. Above average participation overall will result in a 2/100 addition to your summaries grade. Average participation overall will result in no change to your summaries grade. Below average participation overall will result in 2/100 subtraction from your summaries grade.

### **Take Home Assignment #1**

Students will write a take home assignment based on the readings covered in the first half of the course. No extra readings or research are required. The assignment will consist of 3-4 long answer questions that will be posted on the course OWL site as per the assignment schedule above. Students will have 4 days to complete the assignments and submit them electronically as per the assignment schedule at 11:55 p.m. on the due date. Students will answer the questions to a maximum of 6 typed, single-spaced pages. Late assignments will receive a penalty of 3% per day to a maximum of 10%. Assignments will be graded based on:

- demonstrated understanding of the concepts
- covering the most important readings and concepts (and not just the short media articles)
- the amount of detail included from the readings
- strong use of relevant quotes, page citations and examples from the readings (using the in-text, bracketed citation format - no bibliography/endnotes are required)
- good organization and synthesis of the material

### **Take Home Assignment #2**

Students will write a take home assignment based on the readings covered in the second half of the course. The requirements are the same as for Take Home Assignment #1

### **Primary Document Research Essay (MAs)**

Each MA student will complete one primary document research essay, with 12-15 typed double-spaced pages of text plus a title page and bibliography. An e-copy of the paper must be submitted to turnitin.com through the course OWL site by 11:55 p.m. on the due date. Extensions will only be given for documented illnesses, emergencies, etc. and will not be given for workload. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day including weekends to a maximum of 10%. Students will choose one of the following essay formats:

#### ***1. Research the Debate Between Two Approaches Over a Foreign Policy Issue***

Pick a Canadian or US foreign policy issue/country. Pick two of the approaches to foreign policy (i.e. realism, liberal internationalism, neoconservatism, populist conservatism, social conservatism, libertarianism, or progressivism) that disagree on the issue. Research the views of key actors from the two approaches using primary documents and media reports and argue in favour of one side.

#### ***2. Conduct a Primary Source Literature Review of an International Issue***

Pick an international issue such as climate change, human rights, cyber security, gender rights, the future of NATO, terrorism, poverty and inequality, corruption, etc., etc. Find reports on the issue (minimum 20) from as many relevant IOs and NGOs as possible as well as from the Canadian and US Governments where possible. Pick a specific IO, NGO, or the Canadian or US government for whom you will be writing the literature review as a way to frame the essay. Write a literature review on the issue using quotes and data from the primary documents and make policy recommendations to the organization for whom you are writing the review.

### **PhD Exam Prep Papers**

PhD students will complete three PhD exam prep papers (below) as outlined in the PhD Exam Prep Paper Instructions available on the OWL site.

PhD Exam Prep Paper #1: Epistemology, Theory, and IR's Four Great Debates

PhD Exam Prep Paper #2: Explaining Foreign Policy Decisions: The Case of the Iraq War

PhD Exam Prep Paper #3: Explaining International Treaties, Norms and Institutions

Students will use readings provided by the course instructor. No other research is required for the papers, although you can make use of other course readings if you wish. Each paper should address the questions listed below to a maximum of 12 typed double-spaced pages of text. The paper should have a title page, bibliography and in-text citations and should use quotes and citations from the readings.

Students must email a PDF copy to the course instructor by 11:55 p.m. on the due date. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day including weekends to a maximum of 10%. Extensions will only be given for documented illnesses, emergencies, etc and will not be given for workload.

### **Academic Offenses and Plagiarism**

Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the university policy at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

#### ***Avoid these plagiarism mistakes:***

- Do not cut and paste from your own previous essays. You can use some research and sources from previous essays, but not the same words. Even if you adjust the wording a little, turnitin will pick it up. It shows us your paper, the full original paper you cut-and-pasted from, and then highlights the exact words and sentences that overlap. Turnitin will also tell us when and to what course the original paper was submitted.
- Do not cut and paste from other people's essays, online sources, etc. and then try adjusting some of the words or deleting/reordering the odd sentence. Turnitin will pick it up. Turnitin searches all essays that have been submitted to universities around the world since turnitin was created as well as all online sources including media articles, academic articles, blogs and websites.

### **Turnitin.com**

As noted above, course assignments must be submitted electronically to turnitin.com (available through the course website and under license to the University). Please be advised that: All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **Sept. 13      Course Introduction**

Please bring your laptops. This week introduces the course. It will include a discussion of the course outline and requirements as well as a short discussion on the different approaches to foreign policy and how they are promoted by different factions within US and Canadian political parties. There are no required readings or reading summaries due this week.

### **Sept. 20      Liberal and Progressive Approaches to Foreign Policy and Economics**

This week examines left-of-centre approaches to foreign policy and economics including liberal internationalism and progressivism.

### **Sept. 27      Conservative Approaches to Foreign Policy and Economics**

This week examines right-of-centre approaches to foreign policy and economics including those of neoconservative security hawks, populist conservatives, and social conservatives.

### **Oct. 4          Realist and Libertarian Approaches to Foreign Policy and Economics**

This week examines the realist and libertarian (economic neoliberalism) approaches to foreign policy and economics.

### **Oct. 11        Thanksgiving No Class**

### **Oct. 18        The Tools of Foreign Policy and Discussion of Essays**

The first half of this class examines the key diplomatic, economic, and military/intelligence tools used in the conduct of contemporary foreign policy. The second half of the class will be used to discuss the MA essay requirements and to review some primary document research skills that will be useful for it.

### **Oct. 25        Approaches to Canadian Foreign Policy**

This week examines the basic history of Canadian foreign policy as well as the different approaches to foreign policy in the Canadian context. This week will also include a discussion of Take Home Assignment #1 which will be posted immediately following the class.

### **Nov. 1          Fall Reading Week - No Class**

### **Nov. 8          Nuclear Proliferation: Iran and North Korea**

This week examines the key concepts related to the issue of nuclear proliferation, the basic history of US-Iran and US-North Korea relations, and what the different approaches to foreign policy advocate in terms of dealing with these countries.

### **Nov. 15        The Rise of China**

This week examines current issues in US-China and Canada-China relations and what the different approaches advocate in terms of dealing with China.

**Nov. 22      The Rise and Fall of Great Powers and Economic Orders**

This week examines realist theories of the rise and fall of great powers and hegemonic stability theory, political economy theories of the rise and fall of economic orders, and liberal theories of the more linear progress of history.

**Nov. 29      The Politics of Trade and Globalization**

This week examines the basic history of international trade and what the different approaches advocate in terms of trade and globalization.

**Dec. 6      The Politics of the Middle East**

This week examines the politics of the middle east including the basic history and key issues in the Israeli-Palestinian and Shia-Sunni conflicts. It also examines what the different approaches to foreign policy advocate in terms of ethnic conflict and US and Canadian foreign policy towards the middle east. This week will also include a discussion of Take Home Assignment #2 which will be posted immediately following the class.