



University  
of Victoria

# POLI 349 A02 Issues in International Politics: Great Power Politics in the 21st Century

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**Instructor Spring 2023:** Husnain Iqbal

**Course delivery:** In the Summer 2023 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

## **Course description:**

The spectacular rise of China and the re-emergence of Russia as a great power has announced the end of the 'unipolar moment' and the arrival of a world with many powerful states competing for influence. This course explores the dynamics of this new international political reality. The course is divided into three sections. The first part of the course engages with theoretical works to understand the multipolar context of international politics and explores whether the future would be any different from the past and how. The second part looks at the political dynamics between the most powerful states of the international system from secondary states' points of view which are often overlooked by the mainstream analyses of great power politics. The third part goes beyond the traditional focus of IR on states and explores the impact of great power competition on non-traditional domains of international politics such as gender, environment, international economy and trade.

## **Course outcomes/objectives:**

- Develop knowledge about key concepts and dynamics of recent shifts in international politics.
- Apply concepts and theories to emerging competition between great powers.
- Think strategically about how secondary states would (or should) respond to great power competition.
- Understand how political dynamics between great powers affect other global issues.
- Explore a specific dimension or an issue area of great power politics by working on a research paper.

## **Topics may include:**

Great powers  
Multipolarity  
Competition and Rivalries  
Alliances  
Conflict and security  
Secondary states  
Non-traditional security

*This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.*