DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
www.politicalscience.ualberta.ca
2014-2015 POL S 260 (Q1) (Fall and Winter Terms)
An Introduction to International Relations
Monday 18:00-21:00

Instructors:
Dr. John McCoy
Email: jsmccoy@ualberta.ca
Office: 11-6

Dr. Rebecca Graff-McRae
Email: rgrafl@ualberta.ca
Office: 11-26

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Prerequisites: POL S 101 or consent of department

Course-based Ethics Approval: No

Community Service Learning: No

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available: No

Additional mandatory Instructional fees: No

Course Description and Objectives:

Political Science 260 will introduce students to the sub-discipline of International Relations (IR). The course will provide students with an overview of International Relations theory (both mainstream and critical approaches), and will focus on several key themes including war, political violence, international organizations, institutions, law and the intersections of economics and politics at the international level. These topics and themes will be contextualized within historical and contemporary trends such as the two World Wars, the Cold War, globalization, the increasing prominence of non-state actors in global politics and the economic crisis of the early 21st century.

Text:

Required:


Additional recommended reading:


This course will prioritize the application of theoretical knowledge to real world events. Students are **strongly encouraged** to read online and print news sources on a weekly basis. Some recommended news sources include BBC online, the New York Times, the Guardian, and the Globe and Mail.

**Please Note:** There is also included in the class reading schedule several on-line journal articles. These articles can be found at the University of Alberta library website under the ‘journals’ tab:

- Select the journals tab
- Type the name of the journal listed in the readings section
- Follow the links to the volume and issue number listed at the end of the journal reference.

**Grade Distribution:**

**Component 1: Course Participation - 10% of course grade.**

As the course does not contain a dedicated weekly seminar students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. These discussions will provide an opportunity for students to discuss the weekly readings and lecture materials in a critical but non-judgmental forum. Half of the participation grade (5%) will be based on a random attendance sheet distributed on five occasions during the course.

In other words, attendance is strongly recommended at each class, as is active, engaged participation in discussions. Participation will be furthered by an awareness of global current events, a familiarity with recommended news sources ad readings, and a willingness to challenge established ways of thinking about IR, global politics, and grand narratives generally.

**Component 2: Fall Term Paper - 20% of course grade.**

(Due in class on November 3rd)

Students must select and defend the relevancy of one International Relations theory that has been covered in the fall semester. You will defend your selected theory by comparing and contrasting it to one other IR theory that has also been covered during the fall semester. Papers will be five to seven pages in length and contain at least five cited academic works (i.e. journal articles and books). Make sure to properly cite all paraphrasing and direct quotations.

**Component 3: End of Fall Term exam - 25% of course grade.**

The end of fall term exam will be held on December 1st in class. The exam will cover all lecture and reading materials from the fall term.

**Component 4: Winter Term Paper - 20% of course grade.**

(Due in class February 24th)

Students will select one of the theoretical perspectives discussed during the term, and construct a 2500 word essay in response to one of the questions listed for that topic. Essays must be properly cited and include a full bibliography (not part of the word count).
Component 5: Final Exam (take home -critical review essay) - 25% of course grade.  
(Due April 7th)

Students will be given a scholarly article centred on one of the theoretical or thematic approaches covered in during the term. They will be asked to critique and evaluate the article, deploying critiques from any of the other perspectives discussed. Students must also incorporate a related international political event, as reported in reputable news media, and discuss whether our understanding of the event benefits from the approach adopted in the article, or if another approach would be more illuminating.

Required Notes: "Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar."

Academic Integrity: "The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University."

Learning and Working Environment: The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, bring this to the attention of the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice: (http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, section 44 available at http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca.

Plagiarism and Cheating: All students should consult the “Truth-In-Education” handbook or Website (http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE) regarding the definitions of plagiarism and its consequences when detected. Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” Students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. Before unpleasantness occurs consult http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE; also discuss this matter with your instructor.

Recording of Lectures: Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of
an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not
to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

**Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:** Regular attendance is essential for optimal
performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic
affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable
and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and
23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss
of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any
assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result. In this course, your class participation
mark will be based on attendance, paying attention in class, demonstrating you have done the assigned
readings, thoughtful classroom and group discussion engagement, and respecting others.

**Policy for Late Assignments:** It is your responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as it becomes
clear that your work will be late. If you do not communicate in advance, and your reason for being late
does not also explain this lack of communication, then you should be prepared to be penalized 10 % a
day.

**Grading:** Marks for assignments and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also
assigned, according to the table below. The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and
examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>90-100 (95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>85-89 (87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>80-84 (82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>77-79 (78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>73-76 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>70-72 (71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>67-69 (68)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>63-66 (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>60-62 (61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>55-59 (57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Pass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>50-54 (52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class Schedule:**

**Fall Term 2014 (Dr. John McCoy)**

**Week 1: September 8**th

Course overview

No Readings.
Section I: Introduction and International Relations Theory: from the status quo to constructivism

Week 2: September 15th

Class Themes: Introduction to International Relations and Globalization

Readings: From the textbook: introduction and chapter one.

Week 3: September 22nd

Class Themes: International Society and Post-War International History

Readings: From the textbook: chapters two, three and four.

Week 4: September 29th

Class Theme: Realism

Readings: From the textbook: chapters six and eight

Week 5: October 6th

Class Themes: Liberalism and Constructivism

Readings: From the textbook: chapters seven and ten

***please note there will be no class held on October 13th due to Thanksgiving break***

Class Section II: Conflict, War, Terrorism and Security

Week 7: October 20th

Class Theme: An Introduction to War and Security

Readings: From the textbook: chapters fourteen and fifteen

Week 8: October 27th

Class Themes: Historical and Contemporary Terrorism

Readings: From the textbook: chapter twenty-three


**Week 9: November 3rd**

Class Themes: Asymmetrical Warfare and the Role of Nationalism, Culture, Ethnicity and Race in Conflict and International Relations

Readings:

From the textbook: chapter twenty-five

From the Online Journals: Murray, Robert and John McCoy. (2010) "From Middle Power to Peacebuilder: The Use of the Canadian Forces in Modern Canadian Foreign Policy." American Review of Canadian Studies. 40 (2).

***Fall term paper due***

***Please note there will be no class held on November 10th due to Fall Term class break***

Class Section III: Global Trade and Finance and International Political Economy

**Week 10: November 17th**

Class Themes: Historical and Contemporary Patterns of Global Trade and Finance

Readings: From the textbook: Chapter twenty-seven

**Week 11: November 24th**

Class Themes: Introduction to International Political Economy and term review

Readings: From the textbook: Chapter sixteen


**Week 12: December 1st**

***End of Term Exam***
Winter Term 2015 (Dr. Rebecca Graff-McRae)

Week 1: January 5th
Class Theme: Introduction (Class expectations, assignments, review of key concepts from Fall term)

Week 2: January 12th
Class Theme: Marxist Theories of IR

Week 3: January 19th
Class Theme: Critical IR Theory

Week 4: January 26th
Class Theme: Post-structuralist & Post-positivist Approaches

Week 5: February 2nd
Class Theme: Feminist IR Theory 1

Week 6: February 9th
Class Theme: Feminist IR Theory 2

Week 7: February 16th
***No Class***

Week #8: February 23rd
Class Theme: Post-Colonialism & Development Theory

***Critical Review Essays Due in Class***

Week 9: March 2nd
Class Theme: Institutions in Global Politics
Week 10: March 9th
Class Theme: Responsibility to Protect: Case Studies

Week 11: March 16th
Class Theme: Environmental Politics 1

*St. Patrick's Day. Prepare to be regaled with all 10 verses of “the Fields of Athenry”.*

Week 12: March 23rd
Class Theme: Environmental Politics 2

Week 13: March 30th
Class Theme: ZOMBIES!!! yes <seriously>

Week 14: April 6th

***Theory Essays Due***
Amendments to the Code of Student Behaviour occur throughout the year. For the most recent version of the Code, visit http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFENCE

The U of A considers plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence to be serious academic offences. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence can be avoided if students are told what these offences are and if possible sanctions are made clear at the outset. Instructors should understand that the principles embodied in the Code are essential to our academic purpose. For this reason, instructors will be fully supported by Departments, Faculties and the University in their endeavours to rightfully discover and pursue cases of academic dishonesty in accordance with the Code.

At the beginning of each term, we ask you to review with your students the definitions of plagiarism and cheating. We now also ask you to review with your students the definition of Misrepresentation (Facts and/or Persuasion) on an Offence. Your cooperation and understanding in this matter are much appreciated.

30.3.2(1) Plagiarism

No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) Cheating

30.3.2(2)a No Student shall be the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2)b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6(4).

Cheating (Continued)

30.3.2(2)c No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own.

30.3.2(2)d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2)e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts

No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. This includes such acts as the failure to provide pertinent information on an application for admission or the altering of an educational document/transcript.

30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence

No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

The Truth in Education (TIE) project is a campus wide educational campaign on Academic Honesty. This program was created to let people know the limits and consequences of inappropriate academic behaviour. There are helpful tips for Instructors and Students. Please take the time to visit the website at: http://www.ualberta.ca/tie
Excerpts from the Code of Student Behaviour
For Review with Each Class at the Beginning of Every Term

Procedures for Instructors Regarding

Plagiarism, Cheating,

Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence

The following procedures are drawn from the Code of Student Behaviour as approved by GFC and the Board of Governors. The guidelines summarize what instructors must do when they have reason to believe that a student has plagiarized, cheated, misrepresented facts or participated in an offence. If you have questions about these guidelines, or about the policies, please talk with the senior administrator in your Faculty responsible for dealing with student discipline—usually an Associate Dean—or the Appeals and Compliance Officer (Appeals Coordinator), University Governance (2-2655).

30.5.4 Procedures for Instructors in Cases Respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour

30.5.4(1) When an Instructor believes that a Student may have committed an Inappropriate Academic Behaviour Offence [30.3.2] or that there has been Misrepresentation of Facts [30.3.6(4)] or Participation in an Offence [30.3.6(5)] in cases respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour in the course that he or she instructs, the Instructor will meet with the Student. Before such a meeting, the Instructor shall inform the Student of the purpose of the meeting. In the event that the Student refuses or fails to meet with the Instructor within a reasonable period of time specified by the Instructor, the Instructor shall, taking into account the available information, decide whether a report to the Dean is warranted.

30.5.4(2) If the Instructor believes there has been a violation of the Code, the Instructor shall, as soon as possible after the event occurred, report that violation to the Dean and provide a written statement of the details of the case. The Instructor may also include a recommendation for sanction.

Possible Sanctions

One or more of the following sanctions given in 30.4.3 (2) and (3) of the Code are commonly used for plagiarism, cheating, participation in an offence, and misrepresentation of facts:

30.4.3(2) a.i. a mark reduction or a mark of 0 on any term work or examination for reason of Inappropriate Academic Behaviour
30.4.3(2) a.ii. Reduction of a grade in a course
30.4.3(2) a.iii. A grade of F for a course
30.4.3(2) a.iv. A remark on a transcript of 8 (or 9 for failing graduate student grades), indicating Inappropriate Academic Behaviour, in addition to 30.4.3(2)a.i, 30.4.3(2)a.ii or 30.4.3(2)a.iii

30.4.3(3) b. Expulsion
30.4.3(3) c. Suspension

The following sanctions may be used in rare cases:

30.4.3(3) e. Suspension of a Degree already awarded
30.4.3(3) f. Recission of a Degree already awarded

30.6.1 Initiation of an Appeal

30.6.1(1) When a Student has been found to have committed an offence under the Code of Student Behaviour or an Applicant is found to have committed an offence under the Code of Applicant Behaviour, whether or not that Student or Applicant has been given a sanction, the Student or Applicant may appeal that decision, except in the case of a decision of the Discipline Officer under 30.5.6(2.ii), which remains final and is not subject to appeal. In cases where a severe sanction has been recommended to the Discipline Officer, once the student receives the final decision of the Discipline Officer, the student can appeal the decisions of both Dean and the Discipline Officer at the same time. The written appeal must be presented to the Appeals Coordinator in University Governance within 15 Working Days of the deemed receipt of the decision by the Student or Applicant. The finding that an offence has been committed, the sanction imposed or both may form the basis of appeal. The written appeal must also state the full grounds of appeal and be signed by the Appellant. The appeal shall be heard by the UAB.

Professor Steven Penney
Chair, Campus Law Review Committee

Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell
Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

* The Campus Law Review Committee is a standing committee of General Faculties Council (GFC) responsible for the review of the Code of Student Behaviour and of student disciplinary procedures.

Updated: 30/01/2013