

## POLI 283 L01 Issues & Trends in World Politics

Pre/Co-Requisites	None
Instructor: Dr. Saira Bano	Lecture Location: ST 127
Phone: (403) 220-3869	Lecture Days/Time: MW 9:00-11:45am
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Office: SS721	
Instructor Email Policy: The best way to communicate is through email. Please note that an explanation of concepts covered in the course cannot be answered on email. Therefore, restrict the use of email to make appointments with the instructor.	

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This lecture-based course seeks to understand the nature and trends found in contemporary world politics and their impact(s) on society. The field of world politics can span the continuum from open warfare to peaceful cooperation. Some countries fight wars against one another or spend significant resources preparing to fight, while other countries have managed to live in peace by engaging in economic cooperation. On the one hand, globalization seems to have reduced the relevance of the nation-state and creating opportunities of international cooperation through institutions (multilateral organizations such as the UN, IMF, and WTO as well as NGOs such as Amnesty International) for the well-being of human society. On the other hand, globalization is fueling the rise of nationalism and other challenges including global terrorism, environmental degradation, nuclear and other WMD proliferation, population growth, massive refugee flows, pandemic disease, and cyber vulnerabilities. Understanding this varied landscape of conflict and cooperation is task of this course.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Have a comprehensive understanding of the most salient issues and trends in contemporary world politics.
- Have not only a firmer grasp of important core concepts (e.g., anarchy, sovereignty, development, sustainability, security etc.) but also greater awareness of alternative perspectives to interpreting and resolving global dilemmas (e.g., population growth, environmental degradation, transnational crime flows).
- Develop critical reading, thinking, research, and analytical skills to apply towards the complexities of contemporary global politics.

**Note:** Students are expected to listen the recorded lectures and complete the reading assignments from the textbook, cited in the reading list, for each week. It is expected that students will follow the coverage of news stories that are related to the various topic areas.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Steven L Spiegel, Elizabeth G. Matthews, Jennifer M. Taw, Kristen P. Williams, *World Politics in a New Era*, 6th edition, (Oxford: OUP, 2015).

### COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
<b>Research Essay Assignment</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>July 25<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>July 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>Scheduled by Registrar (August 12-15)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

*If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible.*

### COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1 (June 27 & 29)	Introduction, Basic Concepts and Theory	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 1 & 2
Week 2 (July 4 & 6)	Westphalia to the Cold War	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 3 & 4
Week 3 (July 11 & 13)	Imperialism and New World Order	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 5 & 6
Week 4 (July 18 & 20)	Security Theory and Contemporary Security Issues <b>Midterm Exam (July 18)</b>	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 7 & 8
Week 5 (July 25 & 27)	Trade and Development <b>Research Essay Assignment due (July 25)</b>	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 9 & 10
Week 6 (August 1 & 3)	Demographic and Resources Issues	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 11 & 12
Week 7 (August 8 & 10)	International Law and Organizations	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 13

*Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.*

### ESSAYS/RESEARCH PAPER (20%)

The research essay assignment is an analytical exercise intended to strengthen the capacity of students to develop and support focused arguments on key issues. They are not a test of everything a student knows on a given subject; nor are they simply an exercise in opinion journalism. Your paper must convey your analytical and scholarly skills expected of university students.

Choose one of the following research questions:

- Which theory (Realism or Liberalism) provides the best explanation for global politics?
- Does globalization make the state obsolete?
- Is the United States a hegemon in decline?
- Will China's rise be peaceful?

- Does trade raise the costs of conflict to prohibitive levels or it can lead to violent conflict?
- Can International trade and environmental protection ever be compatible?

The research essay should be 5-7 pages long (excluding references and bibliography, size 12 times new roman, 1.5 spaced). All papers must utilize citation rules. Papers with no citation will get an F. This is what we call plagiarism. Any citation style is acceptable. Papers will be submitted electronically via D2L Dropbox. Papers may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Papers must be submitted by 11:59pm on July 25<sup>th</sup>. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

### Grading Criteria for the Paper

**A: Excellent**—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.

- Clear and insightful main thesis.
- Consistent and logical argumentation
- Well thought out structure and paragraphs.
- Examples and sources used to buttress main points.
- Counter-arguments addressed.
- Excellent spelling, grammar and punctuation.

**B: Good**—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.

- Promising but unclear thesis.
- Generally strong but somewhat wandering and unclear structure.
- Not all evidence is appropriate or well thought out.
- Counter-arguments not properly addressed.
- Occasional lapses in grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**C: Satisfactory**—basic understanding of the subject matter.

- Unclear or unoriginal thesis.
- Wandering and unclear structure.
- Many points are not fully substantiated by evidence.
- Logic may fail or be unclear.
- Problems with grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**D: Minimal pass**—marginal performance; insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.

- No clear thesis or no thesis of any interest/substance.
- Weak or missing use of substantiating evidence.
- No clear structure or logic.
- Serious problems with grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**F: Fail**—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

- Lack of comprehension of the topic.
- No identifiable thesis.
- Severe problems with grammar, spelling and punctuation.

### MID-TERM EXAMINATION (40%)

The mid-term exam will be done in class on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. It will comprise mostly multiple-choice questions and short answers.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION (40%)**

A Registrar-scheduled Final Exam (2 hours) will include multiple-choice & short answers, and will be cumulative for the whole course.

Both the Mid-Term Exam and the Final Exam will be closed book exams with no external aids available (e.g., no notes, textbook etc.). A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

### **WRITING STATEMENT**

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

**GRADING SCALE:** The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

### **LATE PENALTIES**

Late papers, those without an extension granted by the instructor, will be docked 5 % per day (including weekends). Papers, which are more than 7 days late, will not be marked and shall receive zero mark.

### **INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.