

## POLITICAL SCIENCE 2231: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

University of Western Ontario Department of Political Science

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the historical and contemporary theories and issues that comprise the study of international relations. Its central task is to understand politics in a global perspective – who gets what, when, and how. It will explore a number of pivotal questions that continuously puzzle us. Why does war occur? Will the spread of democracy and free trade promote peace? Are regional and international institutions viable and conducive to a more peaceful world? How can the international community best respond to international terrorism? What is ‘globalization’ and why are so many people upset about it? How have new phenomena like mass migration, disease, communication, transnational crime and organized social movements affected the state and its continued dominance as an actor on the world stage? Are we on the precipice of a more peaceful era, or are we inevitably caught in dangerous repetitive patterns of war, violence, and conflict that have always characterized international relations in the past? These are only a small smattering of the diverse issues that will be covered over the year.

The first half of the course will explore how to think globally. It will examine how globalization may or may not alter our understanding of “citizenship.” It will also introduce the central theories of international relations that help order our understanding of global politics. This will include the ‘classical’ theories of liberalism, realism, and Marxism, as well as more recent theories including neoliberalism, neorealism, constructivism, and critical theory.

The second half focuses much more deeply on the historical and current events and developments that shape the world we live in. It will use themes and theories discussed in the first term to investigate concepts such as (but not limited to) human rights, humanitarian intervention, terrorism, globalization, and environmental degradation.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. *The Globalization of World Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2011.

*(Note: You may choose to purchase previous editions of this textbook, but it is expected that you are using the latest edition. All discussions, lectures, and assignments are expected to rely upon material covered in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition.)*

Additional readings are also assigned some weeks. These readings will be posted on WebCT. If you experience problems with WebCT please contact the ITS Help Desk at (519) 661-3800.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Any student with a disability is advised to contact the Coordinator for Services for Students with Disabilities in order that arrangements can be made through them to accommodate that student. Services for Students with Disabilities is located in The Student Development Centre in UC 210; they can be reached by telephone at (519) 661-2147, by email at [ssd@sd.c.uwo.ca](mailto:ssd@sd.c.uwo.ca), or on the web at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/> The university's policy on the accommodation of students with disabilities can be found at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

**ASSIGNMENTS****Course Evaluation**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Weightage</b>
Attendance	Ongoing	5%
Participation	Ongoing	5%
Weekly submissions	Every Friday (except Jun 3)	10%

Midterm	Thursday June 2, 2011	25%
Research Essay	Friday June 17, 2011	30%
Final Exam	TBA (June 27-28, 2011)	25%

### ASSIGNMENTS

#### Attendance - 5%

At 10 random times during the course, attendance will be taken. All combined, this will comprise 5% of the final mark. Attendance may be taken at the beginning of class or sometime during the second half.

#### Participation - 5%

Participation grades are based on participation in each lecture's class discussions and activities. Students are expected to attend class having completed all of the required readings.

#### Participation Grading Guide:

Grade	Discussion	Reading
10	<i>Excellent:</i> leads discussion; offers analysis and comments; always has ideas on the theme(s) of reading; does not dominate; asks compelling questions	Clearly has completed virtually all readings and prepared questions; intelligently uses this understanding and these questions in discussion
8	<i>Very Good:</i> thoughtful comments and questions for the most part; willing, able and frequent contributor	Has done most readings; provides competent analysis of reading when prompted by others

6	<i>Satisfactory</i> : has basic grasp of key concepts and occasional ideas on the main theme of the reading; arguments are sporadic and at times incomplete or poorly supported; unwilling to ask questions	Displays familiarity with most readings, but tends not to critically analyze them or to relate them to the course material
4	<i>Somewhat Poor</i> : comments in class display misunderstandings of key concepts; seldom contributes effectively to discussion of the main theme; often digresses in unhelpful ways; sporadic	Actual knowledge of material is outweighed by improvised comments and remarks
2	<i>Poor</i> : rarely speaks; repeats and/or misuses the text and comments of others	Little or no apparent familiarity with assigned material

**Weekly Written Assignments (DUE EVERY FRIDAY, EXCEPT JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>) – 10%**

Every Friday (except June 3) students are required to submit a one page (single-spaced, 12pt font) written assignment. Students are asked to link a news article of their own choosing with a course lecture topic (or a combination of topics) from that week. The new article must have been published in 2011 and it must come from a reputable news organization (CNN, BBC, Foreign Policy Magazine, Al Jazeera, etc.). The purpose of the assignment is NOT to summarize the news story. Students are required to CONNECT the story with the insights provided from class readings, lectures, and discussions. Students may choose to interpret a particular news story through a theoretical lens learned that week, or explain how one story demonstrates the need for UN reform. It depends both on that particular week's topics, and your interest in a particular news story. What is most important is that the student demonstrates a good understanding of the concepts discussed in class lectures and readings and is able to see how they play out in "the real world." Each submission will be graded on a three-point scale: 0 (incomplete, unsatisfactory), 1 (satisfactory), or 2 (well-done). Papers are due at the start of each class on Friday. Late penalties do not apply to these assignments, and no extensions will be granted. Cumulatively, the 5 weekly submissions will comprise 10% of the final mark. Remember to accurately cite the news story your submission relies upon!

**Research Essay (DUE FRIDAY JUNE 17, 2011) - 30%**

The research essay is an important practice for academic life. Students are required to write one 2,000-2,500 words paper (approx. 8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced, in 12 pt. Times New Roman). This count does not include your bibliography, but you may choose to include your footnotes or endnotes as part of your word count (conversely, you may choose not to include them).

You must choose one of the topics and its associated question(s) listed below, putting forth a clear argument, backed by coherent reasoning and high-quality research. You should make mention of important counter-arguments to your own claims, though this need not be a major aspect of your analysis.

The essay should rely on independent research outside of the assigned course material. Greater weight should be given to resources such as books, academic/research journals and government documents. Good quality newspapers and internet resources will also be acceptable if you have made use of a few quality books and academic/research journals. It is recommended that you do not cite your textbook. Students are encouraged to make use of the Western Libraries' resources. Besides, the course instructor, Bruce Fyfe (Political Science Librarian at the D.B. Weldon Library: [bfyfe@uwo.ca](mailto:bfyfe@uwo.ca), (519) 661-2111 Ext.84818) could be consulted for help.

If you are unsure about how to write a political science research essay, either consult the course instructor or the following web site: [www.sfu.ca/politics/pdf/essay.pdf](http://www.sfu.ca/politics/pdf/essay.pdf)

Furthermore, Purdue University has compiled a large number of extremely useful instructions and tips on how to write at the University level. They have documents that will help you think about your topic before writing, develop outlines, overcome writer's block, conduct appropriate research, and avoid plagiarism. You can access all of this at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/1/>

**Choose one essay question:**

<b>Concept:</b>	<b>Essay Question:</b>
Western Hegemony	Is the decline of the West inevitable? <sup>1</sup>
Arms Races / Security Dilemma	What has caused previous arms races and spirals of insecurity? What future measures could be taken to slow arms races and

<sup>1</sup> Foreign Affairs Magazine also uses this question for their 2011 Student Essay Contest. See <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/discussions/news-and-events/student-essay-contest-2011> for details if you think you would like to submit a revised version of your essay for consideration (the winner has their paper published and \$1,000!)

	decrease security dilemmas?
Collective Security/ United Nations	What are some current strengths and challenges to the United Nations' system of collective security? What specific reforms have been suggested to further strengthen collective security under UN auspices? What reforms do you and other experts suggest?
International Law / ICC or CTBT	What are the arguments in favour of, and against, ratifying the International Criminal Court (ICC) Treaty? OR: What are the arguments in favour of, and against, ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and/or the Fissile Missile Cutoff Treaty (FMCT)?
Co-operation / Climate Change	What international and state efforts to further global cooperation on controlling climate change have been suggested? Why might they be adequate or inadequate?
Critical/Postmodern/Feminist Theory	Why do critical/postmodern/feminist theorists generally reject realist theories when seeking to understand international affairs? AND/OR: What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of taking a critical/postmodern/feminist approach to understanding international relations?
Nuclear Weapons	Is nuclear deterrence an effective security strategy? What are the arguments in favour of, and against nuclear deterrence?
Globalization	Is globalization an evolutionary process or a deliberate political project? AND/OR Will the future be more, less, or differently globalized?
The Clash of Civilizations	Was Samuel Huntington right or wrong about the 'clash of civilizations'?
The Coming Anarchy	What is being done to bring about and/or prevent 'the coming anarchy'?
Terrorism	Why and how was the global war on terrorism justified and/or criticized?
Intervention	When has the international community intervened to prevent conflict? Under what circumstances and according to what criteria might intervention be justified?
International Debt	What have wealthy (and/or non-wealthy nations) done to combat the problems brought on by international debt? What are the causes

	and consequences of debt? What are the solutions?
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### Important Essay Stipulations

#### a) Length of essays including footnotes and/or endnotes:

The essay must be 2,000-2,500 words in length. You must abide by the stipulated length of the paper. Additional analysis (for example, pp. 12-15 of your overly long essay) will be neither read nor marked.

#### b) Citations

You must identify all quotations, references, and other people's ideas in the notes/footnotes. If you do not use any footnotes/endnotes, a penalty of -10% will be imposed.

#### c) Bibliography or Works Cited

You must attach a Bibliography or Works Cited. Another -10% penalty will be imposed if you do not do so. You must have a minimum of four academic sources (consult a librarian for clarification on what counts as an academic source (e.g. newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, do not count). Failure to include at least four academic sources will result in a grade of "F". The highest grades in this course typically go to students that consult a large number of high-quality source materials. The use of more than eight sources is highly recommended.

#### d) Spelling and Typing Errors

If there are excessive spelling errors or typos in the essay (i.e. more than 15), a penalty of (-) 10% will be applied.

#### e) Style Guide

You may use any style guide or 'style book' you prefer, but you must write on the title page of the essay or in the bibliography the author and title of the style guide that you used. **If you do not, -5% will be deducted from the final mark of your essay.** (The short 2 pp. D.B. Weldon style guide is simply not acceptable). It is entirely your choice what particular style book you decide to use.

### Checklist for Submitting the Essay<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Conversely, I don't expect any citations in your exam; spelling and grammatical errors are ignored; and I ignore the length of your written exam in favour of the quality of your commentary.

- Length of essay including (or not including) footnotes and/or endnotes is not too long or short, avoiding a penalty of (-10%)
- Citations (footnotes or endnotes) are included, avoiding a penalty of (-10%)
- Bibliography or Works Cited is included, avoiding a penalty of (-10%). At least four academic sources are cited, avoiding an automatic "F".
- There are no spelling errors or typos in the essay, or at least less than 15, avoiding a penalty of (-10%).
- A style guide citation is listed on the front page or in the bibliography, avoiding a penalty of (-5%)

### **Important Note About Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that will not be tolerated. If any assignments you submit for this course are shown to be plagiarized, the Department of Political Science and other relevant administrative personnel in accordance with appropriate University procedures may determine your grade for the assignments and this course, and any other punitive measures. For this purpose, your research essay and/or any other assignment might be subjected to a check for plagiarism through <http://turnitin.uwo.ca/>.

### **Midterm Exam (Thursday June 2, 2011) – 25%**

The midterm exam will occur during regular class hours (2 hours), and in our classroom, on **Thursday June 2, 2011**. It will cover all material from lectures, readings, and discussions up to that date. It will be two hours in length and contain a short-answer and long-answer portion. More detail will be available closer to the exam date.

### **Final Exam (TBA – June 27-28 2011) – 25%**

The final exam will occur on either **June 27 or June 28**. It will cover all material from lectures, readings, and discussions for the second half of the course (from June 3 onwards). While material discussed during the first half will not be a focus of the final exam, given the nature of the material, it is likely that you will reference knowledge gained from the first half. The format will be the same as the mid-term exam and will contain a short-answer portion and an essay question portion and will be two hours in length.



**READINGS and LECTURES**

*Theme 1: Thinking Globally/Theorizing International Relations*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
<b>Mon. May 16, 2011</b>	<b>Introduction:</b>	<b>Course Syllabus</b>
<b>Tue. May 17, 2011</b>	<b>Thinking Globally</b>	<b>Baylis, Smith, Owens (BSO) "Introduction"</b>
<b>Wed. May 18</b>	<b>International Society (States and Sovereignty)</b>	<b>BSO – Ch. 2</b>
<b>Thu. May 19</b>	<b>Nationalism</b>	<b>BSO – Ch. 24</b>
<b>Fri. May 20</b> <b>***WEEKLY SUBMISSION DUE</b>	<b>Globalization</b>	<b>BSO – Ch. 1</b>

*Theme 2: International Relations Theory*

<b>Mon May 23 (VICTORIA DAY)</b>	<b>No class</b>	<b>No readings</b>
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Tue. May 24	International Relations (IR) Theory – Classical Realism and Neorealism	BSO – Ch. 5, and Ch. 7 (pgs. 116-120.)  John Mearsheimer, “Hans Morgenthau and the Iraq War: realism vs. neoconservatism” <i>Open Democracy: Free Thinking for the World</i> (May 19, 2005): 1-7.
Wed. May 25	IR Theory: Liberalism and Neoliberalism	BSO – Ch.6, and Ch. 7 (pgs. 121-128.)
Thu. May 26	IR Theory: Marxism and Dependency Theory	BSO – Ch. 8
Fri. May 27 ***WEEKLY SUBMISSION DUE	IR Theory: Constructivism	BSO – Ch. 9
Mon. May 30	IR Theory: Critical Approaches	BSO – Ch. 10 (pgs. 168-173) Ch. 11 (184-187, 193-194) Ch. 16 (264-267)
Tue. May 31	IR Theory: The Past, Present, and Future of the	No Readings

	<b>"Divided Discipline"</b>	
<b>Wed. Jun 1</b>	<b>Review – Revision</b>	<b>No Readings</b>
<b>Thu Jun 2</b>	<b>*** MID-TERM EXAM</b>	
<b>Fri. Jun 3</b>	<b>Documentary and Discussion: <i>The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons From the Life of Robert S. McNamara</i></b>	

*Theme 3: Issues and Processes in International Relations 1945-Present*

<b>Mon. Jun 6</b>	<b>The Cold War</b>	<b>BSO – Ch. 3 (Pgs. 56-63)</b>
<b>Tue. Jun 7</b>	<b>The Post-Cold War World to the Post 9/11 World</b>	<b>BSO – Ch. 4</b>
<b>Wed. Jun 8</b>	<b>Global Security and The Democratic Peace</b>	<b>BSO – Ch. 14</b>

Thu. Jun 9	International Regimes	BSO – Ch. 18
Fri. Jun 10  ***WEEKLY SUBMISSION DUE	The United Nations	BSO – Ch. 19  Donald Puchala, "World Hegemony and the United Nations" <i>International Studies Review</i> Vol. 7. No. 4 (Dec. 2005): 571-584.
Mon. Jun 13	Transnational Actors and International Organizations	BSO – Ch. 20
Tue. Jun 14	International Political Economy	BSO - Ch. 15
Wed. Jun 15	Global Environmental Politics	BSO – Ch. 21  Article: Robert Kaplan - "The Coming Anarchy" (The Atlantic, Feb 1994).
Thu. Jun 16	Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament	BSO – Ch. 23  Scott Sagan and Scott Miller. "Alternative Nuclear Futures" <i>Daedalus</i> (Winter 2010): 126-137.
Fri. Jun 17  ***RESEARCH	Transnationalism and Terror	BSO – Ch. 22

ESSAY DUE ***WEEKLY SUBMISSION DUE		BSO – Ch. 24 (Pgs. 420-422).
Mon. Jun 20	Human Rights	BSO – Ch. 30
Tue. Jun 21	Human Security	BSO – Ch. 29  Roland Paris. "Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?" in <i>International Security</i> Vol. 26. No. 2 (Autumn 2001): pp. 87-102.
Wed. Jun 22	Intervention	BSO – Ch. 31
Thu. Jun 23	Global Ethics	BSO – Ch. 12
Fri. Jun 24 ***WEEKLY SUBMISSION DUE	Review	

FINAL-EXAMINATION – DATE TO BE DETERMINED (June 27-28 2011)

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different political science courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

## Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. 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 ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

### **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western**

Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.