COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

What is the study of international politics about? Is it the study of the relations among states, individuals, organizations or corporations? Is it about politics, economics or culture? The course will be guided by a number of themes that are designed to help us learn about key global issues and actors. We will study concepts that are crucial to understanding global politics such as security, borders, conflict and finance. We will focus on the various ways we think, talk and write about the world (sometimes called theory) and ‘real’ world events (sometimes called practice). We will think critically about how ideas and global events are presented and learn how to interpret and identify different theories that help to explain these events.

The first part of the term will examine key events that helped to shape international and global politics with a particular focus on world political orders and organization, and the collective efforts to build new political and economic platforms that were designed to reorganize global relations such as the Bretton Woods system and the United Nations.

The second part of the course will explore more recent issues and events such as the impact of environmental change, and economic globalization, and the changing nature of global security. You will be introduced to some of the many crucial issues that shape contemporary global politics.

During the last part of the course, we will examine issues of power, and some of the different ways of understanding international politics. There are a number of major theoretical approaches that seek to explain global relations in a variety of ways. By the end of the course you will have acquired a knowledge of key contemporary questions and issues, and the critical awareness of different ways to approach these problems. These issues and themes are important to consider because they shape and influence our daily lives.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES

There are three key learning goals. First, you will learn about the historical context of international politics and relations and the context of contemporary events. Second, you will learn how to identify and explain the specific global economic, security and environmental themes covered in the course, and discuss them with your peers. Third, you will learn how to identify and explain the major theoretical tools that are used to make sense of the international and global events.

SPECIFIC SKILL SETS

This course will provide the framework to build skills that have applications beyond the classroom. You will be able to improve your academic research skills, and to strengthen your critical thinking and writing. In practice this means you should be able to identify and state an argument, support your arguments with historical, empirical and theoretical examples from international politics, and present the information in a logical and clear framework.
In addition, work groups will provide the opportunity to learn how to establish policies to govern decision-making, develop skills in teaching, running successful meetings, note-taking, peer-review and time-management.

COURSE STRUCTURE
The class will consist of lectures with media presentations, peer-to-peer work groups, and discussion.

COURSE OVERVIEW

REQUIRED READINGS
The course textbook: Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, editors, Global Politics: A New Introduction. London: Routledge, 2009. Herein known as E and Z. A reserve copy of the textbook is available at the library. Additional and supplementary readings will be on Desire to Learn (D2L) and/or available through the MUN library website, and added through the term.

MARKS DISTRIBUTION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation and collegiality</th>
<th>5%</th>
<th>On-going</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>2X5=10%</td>
<td>In class, October 19, November 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due, in class, October 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Due, in class, December 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research notebook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>As scheduled by the Registrar</td>
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COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION
What are we talking about? In the first week we will discuss the various ways to explore and examine international politics, global politics, international relations, globalization, and global governance.

Wednesday, September 9: Course Introduction.
Friday, September 11: Thinking about the World
Reading: E and Z, Chapters 1 and 2.
SKILL: How to take notes.

WEEK 2: BORDERS
Why are borders so crucial to international politics? What is a state? A nation-state? Who, or what is sovereign?

Monday, September 14:
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 11 – Why is the world divided territorially?

Wednesday, September 16
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 13 - Does the nation-state work?

Friday, September 18
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 8 – How do we find out what is going on?
Skill: Critical reading

WEEK 3: INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS
What do international institutions and organizations do? How do they operate? What is the role of international law?

Monday, September 21
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 25 – What can we do to stop people harming others?
Wednesday, September 23
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 27 – Who has rights?

Friday, September 25
*Skill: Making an argument.*

**WEEK 4: FLOWS AND FRICTIONS**
Why is it that some people can move easily freely across borders, but others are restricted? Who is included in nations and who is excluded?

Monday, September 28
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 10 - Why is people’s movement restricted?

Wednesday, September 30
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 12 – How do people come to identify with nations?

Friday, October 2
*Skill: Policy development.*
Working Groups Introduction

**WEEK 5: WORLD ORDERS**
What explains how the world is ordered? What is colonialism? What is imperialism?

Monday, October 5
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 15 - Does colonialism belong in the past?

Wednesday, October 7
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 16 – How does colonialism work?

Friday, October 9
*Skill: Instruction and time management.*
Working Groups – Experts
▶ Short essay due in class ◀

**WEEKS 6 and 7: GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**
What is economics? What is a financial crisis? How is finance connected to everyday life? What is the role of finance in addressing poverty?

***NO CLASS Monday October 12***

Wednesday, October 14
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 17 – How is the world organized economically?

Friday, October 16
*Skill: Instruction and time management.*
Working Groups -

Monday, October 19
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 20 – How can we end poverty?
Research Essay Topics distributed
▶ Quiz
Wednesday, October 21
Research with Social Science Liaison Librarian, Ryan Lewis - QE II (L-2028)

Friday, October 23
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 18 – Is the financial crisis part of everyday life?

WEEK 8: SECURITY AND CONFLICT
What are the strategic, economic and defensive reasons given for going to war? What is the social context for violence? How has the technologies of war changed? What is network-centric warfare?

Monday, October 26
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 22 - Why does politics turn to violence?

Wednesday, October 28
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 24 - What makes the world dangerous?

Friday, October 30
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 23 – What counts as violence?

WEEKS 9 and 10: ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD SECURITY
What is environmental security? What is the role of petroleum? What is a carboniferous capitalism? What is geo-politics? What are the implications of an industrialized, global food system?

Monday, November 2
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 3 - What happens when we take nature for granted?

Wednesday, November 5
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 4 - Can we save the planet?

Friday, November 6
Skill: Essay outlines (critical components of essays)
Working Groups

Monday, November 9

*** NO CLASS Wednesday, November 11 ***

Friday, November 13
Skill: Peer review
Working Groups

WEEK 11: POWER 1
How have scholars made sense of these events? What events are important, or unimportant? Who or what has power in international and global politics?

Monday, November 16
Realist Perspectives

Wednesday, November 18
Liberal and Marxist perspectives
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 19 - Why are some people better off than others?

Friday, November 20
Constructivist Perspectives


WEEK 12: POWER 2

Monday, November 23
Feminist Perspectives
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 5, Who do we think we are?


Wednesday, November 25
Working Group Experts

Friday, November 27
Working Group Teaching

WEEK 13: Review

Monday, November 30
⇒ Quiz
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 7 - Why do we obey?

Wednesday, December 2
Reading: E and Z, Chapter 28 - What can we do to change the world?

Friday, December 4
⇒ Research Essay Due
Class review and exam preparation

FINAL EXAM: As scheduled by the Registrar

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

SHORT ESSAY – Due Friday, October 9, 2015, in class. Late papers will be penalized 3% per day.

You will be provided with a number of pairs of journal articles. Each pair will relate to a theme or issue relevant to the course. You are to read the two articles, and write a short essay (1000 words) answering the following question:

Which of the two articles do you find more convincing and why?

The aim of the short essay is to strengthen your ability to make an argument and your writing skills. Consider the following when approaching the essay.

1) The articles are attempting to convince you of something. What is it?
2) What criteria and evidence do the articles use to support the argument? Is the evidence compelling? Why, or why not?
3) Compare the two articles. Both articles may or may not be convincing, or one may be more convincing. Logically present your argument comparing the two articles.

The structure of the paper should include, an introduction, the main body where you will compare the two articles, and a conclusion. A successful paper will require you to carefully read the two articles more than once and reflect on the arguments – this will take time. In turn, you should make a compelling argument that addresses the question. Writing the paper will also take time. Plan to revise the paper to ensure that it is clearly written, and grammatically correct. You must include a title page with all of the information included on the title page template (below and on D2L) with the essay. If you do not, you will lose 2% of your grade.

QUIZZES- In class, October 19, and November 30, 2015
There will be two in-class quizzes. They will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions such as definitions. There will be no make-up quizzes.

RESEARCH PAPER and RESEARCH NOTEBOOK—Due Friday, December 4, 2015. Late papers will be penalized 3% per day.
The research essay is an opportunity to develop your research skills and apply the concepts you have learned in class to current events, or to a particular interest you may have in international politics. The paper should be no more than 2000 words in total (including bibliography). The bibliography should include 4 peer reviewed articles and 6 citations in total. A list of research topics will be distributed in October. During class time you will be given instruction on how to use the library resources, and work with your colleagues to build an outline of your research paper, and to strengthen the argument.

You must include a title page with all of the information included on the title page template (below and on D2L) with the essay. If you do not, you will lose 2% of your grade. In addition, you must include the research workbook template (below and on D2L) which is worth 5%.

The following essay structure should be followed:
1) An introduction that lays out the question, and explains how your argument will progress, and what each section of the essay contributes to answering the research question;
2) The body of the essay that lays out the argument that you are making;
3) A conclusion that summarizes the argument, and answers the question posed;
4) A bibliography with correct in-text style.

More on late papers: Work submitted late will not receive written feedback, only a grade. For the first written assignment, the grade will be posted before the drop date for the course (October 28th). For the essay and research workbook, the grade will be posted with the final grade for the course. Work submitted over 5 working days late (i.e. not including weekends) will result in a grade of zero.

FINAL EXAM
The final exam will consist of short answers and two essay questions, and will cover the entire course lectures and readings.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Misconduct: We are going to follow the University’s policy on academic misconduct, here. The policies covers issues of cheating, plagiarism and other academic misdeeds. Cheating includes but is not limited to allowing another student to copy from your work, presenting someone else’s work as your own including through failure to credit the source of ideas, consulting electronic devices such as mobile phones and/or interacting with others while a test is ongoing. Any submission in this course that is similar to another author’s work, beyond chance, will be treated as plagiarism.

Office Hours: I enjoy meeting with students and discussing course material, research interests and/or global issues and events. If you are unable to make office hours please do not hesitate to schedule an appointment. If for some reason you are unable to meet with me, I encourage you to meet with each other to discuss issues and work through puzzles collectively – discussion is great for sparking and clarifying ideas.
**Email policy:** Email is generally discouraged except for extraordinary circumstances. I encourage in-person meetings should you have any questions or concerns. For general questions, D2L is a great resource and your colleagues can be a great resource through the D2L discussion board. If, however, you wish to email me, a few things to keep in mind. When emailing please include a subject line starting with “POSC 2200” (i.e. “POSC 2200: Meeting Request”), and sign your email with a first and last name. I will aim to respond in 48 hours, but I generally do not answer emails after 4:00pm on weekdays or on weekends (4:00pm Friday to 9:00am Monday).

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

- 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.
- The Writing Centre (www.mun.ca/writingcentre and/or SN-2053) 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. It also has a free, drop-in facility for students.
- The ESL Centre (mun.ca/esl) at MUN offers various forms of support to students who would like to improve their English.
- The Commons (QEII library) provides access to print, electronic and technology resources.
- The Counselling Centre (UC-5000) helps students develop their personal capabilities, ranging from study strategies to assisting distressed students.

**Essay Title Page Template**

This template is available on the D2L. You can either fill it in, retype it yourself, making sure that all of the information noted here is included. It must be included with each of your essays, or you will lose 2%.

**Essay title:**
**Name:**
**List the title of the two articles (Short Essay), or the question answered (Research Essay):**
**Research question:**
**Thesis/argument:**
**Citation system used (e.g. Chicago, MLA, etc.):**

**Research workbook template**

The successful application of research skills is crucial for the study of international politics and your research paper. The research workbook is a tool to help you search and determine the relevance of scholarly articles and it will help you to reflect on how different terms, and combinations of terms, get different result. Journal articles are searchable through databases. The databases provide access and information about articles and their relevance. The MUN Library’s Academic One Search is one way to start a search for relevant material in a number of databases. Alternatively, there are Political Science databases also available through the library.

**Template**
This template is available on the D2L. You can either fill it in, retype it yourself, making sure that all of the information noted here is included.

Note: you can expand the space for each section, but you must fill in each section, and attach it to your research essay.

**Essay title:**
1. **Identify the terms that you plan to search for in the Academic One Search. You may use additional databases if you wish.** These could be conceptual terms, key authors, or relevant empirical examples. It is particularly helpful to search for these in various combinations with each other, and use synonyms.
2. **Explain your choice of terms.**
3. **Identify the databases in which you will search for the material. Explain the choice of databases.**
4. **Having carried out a series of searches, explain how you will refine your searches.**
5. **Give the numbers of results for each search string in each database.**

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1 Adopted from Dr. Jacqueline Best, POL 2103F, Introduction to International Relations and Global Politics, Winter 2012 Syllabus, University of Ottawa.
6. Identify 15-20 articles that appear promising from the titles. Make sure that at least 10 are peer reviewed (rather than newspaper or magazine articles). List the 15-20 articles with full bibliographic information, indicating with a * which are peer reviewed. Read their abstracts.

7. Choose 6 articles from this list, including at least 4 peer-reviewed ones. Explain the choice of each article, in relation to the essay title and the way you plan to answer it. If one or more of these articles proves less useful than you originally thought, identify further articles and explain your choice.

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*A peer-reviewed article passes through a rigorous, generally blind, review process before being accepted for publication. Newspaper and magazine articles are not peer reviewed. Most, but not all academic journals are peer reviewed.*