



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 283 L01 (Winter 2019)
Issues and Trends in World Politics

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Saira Bano
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OFFICE: SS 721
EMAIL: sban@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Friday: 11:00-13:00 or by appointment
COURSE DAY/TIME: M W F: 13:00-13:50
COURSE LOCATION: KNB 132
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None
TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Ricardo Vernet ricardo.vernet@ucalgary.ca
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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 attend and be prepared for all classes. The reading assignments from the textbook, cited in the reading list, are to be completed for each class. It is expected that students will follow the coverage of news stories that are related to the various topic areas. Most class sessions will be lecture-based. Lectures will complement the readings, not provide a substitute for doing them.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S):

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
Review Paper Assignment	20%	March 1
Mid-Term 1	20%	February 8
Mid-Term 2	20%	March 15
Final Exam	40%	Scheduled by Registrar (April 15-27)
Total	100%	

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1 Jan 11	Introduction to the Course	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 1
Week 2 Jan 14, 16 & 18	Concepts and Theory	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 2
Week 3 Jan 21, 23 & 25	Westphalia to World War II	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 3
Week 4 Jan 28, 30 & Feb 1	The Cold War	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 4
Week 5 Feb 4, 6 & 8	Imperialism Mid-Term 1 (Feb 8)	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 5
Week 6	The World Order	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter

Feb 11, 13 & 15		6
Week 7 Feb 18, 20 & 22	Family day and Reading break	
Week 8 Feb 25, 27 & Mar 1	Globalization and World Issues Review Paper Assignment Due (Mar 1)	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 6
Week 9 Mar 4, 6 & 8	Security: Humanitarian Intervention, Terrorism	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 7
Week 10 Mar 11, 13 & 15	Ethnic Conflict and Nuclear Proliferation Mid-Term 2 (Mar 15)	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 8
Week 11 Mar 18, 20 & 22	International Trade	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 9
Week 12 Mar 25, 27 & 29	International Development	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 10
Week 13 April 1, 3 & 5	Environmental, Demographic and Resource Issues	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 11 & 12
Week 14 April 8, 10 & 12	Global Governance	World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 13

REVIEW PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Each student will write a review paper (3-4 pages, typed in 12 font size and spaced 1.5 between the lines) chosen from the list of articles provided by the instructor. The review papers are due on March 1st. Papers will be submitted via D2L Dropbox. **Late penalties** of five percent (5%) will be applied for each 24 hours past the specified deadline, including weekends.

Steps for the paper:

- 1- Summarize the article:** Focus on the important points, claims, and information. Identify the author's arguments and main points. Pay careful attention to the meaning of the article. Make sure you fully understand the article. The only way to write a good review article is to understand the article. What does the article set out to do? What are the central points? Are the central concepts clearly defined?

- 2- **Discuss the positive aspects of the article:** Think about what the author does well, good points s/he makes, and insightful observations. What parts of the article were clear, thorough and useful explanations of the subject?
- 3- **Identify contradictions, gaps, and inconsistencies in the text:** Determine if there is enough data or research included to support the author’s claims. Find any unanswered questions left in the article. What are the contradictions, gaps and inconsistencies in the article? Support your critique with evidence from the article or other texts.

Note: Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, 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 (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>. There will also be a course-specific “Written Work Hints & Checklist” posted on D2L.

MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS (20% x 2 = 40%)

Two mid-term exams will be done in class, the first on Friday, February 8th, and the second on Friday, March 15th. They will comprise mostly multiple-choice questions and short answers.

FINAL EXAMINATION

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 Exams and the Final Exam will be closed book exams with no external aids available (e.g., no notes, textbook, electronic devices, etc.). Students need to take both mid-terms and the final exam, and submit the review paper assignment, in order to pass.

GRADE SCALE : The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (95-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-94)	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.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioner for Oaths, visit ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>

Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that

can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>