



Lakehead University
World Politics (2021-2022)
POLI-2611-WA
Mon/Wed 10:00-11:30AM – RC 1001

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, and 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 its reality. The intent is to get students to think about what goes on in the world and how they can partake in shaping global realities through their negotiations of power and participation in processes of high and low politics. 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 that we face.

Course Objectives

This course aims to:

- Introduce students to major debates and issues related to power and politics in today's globalizing world.
- Have a critical and broad understanding of contemporary world politics and the historical forces 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, expressing and supporting ideas, 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. 2014. *Global Politics* (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan.

Jones, R. 2019 (ed). *Open Borders: In Defence of Free Movement*. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

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, you should attempt to take a stance about the relevant reading or concept and be prepared to back your position with clear arguments, examples, and case studies. Please also dedicate some time during the week to learn about the current news and come to class prepared to discuss news stories on the topic of the day.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Midterm quiz – 20% (February 28)
2. Group presentation – 15% (Week 3 to Week 12).
3. Term Paper – 20% (Due on March 28)
3. Final Exam – 35% (Monday, April 11, 2022 - Sunday, April 24, 2022)
4. Class Participation – 10% (Continuous)

Course Evaluation – Details

Midterm quiz (20%)

A midterm quiz will be held 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, a game of *Jeopardy*, a crossword puzzle, 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 (10%)

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 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. (An assignment sheet explaining the major essay in detail will be distributed and discussed in class.) 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.

Final Exam (35%)

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 advise 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 be 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 (Jan 10 & 12) Introducing Global Politics

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. Global Politics (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Introduction)

Week 2 (Jan 17 & 19) History and Theories of Global Politics

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. Global Politics (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapters 2 & 3)

Week 3 (Jan 24 & 28): The Economy, The State, and Global Policy in a Global Age

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. Global Politics (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapters 4 & 5).

Week 4 (Jan 31 & Feb 2): Borders, migration and displacement; The Crisis of Citizenship

Readings:

Jones, R (2019). Open Borders in Defence of Free Movement. Athens: University of Georgia Press (Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3).

Week 5 (Feb 7 & 9): Society and the Nation in a Global Age

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. *Global Politics* (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapters 6 & 7).

Week 6 (Feb 14 & 16): Identity, Culture, and Challenges to the West: “clash of civilizations”?

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. *Global Politics* (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapter 8).

Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 3 (Summer 1993), pp. 22-49.

Said, “The Clash of Ignorance,” *The Nation*, October 1, 2001

What does Huntington mean by “Clash of Civilizations”? How effectively does Said dismantle his argument?

Week 7 (Feb 21 & 23): Power and 21st Century World Order:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. *Global Politics* (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapter 9).

Niccolò Machiavelli: BBC Documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsMs-DuGy1o>

Week 8 (Feb 28 & Mar 2): (In)security in global life; War and Peace

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. *Global Politics* (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapter 10).

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

Week 9 (Mar 7 & 9): Terrorism, Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. *Global Politics* (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapters 11 & 12).

Final Date to Withdraw Friday March 11, 2022

Week 10 (Mar 14 & 16): International Law, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Intervention

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. Global Politics (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapters 13 & 14).

Week 11 (Mar 21 & 23): Poverty and Environmental Issues

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. Global Politics (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapters 15 & 16).

Week 12 (Mar 28 & 30): International Organizations and Global Governance

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. Global Politics (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapters 18 & 19)

Week 13 (April 4 & 6): Looking Ahead: Images of the Global Future

Readings:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. Global Politics (2nd Edition). Palgrave Macmillan (Chapter 22).

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>.