UNIVERSITY of ALBERTA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POL S 261 A1
HC L 3

Fall 2016    Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50AM

Professor Ashley Esarey
HM Tory Bldg. 12-9
780-492-5772; cell: 780-243-6464
esarey@ualberta.ca

Office Hours: Monday, 2-3PM or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Nafisa Abdulhamid; email: nabdulha@ualberta.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course serves as an introduction to the study and practice of international relations. It addresses relations among states as well as the roles played by an increasing number of non-state actors in the global arena. This course introduces key concepts, theories and tools that will help students to analyze global issues relating to conflict, war, trade, culture, and other relevant dimensions of global politics. Topics will include war and peace, nationalism, nuclear proliferation, international organizations, international political economy, human rights, gender, poverty, and the environment. The course embraces a broad approach to the study of world politics and introduces students to theoretical debates relating to the complex nature of governance at the global level. The course will also introduce students to the processes of “globalization” and to possible future developments in world politics.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:
Students without the course prerequisite (POL S 101) should speak with the instructor before registering. The Department may cancel your registration if you do not have the required course prerequisites.

CLASS FORMAT:
This class consists of three sessions per week—two fifty-minute lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10AM and 10:50AM and a discussion session on Friday at 10AM. Attendance at every session of the course is mandatory. The lectures offer an overview of key themes and debates in the field of International Relations and make references to historical events and current topics in international relations. Although lecture sessions will afford opportunities for questions and some discussion, discussion sessions on Fridays are designed to encourage more in-depth consideration of the week’s required reading and lecture materials. Students are expected to come to each class prepared to address the particular questions and themes designated on the syllabus. Discussion sessions will often be organized around a particular topic or reading (i.e. a short reading, newspaper article or audio file) and questions will typically be sent to students on Wednesday afternoons. A full description of the expectations for discussion sessions will be explicated during the first and second weeks of class.
COURSE TEXTS:
See below for a list of the required course textbooks for sale at the University of Alberta bookstore.


In addition, student will occasionally be required to download readings for class on their tablet or in hard copy. *If for any reason you experience difficulties accessing the required course material, please contact Professor Esarey via email immediately.*

General Reading and Media Resources:
Students are expected to maintain general knowledge of world events. While you will not be tested on this information per se, it will help you to follow course lectures, write better essays, and participate more effectively in class. Ideally your regular consumption of news of the world will become habitual! Students should consult a range of Canadian and international media as well as academic sources. A non-exhaustive list of media outlets include: The Globe and Mail, The Guardian, The New York Times, Al-Jazeera English, BBC World Service, National Public Radio (NPR), Foreign Policy, Opendemocracy.net, the London Review of Books, New York Review of Books, New Left Review, RadioOpensource (Brown), the New Yorker, China Daily, Japan Times, Spiegel Online, Taipei Times, and the Times of India. It would also be valuable to peruse articles on foreign affairs in such relevant academic journals as *International Organization, Security Studies, Foreign Affairs, World Politics, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science,* and the *International Journal of Communication.*

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

The course requirements are outlined below. Students should note that *all components of the course must be completed* to receive a passing grade. Tests and assignments will be assigned a letter grade. The instructor will not “curve” or adjust final grades according to any preset formula.

Evaluation of the following course requirements will determine students’ grades:

- **Discussion Session Participation:** 15% of course grade.

  *Friday class periods* will generally be used for discussion sessions, with the exception of November 23. Attendance in discussion sessions is mandatory and vigorous participation is essential to success in the course. Students are expected to prepare for seminar discussions by reading all required readings carefully. In class, students will participate actively by offering critical and insightful comments related to the course materials, and by listening respectfully to other students.
• **Op-Ed Writing Assignment**—due 12 October—20% of course grade.

This assignment asks students to reflect critically on some of the theories and problems introduced in the course and to articulate a strong argument in a mock op-ed style essay of 1,000 words or less. More detailed instructions will be distributed and discussed in class in late September.

• **International crisis simulation participation**—held from 25 November to 2 December: 5% of course grade. Details on this exercise will be distributed late in the term.

• **In-Class Midterm Examination**—on 4 November: 25% of course grade

• **Take-Home Final Examination**—due on 12 December: 35% of course grade

**GRADING SCHEME:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Pass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 (online at http://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 direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with 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 is described in UAPPOL a
https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110

Academic Honesty:
All students should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook and Information for Students). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

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. See the Academic Discipline Process.

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.

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.

Policy for Late Assignments:
It is your responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as it becomes clear that your work will be turned in 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 percent of the assignment’s score for each working day that the assignment is late.

Specialized Support & Disability Services:
If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements
can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; ssdsrec@ualberta.ca; 780-492-3381; www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

FEELING OVERWHELMED? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?): The Student Distress Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:

- Call: 492-HELP (492-4357)
- Drop in: 030-N in the S.U.B.
- Visit: www.su.ualberta.ca/sdc
- Chat: http://www.campuscrisischat.com/

****Please note that the instructor may revise this course outline at any time. Any changes will be announced in class and via the course eclass website****

COURSE SCHEDULE

2 September
Introduction and Organization
There are no required readings for this session, although students should become intimately familiar with the rules for the course in the course outline (or “the syllabus”).

5 September
**Labour Day** **No Class Scheduled**

7 September
History in the Study of International Relations

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 4: Michael Cox, “From the Cold War to a New Global Era,” pages 65-79.

9 September
Discussion Session

12 September
Rising Powers and Changes to the Global (Dis)Order


14 September
Power in the 21st Century

16 September  
Discussion Session

19 September  
*The Role of Military Force*  

21 September  
*Realism and the Security Dilemma*  

23 September  
Discussion Session

26 September  
*Liberalism*  

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 8: Steven L. Lamy, “Contemporary Mainstream Approaches: Neo-realism and Neo-liberalism,” pages 126-140.

28 September  
*Post-Colonialism and Orientalism*  

30 September  
Discussion Session

3 October  
*Feminism as a Critique of Mainstream IR*  

5 October  
*Social Constructivism*  

7 October  
Discussion Session
10 October
**Thanksgiving**  No Class Scheduled

12 October
Post-Structuralism
Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 11: Lene Hanson, “Post-Structuralism,” pages 169-184.

**Op-Ed Writing Assignment—due**

14 October
Discussion Session

17 October
Nationalism in a Global Era

19 October
Nuclear Proliferation

21 October
Discussion Session

24 October
Introduction to International Political Economy

26 October
Economic Power, Interdependence, Inequality

28 October
Discussion Session
31 October
Marxism in International Relations Theory

V.I. Lenin, “Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism,” chapters 1-4. There are numerous versions of this famous essay available online. One complete version, with (appropriately Marxist) commentary, is here: http://www.readingfromtheleft.com/Books/Classics/LeninImperialism.pdf

2 November
Imperialism and Globalization

4 November
In-Class Midterm Examination

7-11 November Reading Week—No Class Scheduled

14 November
Culture and Conflict

16 November
Islam and Violence

Talal Asad, On Suicide Bombing, pages 7-38.

18 November
Suicide Terrorism
In-class video “Paradise Now”

Talal Asad, On Suicide Bombing, pages 39-64.

21 March
Terrorism Continued
In-class video “Paradise Now”

Talal Asad, On Suicide Bombing, pages 65-96.
23 November
Discussion Session

25 November
International Crisis Simulation Introduction

28 November
International Crisis Simulation Round I

30 November
International Crisis Simulation Round II

2 December
International Crisis Simulation Debriefing

5 December
Human Security and Humanitarian Intervention


**Final Exam Distributed**

12 December—Take-Home Final Exam due via Email
**PROCEDURES**

**For Review with Each Class at the Beginning of Every Term**

*EXCERPTS FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Sanctions</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed and Vice-President (Academic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>David Stevens</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Campus Law Review Committee is a standing committee of General Faculty Council (CFC) responsible for the review of the Code of Student Behavior and of student discipline.**

**Chair, Campus Law Review Committee**

**Professor Steven Penny**

Section 305.4(e)(1) (The Instructor believes there has been a violation of the Code or the Instructor feels there is a need to address the Code of Student Behavior in an appropriate manner.)

**Section 306.4 (Inappropriate Academic Behavior)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Sanctions</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assume clean - in the regular student - discipline, the Code of Student Behavior requires that the instructor provide to the student a written statement of the nature of the alleged violation of the Code and the basis of the allegation. If the instructor believes that there has not been a violation of the Code, the instructor shall explain the reasons for the belief. If the instructor believes that there has been a violation of the Code, the instructor shall state the specific violation of the Code and the basis for the belief. The instructor shall then provide the student with a written statement of the alleged violation of the Code and the basis for the belief. The student shall have the right to respond to the written statement of the instructor. The instructor shall then consider the student's response and make a decision. The decision shall be in writing and shall be provided to the student and to the campus law review committee. The decision shall be final and shall not be appealed.**

**The following procedures are from the Code of Student Behavior as approved by CFC.**