



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS

*POLI 381 L02*  
*Introduction to International Relations*  
*Winter 2020*

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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 (Skype: live: evgeniia.sidorova)  
COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15  
COURSE LOCATION: ENE 239  
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None  
TEACHING ASSISTANT: Kelsey Gordon

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course introduces the basics of international relations discipline through studying and analysing diversity and disciplinarity of major IR theories such as classical and offensive realism, classical liberalism and neoliberalism, constructivism, the English School, Marxism, and feminism. The class puts a great emphasis on the diversity of IR theories, including not only the most influential IR theories but also more overlooked alternative theories. The class textbook is written by the major scholars in International Relations, such as John Mearsheimer, Jennifer Sterling-Folker and J. Ann Tickner. The students will learn the structures and processes of international relations and essential political concepts such as globalization, war and peace, security, identity, gender and foreign policy using examples from modern global politics and everyday life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The course is aimed to teach students how:

- To think critically through comparing and contrasting theories of IR;
- To analyse global politics through applying IR theories to contemporary events;
- To understand abstract theoretical concepts and methods;
- To identify and understand the major forces driving the contemporary international system

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S):

Smith, Stephen Murray, Timothy Dunne, and Milja Kurki, eds. *International Relations Theories: discipline and diversity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. [Available new or likely used in the University Bookstore, SU's Bound & Copied Bookstore, online booksellers, etc.]

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class participation/TopHat	5%	Throughout
Midterm test (1 hour)	25%	March 10th
Research paper	30%	March 31st
Final exam (take-home, 2 days long)	40%	Distribution date: April 22nd, 9:00 am; Due April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 pm.
Total	100%	

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

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1 Class 1 Tuesday January 14th	Course Introduction  Thematic question: What is the study of International Relations about?  Syllabus & Assignments D2L usage/TopHat Class knowledge inventory	NOTE: DKS (Dunne, Kurki and Smith) refers to the required textbook. Other recommended readings and thematic resources will be posted on D2L Chapter 1 - International Relations and Social Science
Week 1 Class 2 January 16th	Thematic question: What do the IR theories share?	DKS, Chapter 1 - International Relations and Social Science
Week 2 Class 3 January 21st	Thematic questions: What role do order and stability play in international relations? What is balance of power?	DKS, Chapter 2 – Classical Realism
Week 2 Class 4 January 23rd	Thematic question: What is Classical Realism's view on modernization?	DKS, Chapter 2 – Classical Realism
Week 3 Class 5 January 28th	Thematic question: Why do states want power?	DKS, Chapter 3 – Structural Realism
Week 3 Class 6	Thematic question: What causes great power war?	DKS, Chapter 3 – Structural Realism

January 30th		
Week 4 Class 7 February 4th	Thematic question: What are the four big changes in the world?	DKS, Chapter 4 - Liberalism
Week 4 Class 8 February 6th	Thematic questions: Are democracies peaceful in general? How to promote order in anarchy?	DKS, Chapter 4 - Liberalism
Week 5 Class 9 February 11th	Thematic question: What are the barriers to international cooperation?	DKS, Chapter 5 - Neoliberalism
Week 5 Class 10 February 13th	Thematic question: How does neoliberalism study international institutions?	DKS, Chapter 5 - Neoliberalism
Week 6 Class 11 February 18th	Reading Week	No Reading
Week 6 Class 12 February 20th	Reading Week	No Reading
Week 7 Class 13 February 25th	Thematic questions: Thematic question: What is international society?	DKS, Chapter 6 – The English School
Week 7 Class 14 February 27th	Thematic questions: What is the Western Marxism? How is it different from the Marxist-Leninist theory?	DKS, Chapter 7 – Marxism
Week 8 Class 15 March 3rd	Thematic question: How does the discipline of IR understands gender?	DKS, Chapter 10 - Feminism
Week 8 Class 16 March 5th	Thematic question: Gender, IR, and other fields of political science	DKS, Chapter 10 - Feminism
Week 9 Class 17 March 10th	<b>Midterm exam</b>	No Reading
Week 9 Class 18 March 12th	Midterm review Thematic question: What is the Frankfurt School?	DKS, Chapter 8 – Critical Theory
Week 10 Class 19 March 17th	Thematic question: What is a social construction of reality?	DKS, Chapter 9 – Constructivism (the lecture will be uploaded on d2l as a PowerPoint presentation with audio comments)
Week 10 Class 20 March 19th	Thematic question: Constructivism and other IR theories	DKS, Chapter 9 – Constructivism (the lecture will be uploaded on d2l as a PowerPoint presentation with audio comments)
Week 11	Thematic question: How	DKS, Chapter 11 – Poststructuralism (the

Class 21 March 24th	did IR discipline react to poststructuralism?	lecture will be uploaded on d2l as a PowerPoint presentation with audio comments)
Week 11 Class 22 March 26th	Thematic question: What is discourse in poststructuralism?	DKS, Chapter 11 – Poststructuralism (the lecture will be uploaded on d2l as a PowerPoint presentation with audio comments)
Week 12 Class 23 March 31st	Thematic question: Why should we study postcolonialism in the 21 century?	DKS, Chapter 12 – Postcolonialism (the lecture will be uploaded on d2l as a PowerPoint presentation with audio comments)
Week 12 Class 24 April 2nd	Thematic question: What is the difference between orientalism and Eurocentrism?	DKS, Chapter 12 – Postcolonialism (the lecture will be uploaded on d2l as a PowerPoint presentation with audio comments)
Week 13 Class 25 April 7th	Thematic questions: What is a just war tradition? What is the difference between cosmopolitanism and communitarianism?	DKS, Chapter 13 – Normative IR Theory (the lecture will be uploaded on d2l as a PowerPoint presentation with audio comments)
Week 13 Class 26 April 9th	Thematic questions: How to “green” the IR theory? How does globalization affect the Arctic international relations?	DKS, Chapter 14 – Green Theory DKS, Chapter 15 – IR Theory and Globalization. Case study: Arctic Politics and Governance (the lecture will be uploaded on d2l as a PowerPoint presentation with audio comments)
Week 14 Class 27 April 14 <sup>th</sup> Last day of classes	Thematic questions: Is IR discipline still a discipline of IR? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USRI Course Evaluations</li> <li>• TopHat Tournament</li> </ul>	DKS, Chapter 16 – Still a Discipline After All These Debates? Readings: TBA (the lecture will be uploaded on d2l as a PowerPoint presentation with audio comments)
Final Exams April 18-29	FINAL EXAM – Scheduled by Registrar (Exact date/time/location TBA)	

ESSAYS/RESEARCH PAPER(S)

Students will be required to write one major research essay on a subject of their own choosing (suggestions will be provided) and is due on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This paper (2500 words, double-spaced) is to provide an analytical study of an aspect of international relations. The paper will be evaluated in terms of both its academic and writing content. It is to be submitted at the beginning of class in a hard copy. Students must retain an electronic copy for their own records.

PARTICIPATION

TopHat (an online, interactive response application) quizzes assigned as homework to assist in attaining learning objectives.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

This test is 1 hour 15 minutes and closed-book. It will cover the beginning of the course (readings and lectures up to March 10th, 2020). The exam will be in multiple-choice format and will be delivered in class or online through TopHat’s platform.

FINAL EXAMINATION

This final exam will start on April 22, 2020 9:00 am, and due April 24, 2020, 11:59 pm. The exam will be take-home (750 words, double-spaced). The answers should be well structured with a clear introduction, substantive paragraphs, and a conclusion. The questions will be posted on D2L. The students will upload their exams on D2L Dropbox. The late submissions will be penalized.

***Note: This will be an open book final exam.***

GRADE 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)

WRITING STATEMENT

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 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

LATE PENALTIES

Late penalties for written work and take-home exam: five percent (5%) per every day late, including weekends. Take-home exams will not be accepted after April 26<sup>th</sup> 11:59 pm, unless there is a request for accommodation or deferral.

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](http://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](http://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/m-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](http://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/](http://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.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Copyright Legislation:

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, “students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.”

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

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](http://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](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://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 Tower Room 116.

**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:**

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

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