



**POLI-2611 FA: WORLD POLITICS
FALL 2013**

Days: Tuesday & Thursday
Times: 2:30pm – 4:00pm
Place: UC-0050

Instructor: Zubairu Wai
Office: RB 2041
Hours: Tues. & Thurs 12:30pm – 2:00pm (or by appointment)
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Course Description: Content and Objectives

The aim of this course is to provide students with a broad and critical introduction to World/global politics by providing them with a historical and theoretical overview of the field in the era of globalisation. It approaches world/global politics from a broader socio-historical perspective focusing on five important questions: (a) what is the contemporary global system and how did it come into being? (b) How do we think about or understand this system and what are the major theoretical approaches available for understanding, interpreting or explaining the politics surrounding it? (c) Who are the main actors in world politics and what interests and ideas drive their actions and the political choices they make? (d) What is at stake in these actions and choices and what are their implications in the short, medium and long term? (e) What are some of the major issues and processes in global politics and how do the theoretical approaches help us in understanding them?

What these questions point to is the need to think about not only what goes on around the world today, but also how we got to this point, and where we are likely to go next. It also means thinking in terms of politics both *within* countries as well as *between* countries: at both the communal, regional, national and global levels, while at the same time considering the significant role that non-state (transnational) actors play in the politics of the world today. This course is thus intended to help students develop critical skills that enable them to understand the world in which we live, to place both local and global events and processes in larger historical, analytical and conceptual frameworks and determine whether contemporary globalisation marks a fundamental transformation in the way our world is organised and operates. Finally, it seeks to open up spaces for asking questions about global processes that demand more integrative, critical and imaginative approaches to thinking as well as practices.

Course Structure, Requirements and Evaluation

The method of instruction will mainly be lectures. Attendance and student participation are crucial for the success of the course. Students are required to regularly attend classes, do the assigned readings before coming to class and take part in class discussions. In addition, they are required to submit a written essay on a topic of their choosing, and take two exams (a mid-term and final exam).

The final grade will be weighted in the following manner:

Attendance & Participation:	20%
Midterm exam:	20%
Term Paper:	30%
Final Exam:	30%

1. Attendance & Participation (Cumulative): 20%

Attendance and student participation are crucial for the success of the course. All students are required to regularly attend classes, do the assigned readings before coming to class and take part in class discussions. A register of attendance will be kept throughout the duration of the course.

2. Exams: mid-term exam (20%); final exam (30%) = 50%:

(a) The **mid-term exam (worth 20%)** will be conducted **in class on October 24**. It is a 90 minutes test intended to test students on the material covered in the course up to the time of the exam. It will be a closed book exam consisting of a mix-bag of multiple choice and short answer questions.

(b) The **final exam (worth 30%)** will be a three hour test conducted at the end of the term. It will test students on all topics covered in the course. It will consist of two parts: Section one will consist of short answer questions which require students to define specific terms and discuss their relevance for world politics, and section two will consist of essay type questions that require students to provide long and detailed essay type answers to questions about world politics. **[Note: The examination period is between December 5 and 17. It is the responsibility of students to check with the Registrar's office for the exact examination date for this course]**

3. Essay: (worth 30%)

The final essay is intended to test understanding of concepts and issues relating to world politics. It can be on any issue, topic or theme of world politics and should be between 8 and 10 double-spaced typewritten pages (not including the title page and bibliography of works cited) in length. The format should be Times New Roman; 12 point fonts, 1 inch margin. The essay should include:

- (a) A title page indicating your name, student number, course number, the name of the course instructor, the department and the university as well as the title of the paper;

- (b) The main body of the essay (should be between 8-10 double-spaced pages). You should
- i. clearly state in an introduction what the essay is about, articulating a thesis
 - ii. apply a theoretical framework to analyse the issue or topic;
 - iii. Approach the issue/topic, developing your points, thesis, arguments etc. in a systematic, coherent and consistent manner, demonstrating a depth of analysis, familiarity with your chosen topic, drawing from a range of literature and sources and evidence to back your points or arguments;
 - iv. use clear expressions and grammatically correct sentences to make your points;
 - v. conclude your essay in light of your theoretical framework, discussing the implications of your arguments, findings etc. for world politics;
- (c) A bibliography of reference indicating the sources cited. Please refer to and use the Chicago Manual style of citation.

The final essay is due in class on Thursday, November 28, that is, the last day of lectures for the course. Barring any extenuating circumstances, and except where the instructor's permission is sought and given, all written work must be submitted on time; otherwise, a penalty of 2 per cent per day for lateness will be applied.

Required Text:

1. John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (eds.), *The Globalisation of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* [Fifth Edition] (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
2. Additional readings in course Kit

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs can request accommodations in accordance with the Senate Policy on Students with Disabilities. If you are a student with special needs please advise, at the earliest opportunity, the Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Learning Assistance Centre) and the course instructor of your needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made to accommodate them. 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 course instructor and the Student Accessibility Services.

Lakehead Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to uphold the academic honour code at all times and are advised to familiarise themselves with the university policy on Academic dishonesty, especially in relation, but not limited, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. Violation of this policy can lead to serious consequences.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

I. THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

Week 1 (Sept. 10 & 12): Introduction to the course

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Introduction & Chapter 1

Week 2 (Sept. 17 & 19): The Global System in Historical Perspective

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 2, 3 & 4

[Note: Remember September 20 is the final date of registration]

II. THEORIES OF WORLD POLITICS

Weeks 3 (Sept. 24 & 26): Realism and Neorealism; Liberalism and Neoliberalism

Required Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 5, 6 & 7

Kenneth Waltz, "Structural Realism after the Cold War" *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (2000), pp. 5-41

Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, "The Promise of Institutional Theory", *International Security*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (1995), pp. 39-51

Richard K. Ashley, "The Poverty of Neorealism," Robert O. Keohane (ed.) *Neorealism and Its Critics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1986), pp. 255-300

Week 4 (Oct. 1 & 3): Marxist Theories & Constructivism

Required Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 8 & 9

Robert Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Order, Beyond International Relations Theory" *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, Vol. 10, No.2, (1981), pp. 126-155

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics" *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (1992), pp. 391-425

Week 5 (Oct. 8 & 10): Postmodern/Poststructural and Postcolonial approaches

Required Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 10 & 11

Richard K. Ashley, 1996, "The achievements of Post-structuralism", in Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zalewski (ed.) *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp.240-253.

Jim George and David Campbell, "Patterns of Dissent and the Celebration of Difference: Critical Social Theory and International Relations," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol.34, No.3 (1990)

Arlene Tickner, "Seeing IR Differently: Notes from the Third World" *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, Vol.32, No.2, (2003), pp. 295-324

Week 6 (Oct. 15 & 17): Feminism and the Question of Gender in World Politics

Required Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 16

J. Ann Tickner, "Gendering a Discipline: Some Feminist Methodological Contributions to International Relations" *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, Vol. 30, No. 4 (2005), pp. 2173–2188

Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defence Intellectuals," *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, Vol. 14, No. 4 (1987), pp.687-718.

Week 7 (Oct. 22 & 24): Revision and Mid-term exam

[The mid-term exam will be on October 24 in class]

III. THEMES OF WORLD POLITICS

Week 8 (Oct. 29 & 31): Global Political Economy in the Age of Globalisation

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 15, 21 & 27

Robert W. Cox, "Beyond Empire and Terror: Critical Reflections on the Political Economy of World Order," *New Political Economy*, Vol. 9, No. 3 (2004), pp. 307-323

Barry Gills, "Re-orienting the New (International) Political Economy," *New Political Economy*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (2001), pp. 233-245

Eric Helleiner, "A Bretton Woods Moment? The 2007-2008 Crisis and the Future of Global Finance," *International Affairs*, Vol. 86, No. 3 (2010), pp. 619-636

[Note: Remember November 4 is the final date for withdrawal without academic penalty]

Week 9 (Nov. 5 & 7): ***Violence and Militarism in the Age of Empire: war, terrorism and global (In)security***

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 13, 14 & 22

Anna M. Agathangelou, “Bodies of Desire, Terror and the War in Eurasia: Impolite Disruptions of (Neo) Liberal Internationalism, Neoconservatism and the ‘New’ Imperium”, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, Vol.38 No.3 (2010), pp. 693–722

Zubairu Wai, “Empire’s New Clothes: Africa, Liberal Interventionism and Contemporary World Order” *Review of African Political Economy* (forthcoming)

V.Y. Mudimbe, “About a Will to Truth: Meditations on Terror”, in his *On African Fault Lines: Meditations on Alterity Politics* (Durban: University of KwaZulu/Natal Press, 2013), pp. 184 - 196

Week 10 (Nov. 12 & 14): ***Conflicts, Liberal Peace and the Politics of Humanitarian Intervention***

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 29, 30 & 31

Christopher Cramer, “*Homo Economicus* Goes to War: Methodological Individualism, Rational Choice and the Political Economy of War”, *World Development*, Vol. 30, No. 11 (2002), pp. 1845–1864

Neil Cooper, “Picking out the Pieces of the Liberal Peaces: Representations of Conflict Economies and the Implications for Policy”, *Security Dialogue*, Vol. 36, No. 4, (2005), pp. 463–478

Mark Duffield, “The New Security-Development Terrain” Introduction in his *Global Governance and New Wars: The Merging of Security and Development* (London: Zed Books: 2001), pp. 1 – 21

Week 11 (Nov. 19 & 21): ***Global Inequality and the politics of North-South Relations: Poverty, Development and Migration***

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapter 28

Jan Nederveen Pieterse, “Global Inequality: Bringing Politics Back In”, *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 23, No 6, (2002), pp. 1-24

Thomas Pogge, “World Poverty and Human Rights,” *Ethics and International Affairs*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (2005), pp. 1-7

Week 12 (Nov. 26 & 28): International Organisations and Global Governance

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 17, 18, 19 & 20

[Note: Remember Final paper due at the end of class on November 28]

(Examination Period: December 5–17. Please check with the Registrar's office for the exact examination date for this course)