

# International Politics

September 7 – December 2

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

12:30 to 1:20 pm

David Turpin Building A104

Dr. Michael Carpenter [carpentm@uvic.ca](mailto:carpentm@uvic.ca)

Office hour: To be announced

Teaching Assistants (TAs): To be announced

## Required Textbook

John **Baylis**, Steve **Smith**, and Patricia **Owens** (2020). *The Globalization of World Politics*. 8th edition. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

(The 7<sup>th</sup> edition, 2017, is acceptable. Older editions are not acceptable)

## Course Overview

International politics does not only occur in distant countries, the backrooms of capital cities and global centres, or at the United Nations. In a globalized world, international politics occurs all around us and is fundamentally connected to issues that affect our daily lives, the structure of our societies, and the form of our economies. At its root, the study of international politics is the study of power: who has it, who seeks it, and how it is used. This course provides students with a general introduction to both international politics (or world politics) and the discipline of International Relations (IR).

Students will gain a basic understanding of: **key concepts** such as *state, nation, territory, sovereignty, regime, international, transnational, and global* (how they relate, how they differ); the **development of the international system** since World War 1 (including international law and the failed League of Nations); the major **international institutions and organizations** since World War 2 (including the United Nations and the 'Bretton Woods' institutions of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and World Trade Organization); the predominant **theoretical approaches** used by scholars to make sense of world politics (including political realism, liberalism, Marxism, feminism, and postcolonialism); and **contemporary challenges** to the international system, including climate change, mass displacement, human rights, asymmetric warfare, US global dominance, and the so-called 'war on terror'. Additionally, students will be exposed to **contemporary issues**, including the Ukraine conflict, Iranian sanctions, and Israel/Palestine.

## Course Outcomes/Objectives

- Develop written and verbal communication through paper writing and group discussion
- Develop reading and analytical skills by working through required readings and research material
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of: key concepts of international politics; the development of the international system; theoretical approaches to international politics; international institutions and organizations; and contemporary challenges to the international system