



# 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](mailto:brian.bow@dal.ca)

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00-12:00, or by appointment

Assistants: TBA

## 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 17
Term Paper	35%	Tuesday, December 3
Final Exam	40%	Exam period (see below)

## Exams

The mid-term exam will be held in class on **October 17**. 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 5-16**. 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. 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 3**.

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: Classic theories of International Relations (e.g., Hobbes, Morgenthau) were predicated, explicitly or implicitly, on particular philosophical conceptions of the relationship between the state and the citizen. Choose any two of the four major IR theories (i.e., Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, Constructivism), and explain their respective conceptions of the relation between state and citizen. Has our collective thinking about the relationship between the state and the citizen changed over the last 200 years? If so, how has this affected the relevance/usefulness of the two theories? What do you think—are there historical developments taking place today which could ultimately make one or both theories obsolete?
- Option #2: In the past, the rise of “new” great powers has often been associated with the onset of cataclysmic wars (e.g., France in early 1800s, Germany in early 1900s), and some have argued that the rise of China today might trigger a new round of military competition between the major powers, perhaps even another world war. Choose any two of the four major IR theories (i.e., Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, Constructivism), and explain their respective expectations about when and how states become locked in strategic rivalries. What does each theory lead us to expect about whether, why, or how the US and China might become strategic rivals? What do you think—which theory’s expectations do you think are more plausible, and why?
- Option #3: Global environmental challenges (e.g., climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, etc.) were not really “on the radar” when the major theories of International Relations were first propounded (except perhaps Constructivism, which was first popularized in the 1990s). But they may have something useful to tell us about these issues. Choose any two of the four major IR theories (i.e., Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, Constructivism), and explain their respective expectations about when and how states will be able to cooperate to manage global environmental challenges. You can choose to focus on a particular environmental policy challenge, if that helps you explain and evaluate the rival theories. What do you think—which theory’s expectations do you think are more plausible, 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., a brief 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 you cite 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, advance 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* (5<sup>th</sup> 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	<b>Introduction: What is World Politics?</b>
Class meetings:	September 5
Topics/themes:	Overview of the course; general advice about term paper and exams
Required reading:	Skim GOWP

SECTION TWO	<b>The History of World Politics</b>
Class meetings:	September 10, 12, 17, 19
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empire, city-state, nation-state</li> <li>• Civilization and international society</li> <li>• World war, total war, Cold War</li> <li>• The end of the Cold War and the “unipolar moment”</li> <li>• Did 9/11 really “change everything”?</li> </ul>
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. David Armstrong, “The Evolution of International Society,” GOWP.</li> <li>2. Len Scott, “International History, 1900-90,” GOWP.</li> <li>3. Michael Cox, “From the Cold War to the World Economic Crisis,” GOWP.</li> </ol>

Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISN-ETH Zurich, “The Future of the State: Is a World State Inevitable?” Swiss Federal Institute of Technology—Zurich, January 6, 2012. OWL/BbLearn</li> </ul>
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<b>SECTION THREE</b>	<b>International Relations Theory(ies)</b>
Class meetings:	September 24, 26, October 1, 3
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, and Constructivism</li> <li>• Understanding, applying, and testing IR theories</li> </ul>
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tim Dunne &amp; Brian C. Schmidt, “Realism,” GOWP.</li> <li>2. Tim Dunne, “Liberalism,” GOWP.</li> <li>3. Stephen Hobden &amp; Richard Wyn Jones, “Marxist and Critical Theories of International Relations,” GOWP.</li> <li>4. Michael Barnett, “Social Constructivism,” GOWP.</li> </ol>
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steven L. Lamy, “Contemporary Mainstream Approaches: Neo-Realism and Neo-liberalism,” GOWP.</li> <li>• Lene Hanson, “Post-structuralism,” GOWP.</li> <li>• Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” <i>Foreign Policy</i> 145 (2004). OWL/BbLearn</li> </ul>

<b>SECTION FOUR</b>	<b>Rethinking World Politics, 1: Security</b>
Class meetings:	October 8, 10, 22 (last one <i>after</i> the midterm)
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• War and the state</li> <li>• Wars of conquest, wars of position; competition without war</li> <li>• Big wars and small wars</li> <li>• Security cooperation: alliances, arms control, CSBMs</li> <li>• Whose security? Security against what?</li> </ul>
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Michael Sheehan, “The Changing Character of War,” GOWP.</li> <li>2. John Baylis, “International and Global Security,” GOWP.</li> <li>3. Amitav Acharya, “Human Security,” GOWP.</li> </ol>

	4. James D. Kiras, "Terrorism and Globalization," GOWP.
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edward N. Luttwak, "Give War a Chance," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 78 (1999): 36-44.</li> </ul>

October 15	<b>REVIEW</b>
October 17	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>

SECTION FIVE	<b>Rethinking World Politics, 2: Political Economy</b>
Class meetings:	October 24, 29, 31
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mercantilism and comparative advantage</li> <li>Liberal international economics and its critics: Realism &amp; Marxism</li> <li>Free trade regimes: multilateral, regional, bilateral</li> <li>Money: investment, finance, exchange rates</li> <li>Interdependence and power</li> <li>Development strategies</li> <li>Globalization and its discontents</li> </ul>
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngaire Woods, "International Political Economy in an Era of Globalization," GOWP.</li> <li>Matthew Watson, "Global Trade and Finance," GOWP.</li> <li>Caroline Thomas &amp; Tony Evans, "Poverty, Development and Hunger," GOWP.</li> <li>David E. Sanger, "In World's Eyes, Much Damage Has Already Been Done," <i>New York Times</i>, July 31, 2011. OWL/BbLearn</li> </ol>
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul Krugman, "Competitiveness: A Dangerous Obsession," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 73 (1994). OWL/BbLearn</li> </ul>

SECTION SIX	<b>Rethinking World Politics, 3: International Organization</b>
Class meetings:	November 5, 7, 14 (NB: Nov 12 is a study day)

Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• League of Nations vs United Nations</li> <li>• The post-war multilateral order</li> <li>• Sovereignty and its limits</li> <li>• Duties beyond borders</li> </ul>
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Richard Little, "International Regimes," GOWP.</li> <li>2. Christian Reus-Smit, "International Law," GOWP.</li> <li>3. Alex J. Bellamy &amp; Nicholas J. Wheeler, "Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics," GOWP.</li> <li>4. David Reiff, "Saints Go Marching In," <i>The National Interest</i>, June 21, 2011. OWL/BbLearn</li> </ol>
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Taylor &amp; Devon Curtis, "The United Nations," GOWP.</li> <li>• Edward Best &amp; Thomas Christiansen, "Regionalism in International Affairs," GOWP.</li> </ul>

<b>SECTION SEVEN</b>	<b>Rethinking World Politics, 4: Culture and Identity</b>
Class meetings:	November 19, 21
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationalism and national identity</li> <li>• Civilizations, clashing and commingling</li> <li>• An emergent global community?</li> </ul>
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 72 (1993). OWL/BbLearn</li> <li>2. Simon Murden, "Culture in World Affairs," GOWP.</li> <li>3. Scott M. Thomas, "A Globalized God," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 89 (2010). OWL/BbLearn</li> <li>4. Andrew Linklater, "Globalization and the Transformation of Political Community," GOWP.</li> </ol>
Recommended reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Breuilly, "Nationalism," GOWP.</li> <li>• Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights," GOWP.</li> <li>• David Brooks, "Huntington's Clash Revisited," <i>New York Times</i>, March 3, 2011.</li> </ul>

SECTION EIGHT	<b>The Future of World Politics</b>
Class meetings:	November 26, 28
Topics/themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anarchy in Africa?</li> <li>• Asia's century?</li> <li>• Nuclear war?</li> </ul>
Required reading:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Robert Jervis, "The Future of World Politics: Will It Resemble the Past?" <i>International Security</i> 16 (1991-92). OWL/BbLearn</li> <li>6. Robert Kagan, "The Coming Anarchy," <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> 273 (1994). OWL/BbLearn</li> <li>7. Kishore Mahbubani, "The Case against the West," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 87 (2008). OWL/BbLearn</li> <li>8. Francis Fukuyama, "The Future of History," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 91 (2012). OWL/BbLearn</li> </ol>

December 3	<b>END-OF-TERM REVIEW</b>
<b>REMINDER</b>	<b>TERM PAPERS DUE IN CLASS (AND ON-LINE) DEC 3, 4PM</b>