



WORLD POLITICS

(POLITICAL SCIENCE 2520)

Class Time and Room: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35 – 3:55pm, Rowe Management 1028

Instructor: **Prof. Brian Bow** brian.bow@dal.ca

Instructor's Office: Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building, Room 355

Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00 – 12:00am, or by appointment

Assistants: David Beitelman
John Mitton
Alexandra Simonik

Introduction

This is a general introduction to World Politics. It builds on and critiques the core International Relations theory literature, and looks—from a historical perspective—at the development of the “Westphalian” state system, the principle of state sovereignty, and the growth of international institutions like the United Nations. Abstract theories of inter-state interaction and foreign policy decision-making are “tested” through applications to specific historical events like World War One, China’s accession to the World Trade Organization, the terrorist attacks of 9/11, and the global financial crisis of 2008.

Assignments / assessment

Mid-term Exam	25%	Thursday, October 18
Term Paper	35%	Tuesday, December 4
Final Exam	40%	Exam period (see below)

Exams

The mid-term exam will be held in class on **October 18**. For the midterm exam, you will be responsible for all of the ideas and issues raised in lectures and required readings, up to the date of the exam. There will be some choice (e.g., answer 3 of 5 questions in this section) in all parts of the exam.

The final exam will be scheduled by the University Registrar. The official exam period for the Fall 2012 semester is **December 6-17**. 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 elaborate 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. There will be some choice (e.g., answer 3 of 5 questions in this section) in all parts of the exam.

Additional information about the exams will be made available through the course website (see below).

Term Paper

The term paper will be due on **December 4**.

The focus and format of the term paper is going to be different this year than in previous years. Each student will **choose one of the following three clusters of questions**, and use it as the basis for a short research paper:

- Option #1: Why did the United States support the process of European integration throughout the Cold War, and afterward, in spite of the fact that a united Europe might ultimately create a potential diplomatic and strategic rival to the US? Choose two IR theories (e.g., realism, liberalism, Marxism, or constructivism) and explain how they would explain this series of choices, and how the two theories would tend to agree and disagree with one another on this question. Based on these explanations, what might we expect for future US-EU relations? Which theory's explanation, and which theory's predictions, do you find more compelling, and why?
- Option #2: Why did the European colonial powers give up their colonies in Africa and Asia in the early part of the Cold War (1950s-70s)? Choose two IR theories (e.g., realism, liberalism, Marxism, or constructivism) and explain how they would explain this set of choices, and how the two theories would tend to agree and disagree with one another on this question. Which theory's explanation do you find more compelling, and why?
- Option #3: Why did the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Conference fail to produce an ambitious and robust global treaty/institution to limit greenhouse gas emissions? Choose two IR theories (e.g., realism, liberalism, Marxism, or constructivism) and explain how they would explain this outcome, and how the two theories would tend to agree and disagree with one another on this question. Based on these explanations, what might we expect for future climate change cooperation? Which theory's explanation, and which theory's predictions, do you find more compelling, and why?

Whichever option you choose, be sure to be absolutely clear about: a. which one you are doing; b. how you are answering each question; and c. where and how your answers connect up to the general theories discussed in lectures and required readings. Your papers should give an overview of what others have said about the answers to your questions (i.e., literature review), but they should also provide your own answers to the questions (i.e., advance a clear argument). (Note that "your own answer" doesn't mean that you have to come up with something totally revolutionary or new; "your own answer" can be a well-explained argument about why you agree with some authors and disagree with others.)

While I do want you to answer all of the questions for your option, I don't want a series of disconnected short-answer responses; I want you to try to put them together so that they form one coherent essay. Your essay should be **between 2000 and 2500 words**, which generally works out to be **9-10 pages**, double-spaced, with normal fonts and margins. **Papers that go beyond 2500 words will not be accepted, except with the professor's specific, explicit permission.**

Additional information about the format and other requirements for the term papers will be made available through the OWL/BbLearn site.

General policies concerning assignments, deadlines, and grades

The University Calendar makes plain that “[s]tudents are expected to complete class work by the prescribed deadlines. Only in special circumstances (e.g. the death of a close relative) may an instructor extend such deadlines.” **Late term papers will be assessed a penalty of one mark (out of 35) per day.** If you miss the term paper deadline on account of illness, you must hand it in within one week of your return to class, with a copy of a medical certificate, per academic regulations in the Dalhousie Calendar.

Essays not submitted directly to me must be submitted in person to the Political Science office (if the office is open, hand the paper to the secretary, and ask to have it stamped with date and time; if the office is not open, put the paper in the after-hours drop-box). Neither the professor nor the Department can assume responsibility for papers submitted by mail, fax, or email. Do not submit papers to teaching assistants.

Plagiarism (intentionally or unintentionally representing other people’s ideas as your own) is a serious violation of academic ethics, and will be taken very seriously in this class. You can (and should) get information on what plagiarism is, how you can avoid it, and what the relevant university and departmental policies are, at <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/>. Please also take note of the formal notice of university policy with respect to academic integrity posted on the course website.

The grading thresholds for this course are:

90-100 = A+	85-89.9 = A	80-84.9 = A-
77-79.9 = B+	73-76.9 = B	70-72.9 = B-
65-69.9 = C+	60-64.9 = C	55-59.9 = C-
50-54.9 = D	50 > F	

Resources

The course **textbook** this year is John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, *The Globalization of World Politics* (5th ed., Oxford, 2011)—referenced below as “**GOWP**.” It’s available from the campus bookstore, and should be easy to find on-line. Most of the required readings come from the textbook, but there will also be a few other small items, all of which will be made available through the course website (see below).

The **course website** can be accessed through the Blackboard on-line system (OWL/BbLearn): <https://dalhousie.blackboard.com/>. Login using the same ID and password that you use for your Dalhousie email.

In addition to links to some course readings, the OWL/BbLearn site also has a downloadable copy of the course syllabus and general instructions and advice for the exams and term paper. Powerpoint slides from the lectures will be posted there (usually—but not necessarily always—in advance...).

The OWL/BbLearn website is a crucial resource for this course. If the professor or TAs want to send a message to students (e.g., class canceled due to snow, office hours changed for a particular week, etc.), they will do so through OWL/BbLearn, and not by email. **Students are expected to check the OWL/BbLearn site for announcements and updates at least once per week.**

Disclaimer

This syllabus is intended as a general guide to the course. The instructor reserves the right to reschedule or revise assigned readings, assignments, lecture topics, etc., as necessary.

Lectures and readings

SECTION ONE	Introduction: What is World Politics?
Class meetings:	September 6
Topics/themes:	Overview of the course; general advice about term paper and exams
Required reading:	Skim GOWP

SECTION TWO	The History of World Politics
Class meetings:	September 11, 13, 18, 20
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empire, city-state, nation-state • Civilization and international society • World war, total war, Cold War • The end of the Cold War and the “unipolar moment” • Did 9/11 really “change everything”?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David Armstrong, “The Evolution of International Society,” GOWP. 2. Len Scott, “International History, 1900-90,” GOWP. 3. Michael Cox, “From the Cold War to the World Economic Crisis,” GOWP.
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISN-ETH Zurich, “The Future of the State: Is a World State Inevitable?” Swiss Federal Institute of Technology—Zurich, January 6, 2012. OWL/BbLearn

SECTION THREE	International Relations Theory(ies)
Class meetings:	September 25, 27, October 2, 4
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realism • Liberalism • Marxism • Constructivism
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tim Dunne & Brian C. Schmidt, "Realism," GOWP. 2. Tim Dunne, "Liberalism," GOWP. 3. Stephen Hobden & Richard Wyn Jones, "Marxist Theories of International Relations," GOWP. 4. Michael Barnett, "Social Constructivism," GOWP.
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven L. Lamy, "Contemporary Mainstream Approaches: Neo-Realism and Neo-liberalism," GOWP. • Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," <i>Foreign Policy</i> 145 (2004). OWL/BbLearn

SECTION FOUR	Rethinking World Politics, 1: Security
Class meetings:	October 9, 11, 16
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War and the state • Wars of conquest, wars of position; competition without war • Big wars and small wars • Security cooperation: alliances, arms control, CSBMs • Whose security? Security against what?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michael Sheehan, "The Changing Character of War," GOWP. 2. John Baylis, "International and Global Security," GOWP. 3. Amitav Acharya, "Human Security," GOWP. 4. James D. Kiras, "Terrorism and Globalization," GOWP.
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edward N. Luttwak, "Give War a Chance," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 78 (1999): 36-44.

MID-TERM EXAM – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

SECTION FIVE	Rethinking World Politics, 2: Political Economy
Class meetings:	October 23, 25, 30
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercantilism and comparative advantage • Liberal international economics and its critics: Realism & Marxism • Free trade regimes: multilateral, regional, bilateral • Money: investment, finance, exchange rates • Interdependence and power • Development strategies • Globalization and its discontents
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Matthew Watson, “Global Trade and Finance,” GOWP. 2. Caroline Thomas & Tony Evans, “Poverty, Development and Hunger,” GOWP. 3. Paul Krugman, “Competitiveness: A Dangerous Obsession,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 73 (1994). OWL/BbLearn 4. David E. Sanger, “In World’s Eyes, Much Damage Has Already Been Done,” <i>New York Times</i>, July 31, 2011. OWL/BbLearn

SECTION SIX	Rethinking World Politics, 3: International Organization
Class meetings:	November 1, 6, 8
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • League of Nations vs United Nations • The post-war multilateral order: focus on US and China • Sovereignty and its limits • Duties beyond borders
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Richard Little, “International Regimes,” GOWP. 2. Christian Reus-Smit, “International Law,” GOWP. 3. Alex J. Bellamy & Nicholas J. Wheeler, “Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics,” GOWP.

	4. David Reiff, "Saints Go Marching In," <i>The National Interest</i> , June 21, 2011. OWL/BbLearn
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Taylor & Devon Curtis, "The United Nations," GOWP. • Edward Best & Thomas Christiansen, "Regionalism in International Affairs," GOWP.

STUDY DAY - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

SECTION SEVEN	Rethinking World Politics, 4: Culture and Identity
Class meetings:	November 15, 20, 22
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalism and national identity • Civilizations, clashing and commingling • An emergent global community?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 72 (1993). OWL/BbLearn 2. Simon Murden, "Culture in World Affairs," GOWP. 3. Scott M. Thomas, "A Globalized God," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 89 (2010). OWL/BbLearn 4. Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights," GOWP. 5. Andrew Linklater, "Globalization and the Transformation of Political Community," GOWP.
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Breuilly, "Nationalism," GOWP. • David Brooks, "Huntington's Clash Revisited," <i>New York Times</i>, March 3, 2011.

SECTION EIGHT	The Future of World Politics
Class meetings:	November 27, 29
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental catastrophe? • Anarchy in Africa?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia's century?
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Vogler, "Environmental Issues," GOWP. 2. Robert Kagan, "The Coming Anarchy," <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> 273 (1994). OWL/BbLearn 3. Kishore Mahbubani, "The Case against the West," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 87 (2008). OWL/BbLearn 4. Francis Fukuyama, "The Future of History," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 91 (2012). OWL/BbLearn

SECTION NINE	REVIEW
Class meetings:	December 4
REMINDER	TERM PAPERS DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last-minute advice on term papers • Final exam review • Evaluation forms