UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 240, INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
Fall 2018  
Professor Michael Webb  
CRN: 12717

This course is an introduction to the practice and study of world politics. It encompasses international relations, traditionally defined as relations among nation states, as well as broader transnational and global political dynamics that directly impact societies and shape the context within which relations among states occur. We will examine the historical evolution of the world political system from the emergence of the state system in Europe, to its spread throughout the world via imperialism and decolonization, to the contemporary era characterized by globalization and reactions against globalizing forces. While states may be the primary actors in world politics, we also pay considerable attention to other key actors and institutions, including international organizations, transnational nongovernmental organizations and private businesses, and ideas and beliefs that shape the practice of politics across borders.

The academic discipline devoted to the study of world politics is often labeled international relations (IR), even though it encompasses much more than the study of relations among nation states. The complexity of world politics, and the variety of concerns and perspectives scholars bring to the study of world politics, mean there is lively scholarly debate surrounding most issues. Positions in these debates typically are organized into recognizable schools of thought associated with specific theories, and a key purpose of the course is to critically examine these different theoretical perspectives. We will consider seven distinct approaches, recognizing that while we initially consider each separately for purposes of exposition, in practice most research in the field draws on more than one perspective.

The final section of the course examines key issues in contemporary world politics, aiming to help students understand the key dynamics in each area and critically assess the usefulness of different theoretical perspectives for understanding those dynamics. As this is an introductory course, it will survey a range of issues rather than focus on any one in detail, and is intended to help prepare students for more detailed study of specific issues in upper-level courses. I encourage students to follow current events closely as I will draw regularly on current events throughout the course.

Lectures: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30-10:20, MAC D288  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00-12:00, Thursdays 10:30-12:00, or by appointment  
Contact Info: Office DTB A342, phone 250 721 7492, email mwebb@uvic.ca

Teaching Assistants:  
- Mehdi Hashemi, mhashemi@uvic.ca  
- CiCi Li, mnsili@uvic.ca  
- Jordon Sheppard, jordonrsheppard@uvic.ca

Tutorials: Students must be registered in a tutorial section to get credit for the course. Tutorials begin in Week 3, September 17-21.

CRN 12718 T01 Tuesdays 1:30-2:20, Cornett B145  
CRN 12719 T02 Tuesdays 2:30-3:20, Fine Arts 209  
CRN 12720 T03 Wednesdays 1:30-2:20, Cornett B145
Required Readings:
All readings listed in the syllabus are required except as noted.
Most readings are included in a textbook available for purchase in the bookstore:


Additional readings about world politics are available on CourseSpaces.

The following book provides guidance for all writing assignments and is available for purchase in the bookstore under ENGL 135:

Department of English, Academic Writing Essentials, Second Version (corrected) (University of Victoria, 2017). Students who have taken ENGL 135 should already have a copy. If you don’t have a copy, ask other students.

Course requirements and expectations:

Reading notes and summary – 10% of course grade – Friday September 21 @ 4:00pm – see assignment description on p. 8, below

Lecture summary and reflection – 10% of course grade – Friday October 5 @ noon – see assignment description on p. 8, below

Mid-term exam – 15% of course grade (20% if your mid-term grade is higher than your final exam grade) – Friday October 12, short-answer questions

Analytical Essay – 25% of course grade – due Tuesday November 27 @ 4:30pm (submit on CourseSpaces); bring a printed copy to tutorial

Final exam – 30% of course grade (25% if your mid-term grade is higher than your final exam grade) – short-answer questions covering material since the mid-term exam, and essay questions addressing broad themes from the course – do not make travel plans until the final exam schedule is announced.

Tutorial attendance and participation – 10% of course grade

Students must complete all assignments in order to get credit for the course. I use the qualitative criteria and numerical scale in the University of Victoria Calendar when grading.

I strictly enforce University Policy on Academic Integrity. This may include using a plagiarism detection software program intended to assist in the detection of plagiarism. The UVic Library has useful information on the appropriate use of sources and avoiding plagiarism.

If you find yourself facing mental or physical health issues or other life challenges that interfere with your ability to successfully complete the requirements for this course, it is important to deal with them in a timely fashion. UVic offers many services to support students, including learning supports and resources for health and wellness. Information
about academic concessions is available from the Registrar’s Office. Feel free to contact me regarding issues related to this course and guidance regarding other supports available at UVic.

As stated in the UVic Calendar, “Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled”. Attendance will not be taken because the class is too large, but experience shows that students who attend fewer than 70 percent of scheduled class sessions are unlikely to pass the course.

The Learning Environment:

As stated in the UVic Calendar, “The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and productive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to experience, and the responsibility to help create, such an environment”. Students have diverse views on the issues discussed in this course, and I seek to create an environment in which all perspectives – including my own – can be analyzed critically in a respectful fashion.

The proliferation of wireless devices increases the potential for distractions that undermine the learning environment for other students. The use of phones for talk or text is prohibited while this class is in session. Mobile devices and personal computers are to be used only for course-related purposes. Students whose learning experience is undermined by others’ use of electronic devices for non-course-related purposes should inform me so I can take action.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey you will receive an email inviting you to do so. Please ensure that your current email address is listed in MyPage (http://uvic.ca/mypage). If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to http://ces.uvic.ca . You will need to use your UVic netlink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.
Schedule of Topics and Readings
(changes will be posted on CourseSpaces)

I: INTRODUCTION
Week 1 (September 5, 7)
- Overview of Course
- Defining basic concepts
  - Read: Baylis, Smith, and Owens, "Introduction"

II: HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE WORLD POLITICAL SYSTEM
Week 2 (September 11, 12, 14)
- Emergence of the system of states
  - Read: Lawson, “The rise of modern international order”, Ch 2 in BSO; McGrew, “Globalization and world politics”, Ch 1 in BSO, pp. 23-24 only.
- Nationalism, state-building, and imperialism
  - Read: Breuilly, “Nationalism, national self-determination, and imperialism”, Ch 27 in BSO; Barkawi, “War and world politics”, Ch 14 in BSO, pp. 231-32 only.
- From World War One to the Cold War
  - Read: Scott, “International history 1900-99”, Ch 3 in BSO, pp. 52-56.

Week 3 (September 18, 19, 21): ** TUTORIALS BEGIN THIS WEEK **
- The Cold War and Decolonization
  - Reading: Scott, "International history 1900-99”, Ch 3 in BSO, pp. 56-66; Tarkawi, “War and world politics”, Ch 14 in BSO, pp. 232-24 only (“From the world wars to the cold war”).
- The End of the Cold War, American Unipolarity, and Globalization
  - Readings: Cox, “From the end of the cold war to a new global era?” Ch 4 in BSO; McGrew, “Globalization and world politics”, Ch 1 in BSO.
- Rising Powers, Challenges to Globalization
  - Reading: Hurrell, “Rising powers and the emerging global order”, Ch 5 in BSO.

III: THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF WORLD POLITICS
Week 4 (September 25, 26, 28)
- Theory in the Study of World Politics
- Realism
  - Read: Dunne and Schmidt, “Realism”, Ch 6 in BSO (skip 106-109); Shapcott, “International ethics”, Ch 13 in BSO, pp. 204-10, 214.
- Liberalism
Week 5 (October 2, 3, 5)

- **Marxist Theories**

- **Social Constructivism**
  - Read: Michael Barnett, “Social constructivism”, Ch 9 in BSO.

Week 6 (October 9, 10, 12)

- **Feminist theories**
  - Read: Kinsella, “Feminism”, Ch 12 in BSO; Kirby, “Gender”, Ch 17 in BSO.

- **Poststructuralism and Post-colonialism**
  - Read: Hansen, “Post-structuralism”, Ch 10 in BSO; Sylvester, “Post-colonialism”, Ch 11 in BSO.

* * * MID-TERM EXAM FRIDAY OCTOBER 12 * * *

Week 7 (October 16, 17, 19)

**THE ANALYTICAL ESSAY ASSIGNMENT**


**IV: ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS BEYOND STATES**

- **International law**
  - Read: Reus-Smit, “International law”, Ch 19 in BSO.

Week 8 (October 23, 24, 26)

- **International organizations and global governance**
  - Read: Park, “International organizations in world politics”, Ch 20 in BSO.

- **The United Nations**
  - Read: Curtis and Taylor, "The United Nations", Ch 21 in BSO, pp. 331-336 only.

- **Transnational actors and global civil society**
  - Read: Joachim, “NGOs in world politics”, Ch 22 in BSO.

Week 9 (October 30, 31, November 2)

- **Transnational actors and global civil society, continued**
  - Read: Joachim, “NGOs in world politics”, Ch 22 in BSO.

**V CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN WORLD POLITICS**

- **Political economy**
Week 10 (November 6, 7, 9)

- **Political economy, continued**
  - **Globalization and inequality**
  - **Global dimensions of poverty and development**
    - Read: Evans and Thomas, “Poverty, hunger, and development”, Ch 29 in BSO.

Week 11 (November 16 [reading break November 12-14, no classes])

- **Conflict and security**
  - **National security and relations among the major powers**
    - Read: Baylis, “International and global security”, Ch 15 in BSO, pp. 238-51; review Hurrell, “Rising powers and the emerging global order”, Ch 5 in BSO.

Week 12 (November 20, 21, 23)

- **Conflict and security, continued**
  - **Nuclear proliferation**
    - Read: Greitens, “Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”, Ch 26 in BSO, pp. 419-22, 425-33 only.
  - **“New Wars” and terrorism**
  - **Human security and humanitarian intervention**
    - Read: Acharya, “Human security”, Ch 30 in BSO; Bellamy and Wheeler, “Humanitarian intervention in world politics”, Ch 32 in BSO.

Week 13 (November 27, 28, 30)

* * * Analytical Essay Due Tuesday November 27 by 4:30pm * * *
submit on Coursespaces, bring printed copy to tutorial

- **International Human Rights**
  - Read: Donnelly, “Human rights”, Ch 31 in BSO
- **Global environmental politics**
  - Read: Vogler, “Environmental issues”, Ch 24 in BSO.

Week 14 (December 4, 5)

- **Review and conclusions: reflections on the practice, study, and future of world politics**
Schedule of Topics for Tutorial Discussion

Week 3 (September 18, 19, 21): World politics and me: how does world politics affect our daily lives? How does the way we live our lives affect world politics?

Week 4 (September 25, 26, 28): What does the rise of non-western countries mean for the future of world politics? Will the rise of countries like China, India, Brazil and other former developing countries change the fundamental character of world politics?

Week 5 (October 2, 3, 5): How well can realism and liberalism explain American foreign policy under President Trump? Focus on explaining why the US pursues the foreign policies it does under President Trump, not whether or not realists or liberals would support those policies.

Week 6 (October 9, 10, 12): Using critical theories (Marxism, social constructivism, feminism, post-structuralism, post-colonialism) to read media coverage of world politics.

Week 7 (October 16, 17, 19): No tutorials this week

Week 8 (October 23, 24, 26): International law: does it matter? How?

Week 9 (October 30, 31, November 2): Writing in Political Science; the essay assignment

Week 10 (November 6, 7, 9): Can economic globalization be reformed to benefit more people?

Week 11 (November 13, 14, 16): No tutorials this week due to reading break

Week 12 (November 20, 21, 23): Can international cooperation contain nuclear proliferation?

Week 13 (November 27, 28, 30): Considering everything we’ve learned in Poli 240, what are the prospects for successful global action to limit climate change?
Political Science 240 – Written Assignments

These assignments are designed to help students build critical thinking and writing skills that will help you succeed in this course and subsequent upper-level courses in Political Science. All should be written and presented in language and formats suitable for formal academic writing. The English Department’s Academic Writing Essentials has excellent guidance.

The following points are particularly important for Poli 240:

- Assignments must be typed, double-spaced, use a normal font (usually 12 point), and have normal margins. Include a word count.
- Assignments must be submitted in Word format. If you do not have Word on your computer, you can convert a document prepared in another software into a Word document using any University computer. Assignments submitted in a format other than Word will be returned, and a late penalty applied if a version in Word is not submitted by the deadline.
- Identify yourself with your name, student number, tutorial section, and the name of your TA.
- Assignments must be written in your own words, with no plagiarism (see below). Use quotations from sources only when the specific wording is especially significant.
- Carefully proofread your work for clarity, typos, spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, and misplaced apostrophes. Do not rely on software alone to check spelling and grammar, especially since most software often does not take account of how terms are used in academic disciplines like Political Science. Academic Writing Essentials has excellent guidance for editing your work (pp. 19-21).
- As this is formal academic writing, do not use contractions (except when a quotation contains a contraction).
- Write using an active rather than passive voice, including (where appropriate) writing in first person to identify your own conclusions, analysis, or arguments.
- Be concise. This is crucial in the first two assignments, which have modest word limits. These exercises are intended to help you identify and focus on key points. The ability to communicate concisely is especially important outside the academic world!
- Meet the deadlines. Late assignments will be penalized except in documented cases of illness or family emergency. Start well ahead of the due date, and plan to finish each assignment a few days early to give you time to edit your work. Also leave time for the inevitable computer problems, and save drafts regularly as you work on an assignment in case your computer crashes.
- Submit assignments in the appropriate drop box on CourseSpaces, located in the week during which the assignment is due.

Reading notes and summary – 10% of course grade – Friday September 21 @ 4:00pm – late assignments will be penalized 10 percentage points per day – submit electronic files on CourseSpaces, submit annotated photo-copied chapter in class Friday morning or in Michael Webb’s dropbox by 4:00pm

Select one of the following chapters from BSO assigned for weeks 2 and 3: Lawson, Ch 2; Breuilly, Ch 27; Scott, Ch 3; Cox, Ch 4; McGrew, Ch 1. Provide annotations either in handwriting on a photo-copied version of the chapter, or typed in a separate document indicating the paragraph(s) to which each annotation refers.
In a brief report (200-250 words), summarize the argument of the chapter (~200 words) and identify one thing you didn’t understand or would like to know more about; and one critique of the argument.

See Academic Writing Essentials, pp. 22-28, for guidance on reading academic writing critically, and pp. 97-98 on writing a summary.

Lecture summary and reflection – 10% of course grade – Friday October 5 @ noon – late assignments will be penalized 10 percentage points per day

Select one lecture from the “theory” section of the syllabus (September 26-October 10). In a brief report (200-250 words), summarize the key points from the lecture (~200 words) and briefly either a) identify a point you found particularly interesting and why; or b) identify a critique of a key point in the argument made in the lecture.

Analytical Essay – 25% of course grade – due Tuesday November 27 @ 4:30pm – late essays will be penalized 5 percentage points per day

Summarize and critically analyze an academic article on a contemporary issue in world politics, selected from a list to be distributed – 750-1000 words (3-4 pages double-spaced) – the summary should identify the analytical argument, the theoretical perspective(s) on which the article draws, and the key empirical evidence provided in support of the argument words – develop your own critique, drawing on one other article on the subject and at least one theoretical perspective not incorporated into the argument of the article

A full assignment, including the list of articles you can choose to analyze, will be distributed by the end of September.