



## **POLI 3569: Canadian Foreign Policy**

**Winter 2022**

Professor Leah Sarson

*Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people*

Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 13:05-14:25  
Location: Online/McCain 2198  
Office Hours: Online, by appointment via booking app on Brightspace  
Email: [Leah.Sarson@dal.ca](mailto:Leah.Sarson@dal.ca)  
Website: Brightspace

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the study and practice of Canadian foreign policy, with a particular focus on the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The course is divided into five units. The first unit provides an overview of the key concepts, ideas, and other inputs that shape Canadian foreign policy. The second unit examines the key actors that create and articulate Canadian foreign policy. The third unit looks at diplomacy and how Canada builds bilateral and multilateral relationships. The fourth unit considers how identity affects Canadian foreign policy-making. The final unit assesses key themes in Canadian foreign policy, including defence, trade, and aid.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Identify and dissect essential arguments, concepts, and ideas in the Canadian foreign policy literature;
- Critically connect the scholarship on Canadian foreign policy to the practice of Canadian foreign policy;
- Constructing and communicating compelling analytical arguments and a broader analytical perspective in response to the course material;
- Critically assessing Canada's presence and place in the world;
- Encouraging curiosity about the world around us and Canada's place in it.

### **Course Materials**

A textbook is not required for this course. Most journal articles and news media are available on the library website and most book chapters are available on our Brightspace page. I will not post scholarly articles readily available on the Dal library website because learning to access scholarly material is an essential element of a university education. The librarians are available if you have trouble sourcing articles. Some weeks will be heavier than others, but you can expect to read around fifty pages per week of scholarly material and popular media.

## **Communication with the Professor**

In all email communications with me, please proper greetings and salutations, including your full name. During the work week, I will do my best to respond in 24 hours.

Office hours are by appointment only and will be conducted online via MS Teams. You may make an appointment at your convenience using the booking app on the Brightspace page.

Course content will be posted on Brightspace. Please check it regularly for announcements, assignments, discussions, and other resources.

## **Assignments**

Participation = 10%

Current events presentation = 5%

Reading quizzes = 2 x 10%

Editorial assignment = 25%

Term Paper = 40% (5% bonus possible)

### *Participation (10%)*

Your participation grade will be composed of the quality and frequency of your contributions. Among my goals for this class is to develop robust conversations based on your responses to the readings and course materials. Thinking about the work and articulating your ideas are part of your grade; that said, I recognize that some people are hesitant to speak aloud among their peers. If you are feeling reticent in a group, please feel free to drop by my office hours to give some of your ideas a dry run.

### *Current events presentation (5%)*

You will be assigned a class in which you will present a current event related to the day's materials. Please come to class prepared to briefly (~5 minutes) present.

### *Reading quizzes (2 x 10% = 20%) – February 8 and March 31*

There will be two quizzes on the readings during the term, February 8 and March 31. The first quiz will cover all the readings from the beginning of the term to February 8. The second quiz will cover all the readings from February 10 to the end of the term. The quizzes will be online and open-book.

### *Editorial assignment (25%) – Due March 1*

Please draft an editorial on an issue related to Canadian foreign policy. Please use the following website for guidance: <https://www.theopedproject.org/resources/>. More information will be posted on Brightspace.

### *Term paper (40% - possible 5% bonus) – April 8*

Your term paper will explore any element of Canada's mission in Afghanistan. The paper will be about 12-15 pages. Papers are to be submitted to the Brightspace folder by 11:59 pm on April 5. Unless you have made arrangements with me beforehand, the late penalty is 5% per day. More information will be posted on Brightspace.

## **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. Students are encouraged to be humble and be prepared to question the assumptions that they may bring to the classroom.

## **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 librarian. 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.

## **Assessment**

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+ A A-	4.30 4.00 3.70	90-100 85-89 80-84	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
B+ B B-	3.30 3.00 2.70	77-79 73-76 70-72	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.
C+ C C-	2.30 2.00 1.70	65-69 60-64 55-59	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
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).
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	

### Accessibility

I have attempted to offer multiple representations of our course content (e.g. providing information through both video and text). If you encounter any content that is not accessible or perceptible for you, please do not hesitate to inform me. Our course should be equally accessible to all students.

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.

## **SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS**

### **Unit 1 – Introduction to Canadian Foreign Policy**

#### **January 6: Introduction**

#### **January 11: Defining Canadian Foreign Policy**

Smith, Heather. 2010. "Disciplining Nature of Canadian Foreign Policy." In *Canadian Foreign Policy in Critical Perspective*, edited by J. Marshall Beier and Lana Wylie. Oxford University Press.

Bratt, Duane and Christopher Kukucha, "Studying Canadian Foreign Policy: Varying Approaches," in *Readings in Canadian Foreign Policy, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*, eds. Bratt and Kukucha, 1-9.

#### **January 13: The Discipline and Its Theories**

Dolata, Petra. "Canada and/in the World." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 50, no. 1 (2017): 351–67.

Bow, Brian, and Andrea Lane. "Generations: The Sources of Our Ideas about Canadian Foreign Policy." *International Journal* 72, no. 2 (June 2017): 158–65.

#### **January 18: Power and Status**

Jeremy Paltiel and Kim Richard Nossal, "Adjusting the middle to fit the frame Canada in the changing global order," in *Rethinking Middle Powers in the Asian Century*, Routledge, 2018.

Ayed, Nahlah, 2019. "Canada as a middle power in an upended world: Time for a foreign policy reset," *CBC*. <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/canada-as-a-middle-power-in-an-upended-world-time-for-a-foreign-policy-reset-1.5372192>

#### **January 20: Myths and Values**

Grenier, Yvon. "Opportunities to Promote Human Rights and Democratic Values Abroad: The Case of Canadian Foreign Policy toward Venezuela." *International Journal* 76, no. 3 (September 2021): 446–64.

Stairs, Denis. "Myths, morals, and reality in Canadian foreign policy." *International Journal* 58, no. 2 (2003): 239-256.

#### **January 25: Branding and Domestic Politics**

Sjolander, Claire Turenne (2014), "Through the looking glass: Canadian identity and the War of 1812." *International Journal* 69.2: 152-167.

Nimijeau, Richard. "Introduction: Is Canada back? Brand Canada in a turbulent world." *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal* 24.2 (2018): 127-138.

## **Unit 2 – Key Actors in Canadian Foreign Policy**

### **January 27: The Prime Minister**

Gecelovsky, Paul (2015) "Of Legacies and Lightning Bolts: An Updated Look at the Prime Minister and Canadian Foreign Policy." *Readings in Canadian Foreign Policy: Classic Debates and New Ideas*: 213-223.

Sarson, Leah and Jennifer Bonder, "The Inward Eye is the Bliss of Foreign Policy: Stephen Harper and Justin Trudeau on the International Stage," In *Statesmen, Strategists & Diplomats: Canada's Prime Ministers and the Making of Foreign Policy* – Under Review with UBC Press.

### **February 1: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Ministry**

Freeland, Chrystia (2017), "Address by Minister Freeland on Canada's foreign policy priorities." [https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/06/address\\_by\\_ministerfreelandoncanadasforeignpolicypriorities.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/06/address_by_ministerfreelandoncanadasforeignpolicypriorities.html)

Paris, Roland (2021), "An Agenda for Canada's New Foreign Minister," *Open Canada*, <https://opencanada.org/an-agenda-for-canadas-new-foreign-minister/>.

Daryl Copeland (2018) "Innovation, adaptation and foreign policy in the age of globalization: is Global Affairs Canada fit for purpose?," *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, 24:3 372-377.

### **February 3: Parliament**

Stairs, Denis (2016), "Debating the Proper Role of Parliament in the Making and Conduct of Canada's International Policies," In *The Harper Era in Canadian Foreign Policy*, eds. A. Chapnick and C. Kukucha, UBC Press.

### **February 8: Civil Society and Others**

Laura Macdonald (2018), "Canada goes global: building transnational relations between Canada and the world, 1968–2017," *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, 24:3, 358-371

\*\*\*READING QUIZ 1 DUE AT 11:59 PM\*\*\*

## **Unit 3 – Relationships in Canadian Foreign Policy**

### **February 10: Diplomacy**

Nossal, K. R. (1999). "Pinchpenny Diplomacy: The Decline of Good International Citizenship in Canadian Foreign Policy." *International Journal*, 54(1), 88-105.

### **February 15: Multilateralism**

Jamie Gillies & Shaun Narine (2020) "The Trudeau government and the case for multilateralism in an uncertain world," *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, 26:3, 257-275

### **February 17: Open Discussion Day**

### **March 1: Canada-US Relations**

Ettinger, A. (2021). "Rumors of restoration: Joe Biden's foreign policy and what it means for Canada." *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, 1-18.

\*\*\*EDITORIAL ASSIGNMENT DUE AT 11:59 PM\*\*\*

### **March 3: Canada-China Relations**

Preston Lim (2020) "Sino-Canadian relations in the age of Justin Trudeau," *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, 26:1, 25-40,

### **Unit 4 – Identity and Canadian Foreign Policy**

#### **March 1: Diaspora Politics**

Carment, David and Joseph Landry, (2016), "Diaspora and Canadian Foreign Policy," in *The Harper Era in Canadian Foreign Policy*, eds. A. Chapnick and C. Kukucha, UBC Press.

#### **March 3: Gender**

Chapnick, Adam. "The origins of Canada's feminist foreign policy." *International Journal* 74, no. 2 (2019): 191-205.

Tiessen, R., & Smith, H. A. (2021). "Canada's 'Feminist' Foreign Policy Under the Harper Conservatives (2006–2015) and Trudeau Liberals (2015–2019) in Global Perspective," In *The Palgrave Handbook of Canada in International Affairs* (pp. 117-139). Palgrave Macmillan,

#### **March 8: Indigenous Peoples**

Lightfoot S. (2018) A Promise Too Far? The Justin Trudeau Government and Indigenous Rights. In: *Justin Trudeau and Canadian Foreign Policy. Canada and International Affairs* eds. Hillmer N., Lagassé P, Palgrave Macmillan,

Hayden King, (2017) "The Erasure of Indigenous Thought in Foreign Policy", July 31, available on the Open Canada website at: <https://www.opencanada.org/features/erasureindigenous-thought-foreign-policy/>

### **Unit 5 – Key Themes in Canadian Foreign Policy**

#### **March 10: Security and Defence**

Thomas Juneau, Philippe Lagassé, and Srdjan Vucetic (2019), "Introduction: Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice," In *Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice*, eds. T. Juneau, P. Lagassé, and S. Vucetic, Palgrave Macmillan.

Lindsay Rodman (2019), "You've Got It All Backwards: Canada's National Defence Strategy," *Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice*, eds. T. Juneau, P. Lagassé, and S. Vucetic, Palgrave Macmillan.

#### **March 15: March 8: Trade**

McKercher, Asa, and Leah Sarson. "Dollars and sense? The Harper government, economic diplomacy, and Canadian foreign policy." *International Journal* 71, no. 3 (2016): 351-370.

Meredith B. Lilly (2020), "Hewers of wood and drawers of water 2.0: how American and Chinese economic nationalism influence Canadian trade policy in the twenty-first century," *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, 26:2, 167-181.

### **March 17: Aid**

Stephen Brown, (2018) “All About That base? Branding and the Domestic Politics of Canadian Foreign Aid”, *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, 24:2, 145-164.

Swan, E. (2021). “The personal is political!”: exploring the limits of Canada’s feminist international assistance policy under occupation and blockade. *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, 27(1), 117-135.

### **March 22: Climate Change**

Simon Dalby and Leah Lawrence (2021), “Reimagining a Canadian National Security Strategy Climate Change Impacts on Canadian National Security,” *Reimagining a Canadian National Security Strategy*, Centre for International Governance Innovation, [https://www.cigionline.org/static/documents/NSS\\_Report2\\_xM1Iy4Y.pdf](https://www.cigionline.org/static/documents/NSS_Report2_xM1Iy4Y.pdf)

### **March 24: The Arctic**

Roberts K. (2021) Geopolitics and Diplomacy in Canadian Arctic Relations. In *Political Turmoil in a Tumultuous World. Canada and International Affairs*, eds. Carment D., Nimijean R., Palgrave Macmillan.

Exner-Pirot H. (2021) Canada’s Arctic Foreign Policy. In: Murray R.W., Gecelovsky P. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Canada in International Affairs. Canada and International Affairs*. Palgrave Macmillan.

### **March 31: Canadian Foreign Policy – What is it good for?**

\*\*\*READING QUIZ DUE AT 11:59 PM\*\*\*

### **April 5: Term Paper Review (BONUS FOR PARTICIPATION)**