

CURRENT AFFAIRS IN WORLD POLITICS

Political Science 3397f (Spring 2015)

Time: Thursdays 12:30-14:20

Location: 3317 Somerville House

Prof. Radoslav Dimitrov

Office: 4219 Social Sciences

Mon, Th 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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Course description The course explores contemporary issues in world politics through active student engagement. Students will examine world politics as it happens through news in the mass media, and conduct a “reality check” by testing academic theories of international relations against current affairs. The course emphasizes class discussions and political analysis of issues in international security, global political economy, environmental politics and human rights. Theoretical topics include sources of power, the use of force versus diplomacy, the role of international institutions, morality and ethics in politics, and the interplay between domestic politics and international relations.

Course objectives and outcomes

The course is designed to be demanding and rewarding. We will pursue the following objectives: 1) Deepen your knowledge of contemporary international affairs; 2) Refine your ability to conduct political analysis and synthesize ideas and information; and 3) Develop appreciation of the multiplicity of perspectives on the social world where black and white are just two colors of the spectrum.

Required readings include academic journal articles, chapter books and articles in popular political magazines such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy* and *The Economist*. Book chapters are placed in Weldon library reserve. All other readings are in electronic format on Sakai (<http://owl.uwo.ca>). Students need to complete the readings for each class period prior to class. We will follow news sources such as the BBC, Deutsche Welle, France24, Euronews, Al-Jazeera, *The International Herald Tribune*, and *The Globe and Mail*.

Grading policy

Participation & attendance	20%
Research paper	30%
News journal	30 %
Presentation and debate	20%

ASSIGNMENTS

Participation in classroom discussions on current events is essential in this course. Students are expected to actively participate in discussion every class period. Criteria for marking participation are 1) clear expression of political views on current affairs; 2) use of factual information from news, 3) demonstrated knowledge of the assigned readings, 4) skill at relating facts to academic ideas, and 5) ability to listen to others and respond to their statements. Let's talk politics!

News journal

Please write a personal journal reflecting world news. Make one entry per week every week on the day before the class period. Each entry (no more than two pages) should summarize concisely but informatively two major events of the week, providing factual information and a brief personal commentary with your reaction. The best journals will integrate news with assigned readings for the week. Each entry should indicate mass media sources used and the Internet addresses of news articles. Recommended news sources include the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Euronews, France24, Al-Jazeera, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The Globe and Mail* and *The Guardian*.

Research paper

You need to write a 4000-word paper that addresses one current topic in world politics of your own choice. The paper needs to 1) give an exposition of the problematique and the political dynamics involved, and 2) interpret the empirical case through the perspective of one or more academic theories of IR. How can the academic study of world politics help us understand this current issue?

ATTENTION: All written assignments should be in font Times New Roman size 12, and 1-inch margins.

Presentation and debate

Each student will engage in one debate on a controversial issue in world politics. The assignment consists of two components: 1) prepare a presentation to introduce the issue to the class and 2) engage in a two-sided debate to defend an argument. The mark will be based on three criteria: the scope and depth of background preparation, the argument's clarity and justification, and your ability to respond to counterarguments.

CONSULTATIONS

Office hours provide you with an excellent opportunity to discuss issues and deepen your understanding of course material. I encourage you to talk to me throughout the year about course content and expectations. If you have special needs, medical or family emergencies, please let me know and we will make appropriate arrangements.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Western Ontario seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in this class, please give prior notice to the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

COURSE CALENDAR

Attention: The following are tentative topics. The finalized list depends on current world events during the time of the course. Changes to the calendar and readings list are to be expected. Please follow announcements each week on Sakai.

JANUARY 8	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Scope and content of course, significance of topic, and course expectations.</p>
JANUARY 15	<p>THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</p> <p><i>Sign up for class debates.</i> <u>Attendance mandatory</u></p> <p>Elke Krahnmann, “American Hegemony or Global Governance? Competing Visions of International Security,” <i>International Studies Review</i> (2005) 7, pp. 531-545.</p> <p>Kenneth Abbott and Duncan Snidal, “Why states act through international organizations,” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> vol. 41, no. 1 (February 1998), pp. 3-32.</p> <p>Richard Betts, “The Lost Logic of Deterrence,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> March/April 2013, pp. 116-129. <u>Find the complete issue of the journal <i>Foreign Affairs</i> on Sakai</u></p>
JANUARY 22	<p>ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT</p> <p>Daniel Byman and Nathan Sachs, “The Rise of Settler Terrorism,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> September/February 2012, pp. 73-86</p> <p>Norman Filkenstein, “Iraq and Israel: A Double Standard,” <i>Journal of Palestine Studies</i> vol. 20, no. 2 (winter 1991) pp. 43-56.</p> <p>Rosemary Hollis, “The Israeli-Palestinian road block: Can Europeans make a difference?” <i>International Affairs</i> 80, 2 (2004): 191-201.</p>
JANUARY 29	<p>THE ISLAMIC STATE AND INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION</p> <p>Readings to be announced</p>

FEBRUARY 5	<p>RUSSIA AND THE UKRAINE CRISIS</p> <p>Readings to be announced</p>
FEBRUARY 12	<p>THE EUROPEAN UNION IN WORLD POLITICS</p> <p>Wallace J. Thies, "Is the EU Collapsing?" <i>International Studies Review</i> 14 (2012): 225-239.</p> <p>Matthias Mathijs and R. Daniel Kelemen, "Europe Reborn: How to Save the European Union from Irrelevance," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Jan./Feb. 2015, pp. 96-107.</p> <p>Hans Kundnani, "Leaving the West Behind: Germany Looks East" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Jan./Feb. 2015, pp. 108-116.</p> <p>Philip Gordon, "Bridging the Transatlantic Divide," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (2003).</p>
FEBRUARY 19	<p>READING WEEK – NO CLASS</p>
FEBRUARY 26	<p>INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY</p> <p><i>Research paper due</i></p> <p>Readings to be announced</p>
MARCH 5	<p>POLITICAL EXTREMISM</p> <p>John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart, "The Terrorism Delusion: America's Overwrought Response to September 11," <i>International Security</i> vol. 37, no. 1 (Summer 2012), pp. 81-110.</p> <p>Wyn Rees and Richard J. Aldrich, "Contending cultures of counterterrorism: Transatlantic convergence or divergence?" <i>International Affairs</i> 81, 5 (2005): 905-923.</p>

<p>MARCH 12</p>	<p>POLITICAL EXTREMISM II</p> <p>Risa Brooks, “Muslim Homegrown Terrorism in the United States: How Serious is the Threat?” <i>International Security</i> vol. 36, no. 2 (Fall 2011), pp. 7-47</p> <p>Graham E. Fuller, “The Future of Political Islam,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> March/April 2002.</p> <p>David Campbell and Robert Putnam, “God and Ceasar in America: Why Mixing Politics and Religion is Bad for Both,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> March/April 2013, pp. 151-161. Find complete issue on Sakai</p>
<p>MARCH 19</p> <p><i>Journal due</i></p>	<p>GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLITICS</p> <p>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “Fifth Assessment Report, Summary for Policymakers” (IPCC 2014)</p> <p>Radoslav S. Dimitrov, “Climate diplomacy,” in <i>Research Handbook of Climate Governance</i>, edited by Karin Bäckstrand and Eva Lövbrandt (Edward Elgar 2015).</p> <p>Scott Moore, “Delhi Dilemma: India is now the biggest barrier to a global climate treaty,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> November 2014.</p>
<p>MARCH 26</p>	<p>THE RISE OF CHINA</p> <p>Readings to be announced</p>
<p>APRIL 2</p>	<p>THE RISE OF CHINA II</p> <p>Readings to be announced</p>

**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 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 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.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.