

Political Science 1AB3E
Politics and Power in a Globalizing World
Lectures: Mondays 7:00-9:00p.m
Room: ITB AB102

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30-1:30 p.m.
Or by appointment

Overview:

This course will investigate the politics and power that shape our globalizing world. We will explore theories of war and peace, analyze the causes and consequences of human rights abuses, scrutinize global security issues like terrorism and nuclear proliferation, and examine the formal and informal rules and regulations written by global political actors. We will also use international comparisons to ask questions about why states resemble or differ from one another in their political and economic character. Why do some states become democratic while others are autocratic? Why do some states develop economically while others remain mired in poverty?

Expectations:

The key to doing well in this course is to attend all lectures and tutorials. *Please note that many of the concepts covered in lecture will not be covered in the required readings and vice versa.*

By the end of the course, students should be able to discuss contemporary international issues in light of a broader appreciation of the social, political, and historical forces at play.

A). Tutorial Participation – 10%

Your tutorial groups will offer you an opportunity to engage in a spirited discussion of some of the main issues in global politics. They will also provide you with a hands-on opportunity to develop key research skills.

Participation in tutorial groups will account for 10% of your grade. Remember, participation is not synonymous with attendance. A successful grade is dependent upon your ability to actively, regularly and intelligently contribute to discussion.

B). Paper Proposal – 10%

The goal of this assignment is to prepare a **proposal** for the research paper that you will be writing later this semester. What is your research question? Why is your question worth exploring? What is your hypothesis – what do you think you will find? Discuss how you will answer your research question - What case/evidence will you be looking at and why? If you are using the comparative method, what countries are you comparing and why?

Your proposal should also include **5 peer reviewed** academic sources. For each source include a short (1 or 2 paragraphs) summary of the main argument and how it relates to your specific research question.

Your proposal should be 2 full pages in length – **plus** the annotated bibliography. It is due *in tutorial* on January 30.

Please note: This assignment is crucial to your success in writing the major research paper. It will provide an opportunity to receive feedback on your initial ideas and receive guidance going forward. Furthermore your final research paper will not be accepted if you do not first submit a paper proposal.

You may select any research topic that is related to international relations or comparative politics. The following lists some of the research questions that were investigated in previous years: **Use it for inspiration if necessary, but develop your own final research question.**

Why does democracy take root in some locations but not in others?

Are democratic states less likely to wage war than non-democratic states?

Why did the Syrian civil war begin? What factors explain its subsequent trajectory?

Has globalization increased or decreased international inequality?

Is nuclear proliferation a global security threat?

Has the US “war on terror” been effective? Are there other ways of responding to the threat of terrorism that might be more successful?

Is American power in decline? If so, what effect will this have on the international system?

Why does the international community forcefully intervene in some humanitarian emergencies but not in others?

What role (if any) has the International Criminal Court played in protecting global human rights?

Do international sanctions work?

Has the World Trade Organization successfully leveled the field for global trade? Are developing and developed countries able to take equal advantage of the Organization and its rules?

C). Paper presentation – 10%

You will be presenting your research findings to your tutorial in February or March (with dates to be selected in tutorial). This presentation will provide you with the opportunity to have your

hard work appreciated by more than just one person (i.e. more than just the marker). It also provides you with an opportunity to receive valuable constructive feedback from the class - feedback that can be incorporated into the final hard copy of your paper.

For your presentation to be a success, a first draft of your paper should be written by mid-February (even though the final due date for the paper is not until March 27).

D). Research Paper – 35%

Each student will prepare and submit an 8 page *argumentative* essay. This essay should be based upon your research proposal.

Please note that you are required to develop an **academic** argument for this assignment. This means developing a thesis and finding suitable evidence to support that thesis. It also means considering alternative explanations for the issue in question, and then countering those alternatives. In other words, your paper must acknowledge that there are those who might contest your thesis - and successfully defend itself against those objections.

The paper is due *in tutorial* on March 27.

Exam – 35%

We will have a final exam covering material from *both* the lectures and the required readings this semester. The exam is worth 35% of your grade.

Evaluation:

Participation: 10%

Paper Proposal: 10% - Due in tutorial on January 30

Paper Presentation: 10% - In February or March (as selected in tutorial)

Research Paper: 35% - Due in tutorial on March 27

Final Exam: 35% - To be held in the official examination period in April

Please note: late papers may be subject to a one letter grade per day deduction. For example, an A- paper received one day late would be reduced to a B+.

Course Readings:

The required readings for the lectures are drawn from three places:

In the first place, they are drawn from our required textbook:

Balyis, John, et al., *The Globalization of World Politics: An introduction to international relations, Sixth edition*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014

Second, several textbook chapters have been made available in an electronic format (these readings are listed as “online through Oxford”). The code for these chapters is available with your textbook course pack.

Third, I have included several journal articles that are accessible on-line. These articles can be obtained via the library catalogue or through Google scholar.

January 9, 2017:

A). Introduction: What does politics in a “global” era look like?

B). States, societies, and forms of government – What types of political and economic systems have emerged in the modern era? Does the comparative method permit us to better understand those systems?

Dickovick, J. Tyler, and Eastwood, Jonathan, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, Second Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, Chapter 1 – online through Oxford

January 16, 2017: Is the state still the key political actor? Has globalization eroded the state?

Baylis et al., Chapter 1

Scholte, Jan Art, “Defining Globalization,” *The World Economy*, 31, 11, 2008, pp1471-1502 – available on-line

January 23, 2017: Development - What accounts for the tremendous disparity in wealth between states? What causes development and underdevelopment? Should development be defined solely as an increase in GDP/capita?

Baylis et al., Chapters 16, 28

January 30, 2017:

A). Democratic Political Systems - What effect does national democracy have on international behaviour? Are democratic states less likely to go to war against other democratic states?

Rosato, Sebastian, “The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory,” *American Political Science Review*, 97, 4, 2003, pp585-602 – available on-line

B). Autocratic Political Systems - Is authoritarian government more successful in promoting internal peace or development?

Dickovick, J. Tyler, and Eastwood, Jonathan, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, Second Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, Chapter 7 – online through Oxford

Mayer, Robert, "Strategies of justification in authoritarian ideology," *Journal of Political Ideologies*, 6, 2, 2001, pp147-168 – available on-line

February 6, 2017: Transitional Societies – Is there a historical trend towards democratization and free markets? Why does democracy take root in some locations but not in others? How genuinely democratic and free are those societies that have recently transitioned towards democracy?

Dickovick, J. Tyler, and Eastwood, Jonathan, *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*, Second Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, Chapter 6 – online through Oxford

Plattner, Marc F., "Is Democracy in Decline?" *Journal of Democracy*, 26, 1, January 2015, pp5-10 – available on-line

February 13, 2017: Theories of international relations: Does "anarchy" make a difference?

Baylis et al., Chapters 6, 7, 10

February 20, 2017 – Reading week: No class

February 27, 2017: A short history of violence: The Cold War is MAD. Did the threat of nuclear annihilation make the world safe for peace?

Baylis et al., Chapter 3, 24

March 6, 2017: The post-Cold War security environment: What is the political science of terrorism?

Baylis et al., Chapter 23

Huntington, Samuel, "Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, 72, 3, 1993, pp22-49 – available on-line

Hobson, John M., "Deconstructing the Eurocentric Clash of Civilizations: De-Westernizing the West by Acknowledging the Dialogue of Civilizations," in Hall, Martin, and Jackson, Patrick Thaddeus, eds., *Civilizational Identity: The Production and Reproduction of "civilizations" in International Relations*, Macmillan, 2007, pp149-165 – available on-line as an ebook through the McMaster Library catalogue

March 13, 2017: Terrorism and Policy

Mueller, John, "Six rather unusual propositions about terrorism," *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 17, 2005, pp487-505 – available on-line

March 20, 2017: Human Rights: Is there such a thing as a universal human right? How are human rights best protected given present political realities?

Baylis et al., Chapters 30, 31

Belloni, Roberto, "The Trouble with Humanitarianism," *Review of International Studies*, 33, 2007, pp451-474 – available on-line

March 27, 2017: International organizations and international law: Do they have a significant impact on international outcomes? Should international organizations be further empowered?

Baylis et al., Chapters 20, 27

April 3, 2017:

A). Has the period of American hegemony come to an end? What, if anything, does this mean for the international system?

Baylis et al., Chapter 4, 5

Robinson, William I., "The Transnational State and the BRICS: a Global Capitalism Perspective," *Third World Quarterly*, 36, 1, 2015, pp1-21 – available on-line

B). Review of term

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.

2. Improper collaboration in group work.
 3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
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The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Statement on Electronic Resources

In this course we will be using AvenueToLearn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Students with Disabilities:

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.