

University of Western Ontario: Department of Political Science

POLITICAL SCIENCE 9511B
Tuesdays 12:30-2:30, SSC 4103

International Relations

Winter 2019

Course Director: Dr. Adam Harmes

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30 p.m., Tuesdays 11:00-12:00 4155 SSC

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Course Description:

This course provides students with an advanced introduction to theoretical approaches and contemporary issues within the study of International Relations. The first part of the course examines explanatory theories of IR and their application to foreign policy decisions as well as to the emergence and effectiveness of international agreements, norms and institutions. The second part of the course examines the ideological component of IR theories and how they serve as a guide to foreign policy. It also examines a variety of current foreign policy issues.

Course Structure:

The course meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-2:30 and will consist of 13 sessions of approximately 2 hours each. Seminars will be comprised of students presentations as well as group and class discussions focused around the readings assigned for each week.

Required Readings:

Articles for this course are available from the course instructor.

Course Evaluation:

MA Students

Weekly Reading Analyses	30%
Presentation	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Research Essay	40%
Group Foreign Policy Paper	10%

PhD Students

Weekly Reading Analyses	30%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Theory Application Paper #1	15%
Theory Application Paper #2	15%
Theory Application Paper #3	15%
Theory Application Paper #4	15%

COURSE SCHEDULE

****NOTE:** A detailed course outline will be posted on the OWL site prior to the first class**

Jan. 8 Introduction: Mapping IR Theories

The first half of this class will be used to introduce the general subject matter of the course and to outline the course structure, readings and requirements. The second half of the class will include a discussion of the differences between theory and ideology and on how to categorize different IR theories.

Jan. 15 Explaining Foreign Policy: Realism, Liberalism, Critical Theory

This seminar examines realism, liberalism and critical theory as explanatory theories and, in particular, how they explain and predict national policy preferences and foreign policy decisions.

Jan. 22 Explaining Foreign Policy: Institutionalism and Constructivism

This seminar examines institutionalism and constructivism as explanatory theories and, in particular, the different ways that institutions and ideas can help to construct the policy preferences of individuals, groups and states.

Jan. 29 Explaining the Effectiveness of International Norms, Laws and Institutions

This seminar examines the conditions under which international norms, laws and institutions can emerge and the extent to which they can actually constrain state behaviour.

Feb. 5 Poststructuralism, Gender and Race

Focusing on the examples of race and gender, this seminar examines how categories, identity, culture and discourse can also help to construct the policy preferences of individuals, groups and states and how this has created a debate over universal values. It also examines how the institutionalization of categories and identities can impose political constraints as well as poststructuralist methods and strategies for analysing and challenging these constraints.

Feb. 12 Realist, Neoconservative and Populist Approaches to Foreign Policy

This seminar examines the normative (advocacy) aspects of realism, neoconservatism and populism as guides to foreign policy.

Feb. 19 Winter Reading Week - No Class

Feb. 26 Liberal and Progressive Approaches to Foreign Policy

This seminar examines the normative (advocacy) aspects of liberalism and critical theory as guides to foreign policy including key concepts such as human security and human development.

Mar. 5 Group Foreign Policy Analysis Exercise

This class will be used to complete an in-class group exercise on analysing a foreign policy issue based on the five normative approaches to foreign policy.

Mar. 12 Tools of Statecraft

This seminar examines the various foreign policy tools available to states including the full range of diplomatic, economic and military/intelligence tools.

Mar. 19 Group Foreign Policy Problem-Solving Exercise

This class will be used to complete an in-class group exercise on applying the various tools of statecraft to the solving of a foreign policy problem. It will provide the basis for the group foreign policy paper.

Mar. 26 IPE Theories and the Free Trade Debate

The seminar examines the debate over economic policy and free trade between the free market approach (liberal/neoliberal economics) and the interventionist approach (Keynesian-welfare economics).

Apl. 2 Foreign Policy Issues: Climate Change

This seminar examines the economics of climate change as well as some of the political strategies used by those seeking to address it.

Apl. 9 Foreign Policy Issues: Ethnic Conflicts Across the Middle East

This seminar examines key background, concepts and issues related to ethnic conflict in the contexts of Iraq/Syria; Saudi Arabia/Iran and Israel/Palestine.