

**POLS*1500
WORLD POLITICS
Department of Political Science
University of Guelph
Fall 2008**

Professor Jordi Díez

**Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
(MacKinnon 539)**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
Axelrod – Room 200**

Teaching Assistants

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Overview

This course offers students an introduction to the analysis of world politics. The course opens with an introduction to some of the most important theories and concepts used in the study of International Relations. We subsequently look briefly at the formation and evolution of the current international system in historical perspective. Equipped with our theoretical and conceptual toolbox, we will then analyze a variety of contemporary issues of global importance, such as the growing disparities between North and South, globalization, humanitarian intervention, the role of multi-national corporations in the world economy, international terrorism, the so-called ‘clash of civilizations,’ and the diminishing influence of the U.S. on world politics.

The course is designed for students seeking a critical introduction to the political trends, actors and events that matter in world politics today. As it assumes no prior knowledge of international politics, it is therefore intended for first-year students. It is strongly recommended for students considering pursuing a specialization in Political Science.

Course Format and Requirements

The course involves two (1 hour and 20 minutes) lectures a week and a one-hour **optional** tutorial a week.

The requirements of the course are as follows:

A) Tutorial Option

- Mid-term test - **October 21** (20%)
- A short, five-page essay - due on **November 18** (25%)
- Tutorial Participation (15%)
- Final Examination (40%)

B) Non-Tutorial Option

- Mid-term test - **October 21** (25%)
- A short, five-page essay - due on **November 18** (30%)
- Final Examination (45%)

Tutorial Option

Students have the option to attend a one-hour tutorial every week. Tutorials will commence on the week of September 22 (the times and location will be announced during the first two weeks of class). Students who decide to attend the tutorial will be assessed according to Option A (Tutorial Option). While every effort will be made to schedule tutorials at a time convenient for all students who wish to attend, it may not always be possible to do so given the limitations on resources. In such cases, students will have no alternative but to be evaluated by the second grading scheme. However, in past years, every student who has decided to participate in a tutorial has been able to do so.

The tutorial grade will be based on students' active contribution to the discussions of the assigned readings. Students must attend at least 8 of the 10 tutorials in order to receive a tutorial grade. Tutorials are an essential component of the learning experience in first-year courses and you are strongly encouraged to attend them. Students who decide to attend tutorials but that, given their performance in them, may have obtained a higher grade under the Option B will automatically be reverted to Option B.

Required Reading and Current Events

The majority of the required readings (marked with  in the reading list) for the course are in the Course Pack that is available for purchase in the campus bookstore. All other readings (marked with ) have been placed on reserve in the library and can be accessed directly through the library or

through WebCT. Unless otherwise noted, all readings cited in this outline, as well as those that will be assigned from time to time, are required reading and subject to examination.

Students are expected to follow world events in the media and to be well informed on newly breaking international developments. The best media sources that cover international events are, perhaps, *The New York Times* (especially the Sunday Edition), *The Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *The Guardian Weekly*, *Le Monde*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, and the BBC World News. Most of these media can be consulted online. It is also a good idea to listen to the news on the radio or television. The CBC, PBS and the BBC are all good sources. Please note that, in past years, the final exam has been based, at least partly, on current events.

WebCT

You are required to consult your WebCT account regularly as additional readings and announcements will be posted with frequency. An introduction to the system will be conducted on the first day of class. A discussion forum will be setup and will be directed by the instructor and the TAs. Using the general discussion forum may help students to test out the ideas and obtain input from peers as well as the instructor. We will provide input if it is required and will try to answer questions. It is primarily designed to encourage students to engage in a discussion in an attempt to clarify material from the lectures and the readings that remain unclear or on which students would like to elaborate or explore further. Students must know that the WebCT discussions must adhere to the institution's formal policy of communication and engagement. According to University Policy, students have the responsibility to foster an environment characterized by mutual respect. As such, do know that propriety is expected in these university fora and action will be taken should the policy be violated.

PLEASE READ THIS VERY CAREFULLY:

- There will be absolutely **no extensions granted** on the due date for the essay assignment unless medical documentation, or similar, explaining reasons for the lateness of the submission is provided. Such documentation must state that the student has been incapacitated and unable to work, as well as the exact dates of such incapacitation. Essays are due **at the beginning of class on November 18**. The penalty for late submissions 3% of the **paper's grade** for each day late, including weekends. Late essays must be submitted to the main office of the Political Science Department's 'essay drop off box' so that they are dated and stamped (Essays submitted after 4:30 pm will be stamped the following day). For this course, the very last day to submit coursework in the last day of class, which falls on November 27. Essays submitted after this date will receive a grade of 0 (zero).
- Essays are **not** accepted as e-mail attachments. Students must keep an electronic copy of their essays on file which should be submitted within 24 hours upon request.
- In this class, students may **only** use electronic mail for **procedural inquires**. All substantive questions regarding lectures, readings, writing assignments and presentations must be asked in person. Nevertheless, students are strongly encouraged to approach the TA's or the Professor

during their office hours with any queries, rather than using e-mail.

- Only under truly exceptional circumstances shall make-up examinations be administered and late essay submissions be accepted. Medical, or similar, documentation, stating that the student is (fully) **incapacitated and unable to work**, is required. The note must state the exact dates during which such incapacitation occurred. After the end of the semester, make-up tests and final exams will only be administered after having been granted permission from the Academic Review Sub-Committee.
- Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence that carries very severe penalties. **It is the student's responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism.** I urge you to take the time to review the academic rules regarding referencing and the borrowing of ideas and arguments (You can obtain information from the university's Learning Commons (<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/WritingServices/>)). Students **Will** be given the benefit of the doubt when a case of plagiarism is detected and will automatically be referred to the College's Associate Dean so that the appropriate penalty is applied. Please note that, under University policy, instructors and TAs are allowed to use computer software available to detect plagiarism.

Your continued registration in the course will be taken as evidence that you have agreed to the requirements, terms and conditions of the course.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

(This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted to accommodate guest speakers, discussions of newly breaking world events or the showing of documentaries and films)

Sept. 4 **Introduction and Overview of the Course**

PART I: CONCEPTS, HISTORY AND THEORIES

Sept. 9 & 11 **Concepts in International Relations**

Sept. 16 **Historical Overview I: The Emergence of the Westphalian System**
 Sept. 18 **Historical Overview II: The World Since 1945**

- Ray, James R. and Juliet Kaarbo. 2005. *Global Politics*. Scarborough: Houghton Mifflin: 24 – 83. 

Sept. 23 **Theoretical Approaches to World Politics**
 What is a theory?

Why do we need theories?
Two world views and their theoretical challenges

- Holsti, Ole R. 1995. "Theories of International Relations and Foreign Policy: Realism and its Challengers," in *Controversies in International Relations Theory: Realism and the Neo-Liberal Challenge*. New York: St. Martin's Press: 35-65. 

Sept. 25

The State and the Making of Foreign Policy

What is a 'State'?
States and their importance in the International System
The making of foreign policy in Canada
The mass public and foreign policy

- Rourke, John. 2004. *International Politics on the World Stage*. New York: McGraw Hill: 165-168 & 170-180. 

- Nossal, Kim R. "Analyzing Canadian Foreign Policy" in *The Politics of Canadian Foreign Policy*. Scarborough: Prentice Hall, Pp. 3-17. 

Sept. 30

The Bretton Woods Institutions

International institutions and global governance

- Ray and Kaarbo: 312 – 335. 

Oct. 2

The International System

Contending views on conflict and international security
Balance of power and collective security

- Mingst, Karen. 2004 (3rd edition). *Essentials of International Relations*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company: 218 - 231. 

Oct. 7 & 9

North-South Relations

Development, dependency and growing disparities
The 'Global South'

- Isbister, John. 2003. *Promises Not Kept*. Bloomfield: Kumarian: 7 – 29. 

- Scott, Bruce R. 2001. "The Great Divide in the Global Village" *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 1: 160 – 177. 

PART II: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN WORLD POLITICS

- Oct. 14 **Globalization and Globalism**
- Held, David et al. 1999. "Globalization" *Global Governance* 5(9), Pp. 483-496. 📖
- Oct. 16 **Global Environmental Politics**
- Greene, Owen. 2005. "Environmental Issues" *The Globalization of World Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 451-475. 📖
- Oct. 21 **MID-TERM EXAMINATION**
- Oct. 23 **Violent Conflict in the Global South**
- Kaplan, Robert. 1994. "The Coming Anarchy" *The Atlantic Monthly* Feb (273) 2, Pp. 44 - 76. 📖
- Oct. 28 **Essay Writing Workshop with John Paul Sousa, Learning Commons**
- Oct. 30 **The United Nations and Humanitarian Intervention**
- Shimko, Keith. 2005. *International Relations: Perspectives and Controversies*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 245-262. 📖
- Nov. 4 **Research Workshop with Carol Perry, Library**
- Nov. 6 **International Terrorism**
- Kepel, Gilles. 2004. *The War for the Muslim Minds: Islam and the West*. Harvard: Belknap, Pp. 70 – 107. 📖
- Nov. 11 **Women and Gender in Global Politics**
- Pettman, Jan Jindy. 2005. "Gender Issues" in John Baylis and Steve Smith (eds.) *The Globalization of World Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 670 – 687. 📖

Nov. 13 **AIDS as a Tans-National Problem**

- Snow, Donald. 2003. "Worse than the Bubonic Plague: AIDS in Africa as a Trans-state Issue" *Cases in International Relations: Portraits of the Future*. New York: Longman, Pp. 272 – 287. 📖

Nov. 18 **Multi-National Corporations**

- Spar, Debora and David Yoffe. 1999. "Multinational Enterprises and the Prospects for Justice" *Journal of International Affairs* Spring 52(2), pp. 557 – 581. 📖

- ESSAY DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS •

Nov. 20 **The Clash of Civilizations**

- Huntington, Samuel. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations" *Foreign Affairs* 72(3), Pp. 22 – 49. 📖

Nov. 25 **The Post-Sept. 11 World: The Emergence of an Empire?**

- Rice, Condoleezza. 2008. "Rethinking the National Interest" *Foreign Affairs* 82(4), Pp. 2-24. 📖

Nov. 27 **Review Session**

Websites of Interest

Department of National Defence www.dnd.ca

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/home

International Development Research Centre, Ottawa (IDRC) www.idrc.ca

NATO www.nato.org

European Union www.eurunion.ca

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Secretariat www.nafta-sec-alena.org

NORAD www.spacecom.af.mil/norad

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) www.undp.org

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) www.unep.org

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) www.unesco.org

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) www.fao.org

The World Bank www.worldbank.org

The World Health Organization www.who.int/en
 OXFAM UK www.oxfam.org.uk
 Médecins sans frontières (MSF) www.msf.org
 Save the Children Fund www.savethechildren.org.uk
 Action Aid www.actionaid.org
 International Red Cross/Red Crescent www.ifrc.org
 CARE www.care.org

Students interested in taking this course should read the following very carefully (as per requested by the University Administration):

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor [or designated person] in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. Note: if appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary, the course instructor, or delegate, will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required for course components representing less than 10% of the course grade. Such documentation will be required, however, for Academic Consideration for missed end-of-term work and/or missed final examinations. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.
 (http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml)

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2008 courses, without academic penalty, is **October 30**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.
 (http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-drop.shtml)

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The University of Guelph takes a serious view of academic misconduct, and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as

cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission from the relevant instructors. To better understand your responsibilities, read the Undergraduate Calendar.

(http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c01/index.shtml) for a statement of Students' Academic Responsibilities; also read the full Academic Misconduct Policy

(http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml). You are also advised to make use of the resources available through the Learning Commons

(<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>) and to discuss any questions you may have with your course instructor, TA, or academic counsellor.

Instructors have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion, can be imposed. Hurried or careless submission of work does not exonerate students of responsibility for ensuring the academic integrity of their work. Similarly, students who find themselves unable to meet course requirements by the deadlines or criteria expected because of medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances should review the university's regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration in the calendar (http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml) and discuss their situation with the instructor and/or the program counsellor or other academic counsellor as appropriate.