POLI 240
International Politics

Instructor:
Can Zhao (Summer 2021)

Course delivery:
In the Summer 2021 term, this course will be delivered online with a blend of synchronous and asynchronous lectures.

Course description:
What makes states go to war with each other? Why do states commit themselves to multilateral pacts such as the Canada-United-States-Mexico Agreement? In a globalizing world, international politics occurs all around us, and it 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: what it is, who has it, who seeks it, and how it is used. As an introduction to the practice and study of world politics, this course is divided into four sections: the historical evolution of the world political system; the major theoretical perspectives in international politics; the role of non-state political actors; and key issues in contemporary world politics.

About the instructor: Can Zhao is a Ph.D. candidate whose dissertation investigates the relationship between Chinese state governance and a foreign-financed yet home-grown information industry.

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Identify the major theoretical approaches to IR, identify the differences between them and apply them to key issues in global politics
- Understand the historical evolution of the world political system
- Engage in an informed discussion about current events

Topics may include:
International systems and governance
Conflict and security
Human rights
International Organizations
Migration
Global Trade and Finance

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