

POLI-2611-FA: World Politics Course Outline

Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Zubairu Wai

Office: RB 2041

Hours: Tues. & Thurs 12:00pm – 2:00pm (or by appointment)

Email: zubawai@lakeheadu.ca

Meeting: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30pm-4:00pm, BB-1075

Course Description

The aim of this course is to provide a broad critical introduction to world/global politics as an academic field of study and a site for the production and manifestation of global power and politics, conflict and cooperation, violence and domination. It seeks to provide a broad historical and theoretical overview of the field by focusing on some of the key issues and debates, the historical constitution and transformation of the global politics, the environment in which global relations are produced and regulated, and the forces and process that guide them. It is intended help students develop critical conceptual and analytical tools for interpreting the world and the processes, agencies and forces that define its reality.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should:

- Have a critical and broad understanding of world politics and the historical forces that have shaped it.
- Understand the nature of the global system, its structural features, historical transformations, and their implications for states and societies;
- Be conversant with the dominant debates in world politics and have the conceptual and theoretical language to critically analyse global processes;
- Understand the relationships 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 globalisation.
- Have a critical understanding of the power-knowledge regimes that shape discourses on and about world politics
- Appreciate the historical connections between the North and South and the implications for contemporary realities of global inequality, violence and domination.

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: 50%:

(a) Mid-term exam (worth 20%) will be conducted **in class on Thursday, October 26**. It is an hour-long test 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) Final exam (worth 30%): will be a 90-minute 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 7 and 17. It is the responsibility of students to check with Enrolment Services for the exact examination date for this course]

3. Final Essay: (worth 30%):

The final assignment is a research paper on any topic in global politics. The essay will be evaluated based on grasp of the topic, quality of argument, depth of analysis, originality of approach, familiarity with the issue and literature, as well as structure, organisation, grammar, referencing and formatting. The research essay should be 10-12 pages (double-spaced) **excluding the title page and list of reference of cited work**. The essay will be evaluated based on grasp of the topic and literature, quality of argument, depth of analysis and originality of approach, as well as structure, organisation, grammar, referencing and formatting.

Please Note:

- While it is the responsibility of all students to choose their own topics based on their individual interests, such topics should be cleared with the course director.
- All essays should have a title page indicating name, student and course numbers, the name of the instructor, the department and university.
- In terms of formatting, all essays should be doubled-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point fonts, 1-inch margin and should be handed in on the due date in class. (Manipulating the margins or font size will be penalised).
- **The essay is due on Monday 4 December.** 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. In extenuating circumstances, students may seek extension, but before the due date, not after.
- For citation and referencing, please use only the **Chicago referencing style** for all written work. Failure to follow these instructions will affect your grade.

Required Text:

John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (eds.), *The Globalisation of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations 7e* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs may request accommodations in accordance with the Senate Policy on Students with Disabilities. Please endeavour, at the earliest opportunity, to advise the Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Learning Assistance Centre) and the course instructor of your special needs so that appropriate arrangements could 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 may lead to serious consequences.

Policy on Electronic Devices

Cell phones are distracting and therefore should be turned off and kept out of sight during lectures. It is my assumption that a visible phone is 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, no audio or video recording of lectures is allowed. Where permission is sought and granted, such recordings should be solely for private use.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 5 & 7): Introduction to the course

Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Introduction & Chapter 1

Week 2 (Sept. 12 & 14): World Politics in Historical Perspective

Readings:

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

[Note: Remember, Friday, September 18 is the final date of registration]

Weeks 3 (Sept. 19 & 21): Mainstream Approaches to World Politics

Required Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Chapters 6, 7 & 8

Week 4 (Sept 26 & 28): Critical Approaches to World Politics

Required Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Chapters 9, 10, 11

Week 5 (Oct. 3 & 5): Gender and World Politics

Required Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Chapters 12 & 17

Christine Sylvester, 'The Contributions of Feminist Theory to International Relations,' in Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zalewski (eds.) *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 254-278

Laura Sjoberg, 'Introduction to Security Studies: Feminist Contributions,' *Security Studies*, 18:2 (2009), 183-213

Week 6 (Oct. 10 & 12): Fall Reading Week: No Class!

Week 7 (Oct. 17 & 19): Race and World Politics

Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Chapter 18

Week 8 (Oct. 24 & 26): Global Political Economy in the Age of Globalisation

Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Chapters 16 & 28

[The mid-term exam will be on October 26 in class]

Week 9 (Oct 31. & Nov 2): Violence and Militarism in the Age of Empire: war, terrorism and global (In)security

Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Chapters 14, 15 & 25

[Note: Remember November 3 is the final date for withdrawing from this course without academic penalty]

Week 10 (Nov. 7 & 9): Conflicts, Liberal Peace Global Governance and the Politics of Humanitarian Intervention

Readings:

Baylis, Smith and Owens: Chapter 32 (Optional: Chapters 30 & 31)

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

Michael Dillon and Julian Ried, ‘Complex Political Emergencies: Global Governance and Liberal Peace’, *Alternatives*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (2000), pp. 117 – 43

Week 11 (Nov. 14 & 16): Global Inequality and the politics of North-South Relations: Poverty, Development and Migration

Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Chapter 29

Stephen Gill, ‘Constitutionalizing Inequality and the Clash of Globalizations,’ *International Studies Review*, Vol. 4, no. 2 (2002), pp. 47-65

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

Week 12 (Nov. 21 & 23): Global Ecology and the Environment

Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Chapter 24

Bikrum Gill, ‘Can the River Speak? Epistemological Confrontation in the Rise and Fall of Land Grab in Ethiopia,’ *Environment and Planning A*, Vol 48, Issue 4, (2016), pp. 699–717

Farshad Araghi, ‘Accumulation by Displacement: Global Enclosures, Food Crisis, and the Ecological Contradictions of Capitalism’ *Review (Fernand Braudel Center)*, Vol. 32, No. 1, (2009), pp. 113-146

Week 13 (Nov 28 & 30): Global Politics Today: BRICS, Emerging Powers and Global Order

Readings:

Baylis, Smith & Owens, Chapter 5

Thomas G. Weiss and Adriana Erthal Abdenur, 'Introduction: emerging powers and the UN – what kind of development partnership?' *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 35, No. 10 (2014), pp. 1749–1758

Desai, Radhika. 2013. "The BRICS are Building a Challenge to Western Economic Supremacy." *Guardian*, April 2.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/apr/02/brics-challenge-western-supremacy>.

Escobar, Pepe. "Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa: BRICS Go over the Wall." *Asia Times*, March 27, 2013. <http://www.atimes.com/atimes/World/WOR-01-260313.html>.

Fahimul Quadir, 'Rising Donors and the New Narrative of 'South–South' Cooperation: what prospects for changing the landscape of development assistance programmes?' *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 34, no.2 (2013), pp. 321-338

[Note: Remember Final paper due at the end of class on December 3]

(Examination Period: December 7–17. Please check with enrolment services for the exact examination date for this course)