

| <b>POLI 283 (L02) Issues &amp; Trends in World Politics</b>          |   |
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| <b>Pre/Co-Requisites:</b> None                                       |   |
| <b>Instructor:</b> Mark Machacek                                     | <b>Lecture Location:</b> SB 103   |
| <b>Phone:</b>  | <b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> TR 3:30 – 4:45 pm   |
| <b>Email:</b> mark.machacek@ucalgary.ca                              |   |
| <b>Office:</b> SS 721  | <b>Office Hours:</b> Virtual office hours using Zoom (D2L) Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 pm or by appointment |
| <b>Instructor Email Policy:</b> 9:00 am – 5:00 pm<br>Monday - Friday | <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://d2l.ucalgary.ca">http://d2l.ucalgary.ca</a>                           |

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this lecture-based course is to introduce students to the core concepts, theories, issues and trends in world - or '*global*' - politics. The course provides a general overview of the inter-state system, including the role of state and non-state actors, the importance of international institutions and the global economy. It also highlights critical transnational issues – such as conflict, human rights violations and the global pandemic - and the unilateral and multilateral responses taken by state and non-state actors.

The course will begin with an introduction to fundamental concepts and theories used to make sense of the complex world of world politics. The second part of the course outlines the inter-state system, detailing the roles of states, non-state actors and international organizations, the institutions of international law and the global economy. The remainder of the course will critically engage in prominent issues and trends in the study and practice of World Politics, including violent conflict and insecurities, human rights, climate change and the global Covid-19 pandemic.

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

The objectives of this course are to:

- Introduce students to the core concepts, theories, issues and trends in the study of World Politics;
- Develop a general knowledgebase of the primary actors, institutions and processes involved in global politics and governance;
- Facilitate theoretically-informed discussions and analysis of pressing issues in today's globalized world;
- Strengthen skills in analysis, research and academic writing

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Engage in informed discussions on real-world issues occurring at the international level;
- Understand the complexity of global politics and critically analyse current events;
- Apply various theoretical perspectives to global issues;
- Demonstrate improvement in academic research and writing

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)**

Boyer, Mark, Butler, Michael & Hudson, Natalie (2019) *Global Politics: Applying Theory to a Complex World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hard copies of the textbook are available and the University of Calgary Bookstore. E-text versions can be purchased using this link: <https://redshelf.com/app/ecom/book/1317198/global-politics-1317198-9780190655587-mark-a-boyer-natalie-f-hudson-michael-j-butler>

**COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES**

| COMPONENT                        | WEIGHTING | DUE DATES                                  |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Mid-Term I</b>                | 25%       | February 14 <sup>th</sup>                  |
| <b>Research Paper Assignment</b> | 25%       | March 2 <sup>nd</sup>                      |
| <b>Mid-Term II</b>               | 25%       | March 16 <sup>th</sup>                     |
| <b>Final Exam</b>                | 25%       | Scheduled by the Registrar (April 15 – 26) |
| Total                            | 100%      |  |

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

**COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS**

| DATE                                  | TOPIC  | READINGS  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Week 1</b><br>Jan 10, 12           | <b>Introducing World Politics</b><br>-Introduction to the course, overview of the syllabus and an introduction to the basic concepts used for understanding world politics | Required<br>-Textbook Chapters 1 & 3                |
| <b>Week 2</b><br>Jan 17, 19           | <b>Theories of World Politics I</b><br>-Introducing and discussing the main theories used to make sense of world politics: realism, liberalism and constructivism          | Required<br>-Textbook Chapter 2, pages 22-36, 40-44 |
| <b>Week 3</b><br>Jan 24<br><br>Jan 26 | <b>Paper Assignment Prep</b><br><br><b>Theories of World Politics II</b><br>-Introducing and discussing critical theories of world politics                                | Required<br>-Textbook Chapter 2, pages 36-40, 44-48 |
| <b>Week 4</b><br>Jan 31, Feb 2        | <b>Globalization &amp; the State in World Politics</b>   | Required<br>-Textbook Chapters 4 & 5                |

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|---|---|---|
|   | -Considering the past, present and future of the state and inter-state system   |   |
| <b>Week 5</b><br>Feb 7, 9                   | <b>Intergovernmental Organizations</b><br>-Discussing the role of intergovernmental organizations in world politics, including the United Nations | Required<br>-Textbook Chapter 6   |
| <b>Week 6</b><br>Feb 14<br><br>Feb 16       | <b>Mid-Term Exam I</b><br><br><b>International Law</b><br>-Overviewing the content and limitations of international law                           | Required<br>-Textbook Chapter 9   |
| <b>Week 7</b><br>Feb 19 - 25                | <b>READING WEEK</b><br><b>No class</b>  |   |
| <b>Week 8</b><br>Feb 28, Mar 2<br><br>Mar 2 | <b>The Global Political Economy</b><br>-Interrogating the relationship between the economics and political power<br><br><b>Research Paper Due</b> | Required<br>-Textbook Chapters 10 & 11  |
| <b>Week 9</b><br>Mar 7, 9                   | <b>Conflict</b><br>-Discussing the changing nature of armed conflict  | Required<br>-Textbook Chapters 7  |
| <b>Week 10</b><br>Mar 14<br><br>Mar 16      | <b>(In)Security</b><br>-Identifying state responses to international security threats<br><br><b>Mid-Term Exam II</b>                              | Required<br>-Textbook Chapter 8   |
| <b>Week 11</b><br>Mar 21, 23                | <b>Human Rights</b><br>-Introducing the international human rights system   | Required<br>-Textbook Chapter 12  |
| <b>Week 12</b><br>Mar 28, 30                | <b>Climate Change &amp; Environmental Protection</b><br>-Identifying state responses to climate change and environmental sustainability           | Required<br>-Textbook Chapter 13  |
| <b>Week 13</b><br>Apr. 4, 6                 | <b>Global Health Governance</b><br>-Considering the present and future of global health governance in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic           | Required<br>-Gostin et al (2020) Reimagining Global Health Governance in the Age of COVID-19. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> , 110(11): 1615-1619 [online TFDL] |

|                          |  |                      |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>Week 14</b><br>Apr 11 | <b>Course Overview &amp; Final Exam Prep</b> | No required readings |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|

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

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION I** (25%)

There will be two in-person mid-term exams worth 25% each. Both exams will consist of **multiple-choice questions**. For the first exam, students will have the 50 mins of class to complete the exam on **Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>**. The exam will be closed book, with no study aids or notes permitted during the exam. The exam will cover all the material in the required readings and the lectures. Further information for the mid-term will be provided in class on **Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>**.

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION II** (25%)

The second **multiple-choice exam** will be cumulative, consisting of all the reading and lecture material covered up to the exam period. Students will have 50 mins of class to complete the exam on **Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup>**. The exam will be closed book, with no study aids or notes permitted during the exam. Further information for the mid-term will be provided in class on **Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup>**.

**RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT** (25%)

Students are expected to conduct research and write a **5-6 page paper** (double-spaced, 12-point font) on an issue in world politics (i.e. terrorism, the Covid-19 pandemic, weapons of mass destruction) that identifies both unilateral and multilateral state responses to the issue. The paper must also include a consideration of the issue from one of the theoretical perspective discussed in class. Students should consult with the instructor regarding their issue (not mandatory, but strongly recommended for the student's benefit).

Students are expected to collect relevant information for their paper through research of at least 10 sources (i.e. academic journals, books, reports, news articles). At least 5 of these sources must be academic journals or books/chapters. Papers are to be submitted in the D2L Dropbox (Word document) no later than **11:59 on Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

The paper will be graded according to the student's demonstrated research, understanding of the chosen issue and proper application of a theoretical perspective. The paper will also be graded according to the student's writing proficiency, the paper's organization and proper citation.

Further information for the paper will be provided in class on **Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup>**.

**FINAL EXAMINATION** (25%)

The in-person final examination will be **2 hours long** and will be **scheduled by the Registrar**. It will be **closed book** with no additional study aids and will consist of **3-4 short answer questions**. All the material covered in the required readings and lectures throughout the course is eligible to be on the exam. Further information for the final exam will be provided in class on **Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup>**.

**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**

For the written assignment, late submissions will receive a grade penalty of 5% for each day they are late. The 5% per day penalty will also be applied to weekend days.

**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**

**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.

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: [https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22\\_deferral-of-term-work\\_lapseGrade.pdf](https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf)

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre ([ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)) for approval by the Associate Dean.

**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>.

**Reappraisal of Grades:**

*For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2*  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

*For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3*  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

**Academic Misconduct:**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

**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.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

**Recording of Lectures:**

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

**Academic 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. 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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

**Research Ethics**

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics

approval is required.

**Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:**

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

**Copyright Legislation:**

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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**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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

**Important Dates:**

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

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### **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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)  
Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association  
Phone: 403-220-5997  
Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)  
URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman  
Phone: 403-220-6420  
Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

### **Campus Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

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

*Student Wellness Services:*  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

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