Lakehead University
World Politics (2021-2022)
POLI-2611-FA
Tues/Thur 2:30-4:00pm – RB1021

Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Maiangwa
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Hours: By appointment
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Course Description

We live in an era of global transformation, evident by a worsening ecological and health crisis, the rise of ultranationalist-populist, right-wing, and neo-fascist movements, challenges to the notions of state sovereignty and citizenship, crises of wealth disparity and hunger in an era of unprecedented wealth, and transformation of world order as emerging powers and everyday individuals and social movements challenge existing world order. Do these challenges signal the end of a unipolar world order based on US hegemony? Do these challenges spell the end for national citizenship and ideas of cosmopolitanism? How do we make sense of these changes and what tools do we need to study and address them? What are their short, medium, and long-term implications for cross-cultural human relations? How do we understand the intersectionality of gender, race, class, and coloniality in these global processes? This course aims to create a forum for conversations around these issues with a view to analyzing global politics as an academic field of study and a site for the production and manifestation of global power and politics, conflict, and cooperation. The course is intended to help students develop critical conceptual and analytical tools for interpreting and understanding the international order, the power relations that constitute it, and the processes, agencies and forces that define it. It places both global and local events in larger historical, analytical, and conceptual frameworks that allows for a critical and imaginative solutions to the common issues of our time.

Course Objectives
This course aims to:
- Introduce students to major debates and issues related to power, identity, and politics in today's globalizing world.
- Have a critical and broad understanding of contemporary world politics and the historical forces and theoretical theories that have shaped it.
- Understand the relationship between states, markets, social forces and global power and their implications.
- Be able to place both local and global events and processes in larger historical, analytical, and conceptual frameworks and understand the nature, forces, and agents of contemporary processes of globalization.
- Develop and practice research, writing and presentation skills, as well as defending clear positions on potentially controversial issues.
- Build effective cooperation strategies by working together and collaborating in a small group setting.

Required Materials and Texts
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

Class Format
Active learning instructional strategies will be used to engage with the course material, promote academic knowledge acquisition, encourage interdisciplinary understanding, as well as practice individual and collective reflexivity. In addition to lectures, we will discuss current events and news stories relevant to the course, complete exercises that challenge you to apply theory to practice and engage in group presentations.

I will introduce new material in an informal lecture with ample opportunity for questions and discussion. Lectures will highlight key concepts and arguments of the readings and additional material. To prepare for the discussion, students should attempt to take a stance about the relevant readings or concepts and be prepared to back their positions with clear arguments, examples, and case studies.

Course Evaluation – Overview
1. Midterm quiz – 20% (Oct 25th)
2. Group presentation – 15% (Week 3 to Week 13).
3. Term Paper – 20% (Due on November 03)
3. Final Exam – 40% (TBD)
4. Class Participation – 5% (Continuous)

Course Evaluation – Details
Midterm quiz (20%)
A midterm quiz will be conducted in-class or administered online. This quiz will cover some of the fundamental facts, concepts and approaches introduced in the first part of our course (Weeks 1-6). The quiz will consist of multiple choice, True/False and short-answer questions.

Group Presentation (15%)

The class will be divided into groups. Each group will be assigned a day and will be expected to present on the topic of the day using a PowerPoint presentation. The group presentation will consist of three key components:

☐ One key concept related to the topic of the day. Each group is expected to collaboratively choose and present one key concept or case study related to the topic of the day. For example, if the topic of an assigned day's lecture is "Environment and Politics", a group may choose to discuss the concept of *sustainable development* and address its origin, theoretical framework, key aspects, as well as its practical application including major successes, challenges, and the prospects for the future. Alternatively, a group could present on a case study that embodies all these elements such as the Niger Delta of Nigeria or the despoilation of the Amazon.

☐ One interactive activity to engage the class in the critical discussion and analysis of the key concept and the current news story presented by the group. Some examples of such activity may include but should not be limited to an interactive quiz, Kahoot, a debate, etc. Each group is responsible for preparing the materials and facilitating the class activity to ensure constructive participation from the class. The questions covered by this interactive activity should be based on the previous two parts of the presentation (the discussion of one key concept and one current news story), as well as on the broader issues related to the topic of the day and addressed in the assigned readings.

Each group is responsible to divide and assign the responsibilities of preparation of the group presentation, presenting and facilitating the discussion equally among the group members. For example, one group member may be responsible for research, another – for putting together presentation slides, while another one – for facilitating the group activity, etc. All group members will receive the same base grade for this assignment. However, extra points may be added or deducted depending on the individual group members' participation and performance in this project. Students are encouraged to collaborate to ensure that each member participates equally in preparation and presentation of this assignment

Class Participation (5%)

Students are expected to attend weekly classes and actively participate in class discussions and activities by making comments, asking follow-up questions, and/or relating the discussion back to the course themes. Students who miss more than 4 classes may not sit for the exam. Students will be marked on how well their comments reflect an engagement with the course material, not merely on how often they speak. Students are expected to be respectful and are encouraged to be kind to their colleagues.

Attendance is mandatory and will be considered in the participation grade as it is necessary to attend the class to be able to participate in it. Please let your instructor know if illness or other emergencies keep you from attending a class.

Students will also work with their group members to choose one current news story that covers one or several aspects of the topic covered on the assigned day. Please attempt to choose current news (e.g., that happened within the past week or month). It is important to choose the news story that would illustrate some of the specific aspects of the topic covered in that day's lecture. For example, if the topic of the lecture is "Human Rights", a news story

should address specific violations of human rights in any part of the world or concrete efforts by individuals or organizations to promote and implement human rights.

Term Essay (20%)
The major essay for this term will be an independent argumentative essay with an original research component. You will be asked to choose from a set of five essay questions. The questions on these topics will be formulated in an open-ended way that requires you to: apply concepts and approaches in political science and international relations, most of which will be from our lectures and readings; conduct additional independent and original research using academic journals and books (up to 8 sources); and compose an original argument in response to the question prompt. It should be 7 (double-spaced) pages long, including references.

Final Exam (40%)
The final exam will be held in-class and will include the material covered in the course. It will consist of multiple choice, True/False, short answer, and essay questions that will require students to explain the various concepts and theories we have learned in class and provide specific examples to illustrate these concepts and theories.

Please Note:

- Essay questions will be provided by the instructor. However, students are also free to come up with their own topics based on their individual interests. Such topics should first be cleared with the instructor.
- All essays should have a title page indicating the title of the essay, the name of the student, the course number, the name of the instructor, and the department.
- In terms of formatting, all essays should be doubled-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point fonts, 1 inch margin. Manipulating the margins or font size will be penalised.
- Barring any extenuating circumstance, all written assignments must be submitted on time, otherwise a 2 per cent penalty will apply each day the essay is late.
- For citation and referencing, please use the APA referencing style 6th edition for all written work. Failure to follow these instructions will affect your grade.
- The essays will be evaluated based on grasp of the topic, quality of argument, depth of analysis, originality of approach, familiarity with the issues and literature, as well as structure, organisation, grammar, referencing and formatting.

Students with Special Needs
Students with special needs may request accommodations in accordance with the Senate Policy on Students with Disabilities. Such students should at the earliest opportunity advice the Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Learning Assistance Centre) and the instructor of such needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made to accommodate their needs. Those who encounter extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of the course should, as soon as possible, discuss these circumstances with the instructor and the Student Accessibility Services.

Lakehead Policy on Academic Dishonesty
As academic integrity is crucial to the pursuit of university education, students are expected to uphold the academic honour code at all times and are advised to familiarise themselves with the university's policy on academic dishonesty, especially in relation, but not limited, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. In order to make sure that a degree awarded by Lakehead University is a reflection of the honest efforts and individual academic achievement of each student, Lakehead University treats cases of academic dishonesty very seriously and severely penalises those caught in violation of the university's policy on academic honesty.

Policy on Electronic Devices
Cell phones are distracting and therefore should be turned off and kept out of sight during lectures. A visible phone will be assumed to being used. In such a scenario, the instructor may ask the offending student to leave the class. Except where prior permission is sought from the instructor and given, no audio or video recording of lectures is allowed. Where permission is sought and granted, such recordings should be only be for the student's private use.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Sept 6) Introducing Global Politics/Historical Context
Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (Introduction/Chapter 1 & 2)

Week 2 (Sept 11 & 13) Theories of Global Politics/The Economy
Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (Chapters 3 -5)

Week 3 (Sept 18 & 20): The State and Society in a Global Age
Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (Chapters 6 & 7).

Presentation - Group 1

Week 4 (Sept 25 & 27): Nations and Nationalism in a Global Age
Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (Chapters 8).

Presentation – Group 2

Week 5 (Oct 4 & 6): The Global Politics of Identity, Difference and Culture
Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury
Publishing Plc (Chapter 9).

Presentation – Group 3

Week 6 (Oct 9 – 13): Reading Week

Week 7: (Oct 16 & 18): War and Peace
Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury
Publishing Plc (Chapter 11).

Gareth Evans and Mohamed Sahnoun, "The Responsibility to Protect", *Foreign Affairs*, New
York, Vol. 81, Issue 6 (Nov-Dec 2002), pp. 99-110.

Presentation – Group 4

**Week 8 (Oct 23 & 25): The Global Politics of Weapons and Mass
Destruction**
Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury
Publishing Plc (Chapters 12).

Mid-Term: Oct 25th

Week 9 (Oct 30 & Nov 1): Terrorism
Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury
Publishing Plc (Chapters 13).

Presentation – Group 5

Final Date to Withdraw November 03, 2023

Week 10 (Nov 6 & 8): International Law

Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (Chapter 15).

Presentation – Group 6

Week 11 (Nov 13 & 15): Women, Gender and Sexuality in Global Politics
Readings:

Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (Chapters 18).

Presentation – Group 7

Week 12 (Nov 20 & 22): International Organizations and Global Governance

Readings:
Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (Chapters 19 & 20)

Presentation – Group 8

Week 13 (Nov 27 & 29): Looking Ahead: Whose Global Politics
Readings:

Heywood, Andrew & Ben Whitam. 2023. Global Politics (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (Chapter 22).

Presentation – Group 9

Draft Generative AI Policy/Syllabus Statements

GenAI Use Permitted

Generative artificial intelligence (Generative AI or GenAI) is a category of AI systems capable of generating text, images, or other media in response to prompts. These systems include ChatGPT and its variant Bing (built by OpenAI) and Bard (built by Google) among several others. Other generative AI models include artificial intelligence art systems such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, and DALL-E.

GenAI tools can provide valuable assistance and support in academic work. However, it is essential to use them responsibly and ethically. The following information and guidelines apply to the use of AI-based tools in this course:

     a. **Student Responsibility** – It is the responsibility of the student to understand the limitations of AI-based tools. While these tools can provide suggestions and insights, final decisions and critical thinking should come from the student's own understanding and effort. Before submitting, review your work with this in mind. If you don't understand what type of GenAI usage is appropriate, ask the course instructor for clarification.

     b. **Formative Usage** – In this class, you may use GenAI for formative, but not summative, work. That means it can be used as a "possibility engine" (brainstorm tool), a "study buddy," a "collaboration coach," a "guide on the side," a "personal tutor," a "co-designer," etc. to help you learn course content, but it cannot be used as the primary vehicle for any work that is submitted for marks or evaluation. (See UNESCO's "[ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education Quick Start Guide](#)," page 9, for explanations and examples of these and other roles GenAI can productively serve in a formative capacity.)

     c. **Error & Bias** – AI content is created by computer algorithms that have been trained using large amounts of data. The AI learns from patterns and examples in the data to generate new content that resembles what it has been trained on. If the training data used to train the AI model is biased or limited in scope, the AI may reproduce content that is inaccurate, incomplete, offensive, and/or biased. Students should weigh this as they consider material produced by AI.

     d. **Trustworthiness** – Generative AI can be vulnerable to manipulation and misuse. It can be used to generate fake news, misinformation, or

deepfake content, which can have harmful consequences. Students should check AI generated content against reputable sources.

e. **Plagiarism** – Since [writing and critical thinking ability] are learning outcomes of this course, all work submitted for evaluation must be the student's original work. Using the work of others (including content curated/generated by AI) without proper citation is considered plagiarism. See "Citing Artificial Intelligence" for assistance with correct documentation.

f. **Citation of Sources** – If you use material generated by an AI program for an assignment in this course, it must be cited like any other source (with due consideration for the quality of the source, which may be judged as poor). Failure to do so will be considered a violation of academic integrity. See Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity.

LAKEHEAD RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! If it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

The Student Success Centre has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, co-operative opportunities and leadership development. More information is available here https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current- students/student-success-centre.

The Lakehead Library provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online via chat and in person with more details available here https://library.lakeheadu.ca/.

Public Computer Labs are available on campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For more details go to https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs.

Student Life and Services offers health and wellness resources both on and off campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or.

Office of Human Rights and Equity. You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here

https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources.