

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science 1065 – Political Worlds: The Global Domain

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:05-2:25

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Objectives

This course introduces you to international and transnational politics – that is, politics beyond, between, and across national boundaries. We ask: to what extent, and in what ways, has international politics made life better and/or worse for most of the world's peoples? You should leave the course with a basic understanding of:

- how the current international system came into being, and how it has evolved over time
- who the key *actors* are in international politics (states, international organizations, 'civil society', and multinational corporations)
- what the key *arenas* of international politics are (multilateral organizations, the international 'political economy', conflict and war)
- how some of the most prominent *theories* of international relations have explained the logic of international politics (why actors behave the way they do, and how change occurs – or fails to occur - in world politics)
- some of the most pressing *issues and challenges* confronting contemporary international political actors, including: poverty and inequality, terrorism, the environment and food security, and the impact of new forms of communication and technology in international relations.
- How to formulate, support, and critique arguments concerning international political issues.

It is, of course, impossible to develop a command of these complex topics in an introductory course. The goal is to give you the foundational understanding you need to make (some) sense of key issues in the world today, to enable you to think and write about them intelligently, and to provide a basis for participation in future courses in Political Science and related fields.

Evaluation

Assessment will be based on a mid-term test, a final exam, 2 short essays (1000-1,250 words each), and attendance and participation. Your final result will be arrived at approximately as follows:

Attendance and participation	5%
Short Essay #1 (due 3 February)	20%
Mid-term Exam (13 February)	20%
Short Essay #2 (due 27 March)	20%
Final Exam (scheduled by the registrar's office*)	35%

You **must** complete all elements of the course in order to pass.

The course's grading scheme follows the Dalhousie undergraduate academic calendar:

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/grade-scale-and-definitions.html

Reference Style: All written assignments **must** provide complete and properly formatted citations for any source you draw on *either through direct quotations or key ideas*. Please use the Chicago Manual of Style citation format, which gives you a choice of "notes and bibliography" or "author-date" approaches. Chicago Style citation guides are available on the Dal Library website: <http://libraries.dal.ca/help/style-guides.html>. Please ensure that whichever specific approach you choose, you use it consistently throughout the assignment.

The **final exam** will be 2 hours in length, scheduled during the official exam period, which for the Spring 2020 semester is April 8-24. It will cover material from both required readings and class lectures/discussions. Please do not make any work or travel plans until the date and time of the exam has been set by the Registrar's Office. There will be no make-up or alternate exam dates.

Please note: extensions on written assignments will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances, **not including** having too much other work to do! Late papers will be penalized 2% per day.

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence

Dalhousie students are asked to take responsibility for their own short-term absences (3 days or less) by contacting me by phone or 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. Only 2 separate Student Declaration of Absence forms may be submitted per course during a term (Note: faculty, college, school, instructor or course-specific guidelines may set a lower maximum). If you are unable to complete a course requirement on time, we will agree on an alternative time/deadline for completion of the requirement.

(read more: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-policies/student-absence.html)

Please also note: January 31st is the last day to withdraw from a Winter term course without a “W”, and March 9th is the last day to withdraw from a Fall term course with a “W”.

Texts, Readings, and Research Sources

There is one required textbook for this course. It is *International Relations*, edited by Stephen McGlinchey. It is available as a *free* PDF download (<http://www.e-ir.info/2016/12/07/e-ir-foundations-textbook-international-relations/>), through chapter links, or in paperback or kindle form (e.g. https://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=McGlinchey%2C+Stephen).

There will be some additional required readings, which will be made available through e-links on the class Brightspace site.

To succeed in this course, it is critically important that you do all required readings and attend classes regularly.

A Note on Email

It is your responsibility to make sure you receive emails sent to your Dalhousie email account, and to make sure you see announcements sent via the Brightspace system. *Please check these on a regular basis.*

Respect

You are expected to treat your fellow students, your instructor and guest lecturers with respect. Please arrive on time, refrain from talking and texting when others are speaking, and turn all mobile devices to silent mode.

Topics and Assignments

Week 1 (Jan 6): Introduction to International Relations

Readings:

- McGlinchey, Introduction
- Burkeman, O. "Is the world really better than ever?" *The Guardian*, 28 July 2017.
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/jul/28/is-the-world-really-better-than-ever-the-new-optimists>

Week 2 (Jan 13): The Making of the Modern World: 'international society', war, and diplomacy

Readings:

- McGlinchey, chs. 1, 2

Week 3 (Jan 20): Thinking about International Politics: theories and 'levels of analysis'

Readings:

- McGlinchey, chs. 3, 4

Week 4 (Jan 27): 'Ordering' the world? International law and international organizations

Readings:

- McGlinchey, chs. 5, 6

Short Essay #1 due 3 February

Week 5 (Feb 3): 'Beneath' international society: religion, culture, and civil society

Readings:

- McGlinchey, chs. 7, 9

Week 6 (Feb 10): The international politics of wealth creation and distribution

Readings:

- McGlinchey, ch. 8

Mid-Term Exam – 13 February

Week 7 (Feb 17): READING WEEK

Week 8 (Feb 24): Poverty, development, and food security

Readings:

- McGlinchey, chs. 10, 16

Week 9 (Mar 2): democratizing international relations? Technology and ‘peoples power’

Readings:

- McGlinchey, chs. 12, 13

Week 10 (Mar 9): Changes and challenges in contemporary global security (I): the shifting strategic balance and transnational terrorism

Readings:

- McGlinchey, chs. 17, 14

Week 11 (Mar 16): Changes and challenges in contemporary global security (II): protecting people and providing for peacekeeping

Readings:

- McGlinchey, ch. 11
- Paul Williams, “The Security Council’s Peacekeeping Trilemma.” *International Affairs*, 2019, 1-22. <https://academic-oup-com.ezproxy.library.dal.ca/ia/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ia/iiz199/5612943?searchresult=1>

Week 12 (Mar 23): The international politics of the environment

Readings:

- McGlinchey, ch. 15

Short Essay #2 due 27 March

Week 13 (Mar 30): What next for international relations? And course review

Readings:

- McGlinchey, ch. 18

SECTION B: UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the [University Calendar](#) and the Senate.

University Statements

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of 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 all of 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. Click [here](#) to read more.

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Click [here](#) to read more.

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. Click [here](#) to read more.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity.

We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Click [here](#) to read more.

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University acknowledges that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
<https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
- Copyright and Fair Dealing: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Student Health and Wellness (includes Counselling and Psychological Services):
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html
- Black Student Advising: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- Indigenous Student Centre:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <http://dsu.ca/dsas>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Studying for Success program and tutoring: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html