POSC 2200

Introduction to International Politics

Winter 2015-2016

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 11:00-11:50

Chemistry Bldg. 3033

www.mun.ca/posc

Instructor:
Dr. Russell Alan Williams (Associate Professor, Political Science)
Office: SN2031  Office hours: Monday and Friday 12:00-1:00 pm (Or by appointment)
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Description and Learning Objectives:
This course introduces students to basic concepts in the study of international politics. After providing a general introduction to the most prominent theories that scholars have used to understand international politics - what makes the world “work” the way it does - the course then focuses on major topics of study, ranging from international security, international political economy and international law. By the end of the course students should:

- Be able to discuss current international political issues using the appropriate language and theoretical tools.
- Be able to ‘frame’ some issues, analyzing them within the relevant theoretical and political context.
- Have improved their research essay writing skills.

Course Organization:
The course is divided into seven thematically organized units. Each unit includes assigned textbook chapters and “illustrative” classical reading. Lectures in each unit will expand and explain issues raised in the reading. Students are required to do the assigned readings before class and are encouraged to keep up with current international political affairs.

Assigned Reading:
- Each unit includes short, illustrative readings (see below). These are normally available online. However, for this course all illustrative readings will be emailed as PDF’s to students registered in the course - Your Memorial email account must be functioning.

Course Evaluation:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(In class, February 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>(Due, in class, March 18 - Late Penalty = 5% per day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>(As scheduled by the Registrar)</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

ESSAY (40%) Due in Class, March 18. (Late Penalty is 5% per day)
Students must write a major research essay on a topic recommended by the instructor. A list of approved topics will be distributed to the class along with detailed instructions for the assignment.

Requirements:

- The paper should be approximately 2,500 words
- The paper should make use of seven separate sources in its citations
- The paper should be formatted in the style of a formal research paper - please consult the essay handout provided in class or a style guide if you are unfamiliar with writing research papers

Please remember, a good research paper has three core elements. It has a thesis, which introduces the core argument of the paper. It develops that core argument throughout the body of the paper through the use of evidence – drawn from a minimum of seven separate research sources. It should also have a conclusion that reiterates the central argument of the paper and sums up how the evidence supports that argument.

There are no “correct” answers – there are only well written, well argued and well researched papers. Any paper that has neither a clear thesis nor sufficient research will result in failure on the assignment. It goes without saying that papers should also be well written, spell checked and carefully proofread.

MID TERM AND FINAL EXAMS:
Both exams will focus on multiple choice, short answer and definition questions. These questions will draw heavily from the material covered in lectures and the textbook. Students are expected to have a clear understanding of all key concepts and terms covered in this material. The final exam will also include a short essay question that will focus on the illustrative reading articles provided by the instructor throughout the semester. Students should be sure to complete all of the reading.

- Note: In order to be sure of receiving the additional illustrative readings assigned each week, students’ Memorial email addresses must be working. Please insure this is the case.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:
Students must not engage in academic dishonesty . . .
Cheating includes (but is not limited to) allowing another student to copy from your work, presenting someone else’s work as your own, consulting electronic devices such as mobile phones or MP3 players and or interacting with others while a test is ongoing. Information about procedures and penalties for academic dishonesty is outlined in the University Calendar and is available from the Department (http://www.mun.ca/posc/undergraduate/planning/plagarism.php).

Students must have an appropriate classroom demeanor . . .
On occasion less serious students disturb others’ learning during class, by talking at inappropriate times, using the Internet and/or using cell phones. Students distracted by any such behaviour should bring this to the attention of the course instructor.
Students must have a functioning Memorial email account . . .
Memorial University’s policy is that students are to use e-mail from an account with the official university domain name (@mun.ca). This is the sole address to be used for official university e-mail communication. The policy states that student “failure to appropriately check e-mail will not exempt them from responsibilities associated with the email correspondence.” This course requires that your Memorial email address is working and that you regularly check your messages. Class readings and advice will be emailed to you on a regular basis.

In addition, if students wish to contact the instructor via email, they must make it clear who they are and what course they are referring to. Questions that require “in-depth” lengthy answers may not receive a quick response. Complex questions about research papers or problems understanding course materials are usually better addressed in person, during office hours.

Students must complete assignments on time . . .
In the event that a class is cancelled on the day of a scheduled exam - the exam will be administered in the next available class. Students unable to write exams on the days which they are administered may qualify—through the provision of valid medical documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note) for the day in question—for a deferred and dissimilar testing opportunity.

• Note: The penalty for late essays is 5% per day. E-mail or other technological problems do not constitute a valid excuse.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:
Persons with Disabilities: The Glenn Roy Blundon Centre (www.mun.ca/blundon) serves students whose disabilities involve conditions affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning, chronic illness, or mental health; support is also provided to students with documented temporary illnesses and injuries.

Use of Recording Devices in Classrooms: Students may not make a visual and/or audio recording, openly or surreptitiously, of any lecture material delivered in a course without the written permission of the course instructor.

Writing Centre: The Writing Centre (www.mun.ca/writingcentre) is a free facility for all Memorial University students who want help with their writing. The Centre provides individualized tutorials to students from all schools and faculties on a by appointment bases.

Political Science Website: Information about upcoming courses, sample course syllabi, course instructors, work internships, international exchanges, degree requirements and more is available on the Political Science website (www.mun.ca/posc/welcome/).
Class Schedule and Reading:

Unit One:  Introduction - the Study of International Politics

January 6, 8 & 11
- Globalization of World Politics, Introduction and Chapters 1-5.

Unit Two:  Theoretical Approaches

January 13, 15 & 18: “Realism and Liberalism”
- Globalization of World Politics, Chapters 6, 7 and 8.
- Realism: John Mearsheimer, Anarchy and the Struggle for Power. (Excerpt available from the instructor.)

January 20, 22 & 25: “Alternative Approaches”
- Globalization of World Politics, Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 and 17.
- Marxism and Radicalism: Vladimir Lenin, Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism, Chapter VII, “Imperialism as a Special stage of Capitalism” (Available from: http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/ch07.htm, or from the instructor)

Unit Three:  Nationalism, Nations, States and Foreign Policy

January 27 & 29: “Nationalism and States in the International System”
- Globalization of World Politics, Chapter 25.
- Strobe Talbott, “Self-Determination in an Interdependent World,” Foreign Policy, No. 118 (Spring, 2000), pp. 152-163. (Available through e-journals, or from the instructor.)

February 1: “States as Actors - Foreign Policy”
Unit Four: International Law, International Organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations

February 3, 5 & 8: “International Law”

- Globalization of World Politics, Chapter 18.
- Kenneth Roth, “The Case for Universal Jurisdiction,” Foreign Affairs, 80(5), (Fall 2001), Pp. 150-154. (Available through e-journals, or from the instructor.)

February 10, 12 & 15: “International Organizations and Non Governmental Organizations”

- Globalization of World Politics, Chapters 19, 20 and 21.

February 17: MID TERM EXAM

- In class exam covering Units 1 to 4.

February 19: Essay Writing Guidance

February 22, 24 & 26: No Classes – Reading Week

Unit Five: International Security, War and Strife

February 29, March 2 & 4: “Modern Conflict”

- Globalization of World Politics, Chapters 14, 15 and 23.

March 7 & 9: “Managing Insecurity, Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention”

- Globalization of World Politics, 31.

March 11: “Managing Insecurity, the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD’s)”

- Globalization of World Politics, Chapter 24.
Unit Six:  International Political Economy

March 14, 16 & 18: “International Trade and Finance”
  - Globalization of World Politics, Chapters 16 and 27.
  - Term Paper Due, in class, in hardcopy, March 18. The late penalty is 5% per day.

March 21 & 23: “Environmental Cooperation”
  - Globalization of World Politics, Chapter 22.

March 25: No Class

March 28 & 30: “Poverty, Development and Human Security”
  - Globalization of World Politics, Chapters 28 and 29.

Unit Seven:  Conclusion

April 6: “Globalization and the Future of International Politics”
  - Globalization of World Politics, Chapters 32 and 33.

Final Exam: (As scheduled by the Registrar)