

Lakehead University, Thunder Bay
Department of Political Science

Political Science 2611 FA
World Politics
Fall 2011

Time: Tues. & Thurs.: 2:30-4:00pm
Place: RC 1002

Instructor: Zubairu Wai
Office: RB 2041
Hours: Tues. & Thurs 1:00pm – 2:00pm
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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 Requirements and Evaluation

The method of instruction will be lectures and class discussions. Students are required to regularly attend classes; do the assigned readings before coming to class; take part in class discussions; take a mid-term exam; submit a final essay on an issue of world

politics of their choosing; and sit to a final examination. Barring any extenuating circumstances, all written work must be submitted on time.

The final grade will be weighted in the following manner:

Attendance & Participation:	10%
Mid-Term Exam:	25%
Essay:	30%
Final Exam:	35%

Note: The final essay will be due in class on Thursday, December 1, that is, the last day of lectures for the course. This essay should be on any issue, topic or theme of world politics. It should be 8 to 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 it should clearly indicate 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) provide a bibliography of reference indicating the sources cited.

Required Texts:

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. Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss (eds.) *Global Politics: A New Introduction* (London & New York: Routledge, 2008)

[The required books are available in the bookstore or online at Amazon.com. I have also placed copies on reserve in the library. You can also find journal articles both in the library and online through the library system.]

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs can 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 course instructor of such needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made to accommodate such 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 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 World/Global System

Week 1 (Sept. 13 & 15): Introduction to the course: How do we begin to think about the world and World Politics?

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Introduction & Chapter 1
Edkins and Zehfuss, Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2 (Sept. 20 & 22): The Global System in Historical Context

Readings:

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

[Note: 23 September 2011 is the Final Date of Registration]

II. Understanding the World/Global System

Weeks 3 (Sept. 27 & 29): Realism and Neorealism; Liberalism and Neoliberalism

Required Readings:

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

Week 4 (Oct. 4 & 6): Marxist Approaches & Constructivism

Required Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 8 & 9

Week 5 (Oct. 11 & 13): post-modernism/ Poststructuralism, Feminism and Postcolonialism

Required Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapters 10, 11 & 16

Edkins and Zehfuss, Chapter 11

Week 6 (Oct. 18 & 20): Revision and mid-term exam

[Note: The mid-term exam will be held on Thursday October 20. It will be based on the first five weeks of the course. It shall comprise a number of short answer questions intended to test students' knowledge of the nature and history of the global system as well as the theoretical approaches and their major assumptions about the global system. The exam will be 80 minutes long and will be taken in class]

III. Themes of World Politics

Week 7 (Oct. 25 & 27): Thinking Identity: Gender, Race, Class, Religion and the Media in World Politics

Reading:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapter 16

Edkins and Zehfuss, Chapters 4, 5 & 7

Week 8 (Nov. 1 & 3): Violence and Militarism in the Age of Empire: War, Security and Terrorism

Readings:

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

Edkins and Zehfuss, Chapter 16, 17

[November 4 is the Final Date for Withdrawal (Without Academic Penalty)]

Week 9 (Nov. 8 & 10): Global Political Economy and the Environment in the Age of Globalisation

Readings:

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

Edkins and Zehfuss, Chapters 12 & 3

Week 10 (Nov. 15 & 17): Global Inequality and the Politics of North-South Relations: Poverty, Development and transnational migration

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapter 28

Edkins and Zehfuss, Chapters 8, 11, 13, 14

Week 11 (Nov. 22 & 24): Liberal Peace and Global Governance: Conflicts and peace-building; Human Rights, Human Security and the politics of Humanitarian Intervention

Readings:

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

Edkins and Zehfuss, Chapters 15, 18, 19

Week 12 (Nov. 29; Dec. 1): International Cooperation, International Law and Transnational Actors: International Organisations, NGOs; MNCs

Readings:

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

Edkins and Zehfuss, Chapters

[Note: Final paper due at the end of class; 1 December 2011]

(Examination Period: 8 – 19 December. Please check with the Registrar's office for the exact examination date for this course)

Other themes of interest

Nation-states, national interest and foreign policy

The politics of nuclear proliferation and disarmament

Indigenous rights and global social movements

Culture, ethno-nationalism and nationalism in world politics

Regionalism, regionalisation and regional integration