



## **POLI 2520: World Politics**

Fall 2018

Professor Leah Sarson

Schedule:	Tuesdays and Thursday, 2:35 pm-3:55 pm
Location:	MCCAIN ARTS&SS AUD-1
Office Hours:	Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 (or by appointment), Room HH 362
Email:	<a href="mailto:Leah.Sarson@dal.ca">Leah.Sarson@dal.ca</a>
Course Website:	Brightspace
TAs:	TBD

### **Course Description**

POL 2520 is a general introduction to the basic concepts and theories of world politics and power in a global context. The study of International Relations (IR) is about alternatively seeking to understand, explain, or predict events in world politics. As a subfield of political science, IR offers theoretical, conceptual, and methodological tools to help us analyze why states and other actors in the international system behave the way that they do. We ask key questions like why some states choose to cooperate while others engage in conflict? What is power and how do actors pursue it? How does international law constrain behaviour in an anarchic world?

This course introduces students to these essential questions of world politics. The term is divided into four sections, beginning with an overview of modern international relations and the state system. From there, we look at the dominant theories of International Relations, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, and critical approaches. The second half of the course applies these theories to key themes in global politics with a focus on conflict and cooperation, including terrorism, non-state actors, international law, human rights, and international institutions. We conclude with a look to the challenges facing IR in both theory and practice.

Course objectives include:

- Identifying the key concepts and theories in IR and being able to apply them to the world around us;
- Constructing and communicating compelling analytical arguments and a broader analytical perspective in response to the course material;
- Critically exploring different approaches to the study of IR.

## Required Readings

John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (eds), 2017, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, OUP. (Available in the Bookstore.)

Journal articles and occasional news media. (Available on the library website and on the course Brightspace page. The librarians are available if you have trouble sourcing articles.)

## Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

At university we advance knowledge by building on the work of other people. Academic integrity means that we are honest and accurate in creating and communicating all academic products. Acknowledgement of other people's work must be done in a way that does not leave the reader in any doubt as to whose work it is. Academic integrity means trustworthy conduct such as not cheating on examinations and not misrepresenting information. It is the student's responsibility to seek assistance to ensure that these standards are met. We will be using Urkund in this class as a tool to avoid academic integrity issues.

In your work, please be sure to:

- Make sure you understand Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity. Please visit [http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html)
- Do not cheat in examinations or write an exam or test for someone else.
- Clearly indicate the sources used in your written or oral work (including diagrams, videos, etc.).
- Do not use the work of another from the Internet or any other source and submit it as your own.
- When you use the ideas of other people (paraphrasing), make sure to acknowledge the source.
- Do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from all instructors involved.
- This is not a comprehensive list. If you are ever unsure about any aspect of your academic work, please contact me or a TA. The library also offers services to help you ensure your academic integrity.
- Academia can be incredibly stressful. Whatever you do, do not be tempted to plagiarize or otherwise cheat. It is not worth it. Instructors are required to report every suspected offence.

## Classroom Etiquette

This classroom is a safe, equitable, and professional learning environment, in which students are encouraged to express their views in a collegial and respectful manner. To maintain a healthy learning environment, there is a zero-tolerance policy on discrimination and harassment of any sort.

Please familiarize yourself with the Dalhousie University rules and regulations on student rights and responsibilities, which can be found here: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities.html)

## Communication with the Professor

In all email communications with me, please include **POLI 2520** in the subject line and proper greetings and salutations. Always sign-off with your full name. I will do my best to respond in 24 hours.

Office hours are Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 or (occasionally) by appointment. My office is room 362 in the Henry Hicks Building.

We will be using Brightspace. Please check it regularly for announcements, assignments, and other resources.

## Assessment

Mid-term Exam – 25% (October 18)

Paper Proposal – 5% (November 8)

Term Paper – 30% (November 22)

Final Exam – 40% (TBD)

Letter grades have a grade point assigned that is used to calculate your GPA (Grade Point Average). The following table explains and defines Dalhousie's grading system and shows the GPA value that corresponds with each letter grade.

Grade	Grade Point Value		Definition	Notes
A+	4.30	90-100	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	4.00	85-89		
A-	3.70	80-84		
B+	3.30	77-79	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
B	3.00	73-76		
B-	2.70	70-72		

C+	2.30	65-69	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
C	2.00	60-64		
C-	1.70	55-59		
D	1.00	50-54	Marginal Pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of 'C' is required).
FM	0.00		Marginal Failure	Available only for Engineering, Health Professions and Commerce.
F	0.00	0-49	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
INC	0.00		Incomplete	
W	Neutral and no credit obtained		Withdrew after deadline	
ILL	Neutral and no credit obtained		Compassionate reasons, illness	
P	Neutral		Pass	
TR	Neutral		Transfer credit on admission	
Pending	Neutral		Grade not reported	

## Assignments

### 1) Mid-Term Exam: **Thursday, October 18**

The midterm exam will take place at the conclusion of the first half of the course. You will be responsible for all the ideas and issues raised in lectures and required readings, up to the date of the exam.

### 2) Paper Proposal: **Thursday, November 8**

Students must provide a one-page outline of their proposed research paper. The outline will include the key components of your introduction, namely your topic, why you arrived at that topic, the answers you offer for your question (i.e. your thesis), your methods, and a roadmap for the paper. We will discuss the proposal in-class.

### 3) Research Paper: **Thursday, November 22**

Students are expected to write an original 10-page research paper. The paper should apply theory to develop an analytical argument that helps us explain or understand the puzzle or research question at the centre of your research. A puzzle is often generated by something that you are

curious about or that does not make sense to you. You are expected to choose one of the major theories that we explore in class and apply it to develop your analysis.

Please be sure to submit your paper via hard copy and Brightspace. Papers **MUST** be submitted both in-class and via Brightspace.

Full details will be available on Brightspace and discussed in class.

#### 4) Final Exam

The final exam will be scheduled by the University Registrar. The official exam period for the Fall 2018 semester is December 6-16. Do not make work or travel plans until after you know the official dates and times for all of your final exams. If you will be obliged to be absent from the final exam for some compelling reason (e.g., serious illness or injury, death in your immediate family), you must explain that reason in a letter to the Chair of the Department, in advance of the scheduled exam; the Chair will render a decision on the matter. For the final exam, you will be responsible for all of the ideas and issues raised in lectures and in the required readings, through the entire semester. Additional information about the exam will be made available through the term.

#### **Absences and Late Policy**

Dalhousie students are asked to take responsibility for their own short-term absences (3 days or less) by contacting their instructor by email prior to the academic requirement deadline or scheduled time and by submitting a completed Student Declaration of Absence to their instructor in case of missed or late academic requirements. The Student Declaration of Absence Form was introduced in select courses to replace sick notes for absences of three days or fewer that result in missed or late academic requirements. The Student Declaration of Absence Form functions the same as a sick note.

You may use the Student Declaration of Absence Form **once** during this academic year. Please ensure it is provided to me prior to the beginning of class using our Brightspace page.

More information is available here: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-policies/student-absence.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-policies/student-absence.html)

**The late policy is 3% per day.** If you think you will be unable to submit an assignment on-time, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss *potential* alternative arrangements.

The submission of the form does not provide an automatic exemption from any academic requirements that were missed or late during an absence. Any alternate coursework arrangements for missed or late academic requirements are at the instructor's discretion.

For students experiencing or anticipating barriers to their learning environments or other issues, please see the Accommodations Office. Accommodation levels the playing field to support your success. It reduces or removes barriers to your learning to ensure fair and equitable access to your classroom, testing or co-op/fieldwork environments. Accommodations can be introduced when a protected characteristic (as defined by provincial human rights legislation) may place you at a disadvantage compared to other students who are not affected by a protected characteristic. I encourage these students to work with the office to ensure that their needs are met.

If you face a serious unexpected challenge during the course for which you require special accommodations, please notify me as far in advance as possible.

## **Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings**

### **Section 1: Introducing International Relations**

During these first few weeks, we will provide an overview of the subfield of International Relations. What is the study of International Relations? How do we think about it and how do we do it? The second week explores the emergence of the contemporary world order, beginning with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 through to the modern post-Cold War Era post-1989. This section is an essential foundation for the key concepts and actors that we discuss in this course.

#### **September 4: Overview**

#### **September 6: Thinking about IR**

- BSO, Introduction and Chapter 1
- Francis Gavin, "It's Never Been a Better Time to Study IR," *Foreign Policy*, February 20, 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/02/20/its-never-been-a-better-time-to-study-international-relations-trump-foreign-policy/>

#### **September 11: Historical Overview, Part 1**

- BSO, Chapters 2 and 3

#### **September: 13: Historical Overview, Part 2**

- BSO, Chapters 4 and 5

### **Section 2: Theories of International Relations**

This section of the course explores the core theories that International Relations scholars apply to better understand and explain world politics. Each theory offers its own approaches to making sense of the world, including particular assumptions and concepts.

#### **September 18: Realism**

- BSO, Chapter 6
- Graham Allison, "The Thucydides Trap," *Foreign Policy*, 2017. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/09/the-thucydides-trap/>

- Stephen Walt, 1998, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories,” *Foreign Policy*, no. 110, pp. 29–46

### **September 20: Neorealism/Structural Realism**

- Kenneth Waltz, 2000, “Structural Realism after the Cold War.” *International Security* 25.1, 5-41.
- Robert Jervis, 1978, “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma,” *World Politics* 30.2, 167-214.

### **September 25: Liberalism**

- BSO, Chapter 7

### **September 27: Neoliberalism, Neoinstitutionalism, and Neoconservatism**

- Andrew Moravcsik and Jeffrey Legro, 1999. “Is Anybody Still a Realist?” *International Security* 24.2, 5-55.
- John Mearsheimer, “Hans Morgenthau and the Iraq War: Realism Versus Neo-Conservatism,” *opendemocracy.com*, posted May 19, 2005.  
<http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/A0037.pdf>

### **October 2: Marxism and Critical Approaches**

- BSO, Chapter 8
- Tim Dunne, Lene Hansen, and Colin Wight, 2013, “The End of International Relations Theory?” *European Journal of International Relations* 19.3, 405-425.

### **October 4: Constructivism**

- BSO, Chapter 9
- Alexander Wendt, 1992, “Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics” *International Organization* 46.2, 391-425
- Ted Hopf, 1998, “The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory,” *International Security* 23.1, 171–200.

### **October 9: Post-Colonialism and Race in World Politics**

- BSO, Chapters 11
- Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan, 2017, “Why Is There No Non-Western International Relations Theory? Ten Years on,” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 17.3, 341-70.

### **October 11: Feminist International Relations**

- BSO, Chapter 12
- Sandra Whitworth, 2006, “Theory and Exclusion: Gender, Masculinity, and International Political Economy,” In *Political Economy and the Changing Global Order, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.*, Eds Stubbs and Underhill. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, pp. 88-99

## **October 16: Theoretical Applications in International Relations**

\*\*\*Midterm review and discussion of research paper\*\*\*

- Marysia Zalewski, 1996, “All these theories yet the bodies keep piling up’: theories, theorists, theorising,” in *International Theory Positivism and Beyond*, eds Smith, Booth, and Zalewski. Cambridge University Press, 340-353.
- Stephen Van Evera, 1997, “Appendix: How to Write a Paper,” *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 123-128.

## **October 18: Midterm**

### **Section 3: Conflict and Cooperation**

International Relations’ primary concerns revolve around managing conflict and promoting cooperation between actors in world politics. The following weeks focus on how political actors behave in the context of contemporary global challenges.

## **October 23: International Security and War**

- BSO, Chapters 14 and 15

## **October 25: Terrorism and Non-State Actors**

- BSO, Chapter 25
- Interview with Professor Aisha Ahmad: Jihad and Company: The Black Market Funding Terrorism, *World Affairs*, Published on Jan 11, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvZyvbNplsY>
- Hadley Freeman, “What Do Many Lone Attackers Have in Common? Domestic Violence,” *The Guardian*, March 28, 2017.

## **October 30: Human Security and Military Intervention**

- BSO, Chapters 30 and 32

## **November 1: Human Rights and International Norms**

- BSO, Chapter 31
- Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, 1998, “International norm dynamics and political change,” *International Organization*, Autumn, 887-917.
- Jennifer M. Welsh, 2010, “Implementing the ‘Responsibility to Protect’: Where Expectations Meet Reality,” *Ethics & International Affairs*, 24.4, 415–30.

## **November 6: International Institutions and International Law**

- BSO, Chapters 19 and 20

## **November 8: International Political Economy**

\*\*\*Research Paper Proposals Due\*\*\*

- BSO Chapters 28 and 29



## **November 13 and 15 – FALL STUDY BREAK (no class)**

### **Section 4: Looking to the Future**

This final section asks you to apply what you have learned to consider future challenges and solutions in International Relations, as both theory and practice.

#### **November 20: Globalization and the State**

- BSO, Chapter 27
- Jessica Mathews, 1997, “Power Shift,” *Foreign Affairs* 76.1, 50-66.

#### **November 22: The Challenges of Global Governance**

\*\*\*Term Paper Due\*\*\*

- BSO, Chapter 24
- Anne-Marie Slaughter, “Networks, Not Nation-states, Will Solve Global Crises” *Boston Globe*, May 25, 2017.

#### **November 27: The Future of the Discipline**

- Ole Wæver, 2016, “Still a Discipline After All These Debates?” In *International Relations Theories*, 4th edition, eds. Dunne, Kurki, and Smith, pp. 288-308.
- Wayne S. Cox and Kim Richard Nossal, 2009, “The “crimson world”: the Anglo core, the post-imperial non-core and the hegemony of American IR,” in *International Relations Scholarship around the World*, eds Tickner and Wæver, London: Routledge, 287-306.

#### **November 29: Review**

#### **Final Exam TBD**

Please note that while I have done my best to finalize the syllabus, it may be subject to changes as required.