

2017–2018 Academic Year
Winter 2018



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 283 L01
ISSUES AND TRENDS IN WORLD POLITICS

INSTRUCTOR: Chris W. J. Roberts

TELEPHONE: Cell (403) 870-9241

OFFICE: SS 702

EMAIL: christopher.roberts@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Monday/Wednesday 1430-1530; Thursday 1030-1130 or by appointment

COURSE DAY/TIME: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 1300-1350

COURSE LOCATION: ICT 102

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Jen Sidorova (SS 703) – evgeniia.sidorova@ucalgary.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How do we start to make sense of the complexity of world politics?

On one hand, globalization seems to have reduced the relevance of the nation-state while improving the prospects for humanity: the proportion of extreme poor across the planet is lower than ever and, through transportation and communication technologies, nearly everyone can be in contact with everyone else. On the other hand, we face acute global challenges including economic uncertainty, climate change and environmental degradation, nuclear and other WMD proliferation, terrorism, massive refugee flows, pandemic disease, and cyber vulnerabilities. And, rather than coming together, it seems as if countries and societies are increasingly pulling apart, cloistering around revived nationalisms or more virulent xenophobia (i.e., fear of outsiders).

These global tensions between cooperation and fragmentation are hardly unique to our era, and yet our era faces some unique challenges. This course is designed to help you better understand the historical structures, continuities, and changes that have produced and continue to shape contemporary world politics, and then to delve more deeply into some of the key issues, actors, and trends that will influence our world in the coming months and years. Along the way, conceptual and analytical tools are introduced to help you make sense of this complexity, either as an end in itself or in preparation for more advanced courses in international relations and the social sciences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Objectives:

- To introduce students to the historical foundations and forces that produced our contemporary world of states, including the major tensions that drive world politics (power versus justice, empire versus self-determination, human rights versus national sovereignty, free trade versus mercantilism, etc.)
- To cultivate comprehensive understanding about the major issues and trends driving world politics in the 21st Century
- To develop analytical and critical skills geared towards the social scientific and humanistic study of world politics

Learning Outcomes: Students will develop the knowledge and/or skills to ...

- differentiate and identify the broad contours of global political geography and its historical evolution
- differentiate and identify the main actors within contemporary global politics (from states and international organizations to transnational corporations, NGOs, and criminal networks)
- identify, understand, distinguish, apply, and critique different key concepts, theoretical perspectives, and dominant narratives that attempt to explain and analyze various aspects of world politics
- develop critical reading, thinking, research, and analytical skills to apply towards the complexities of contemporary global politics and its major substantive issues and trends

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Steven Spiegel et al., *World Politics in a New Era*, 6th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015) [Available new or likely used in the University Bookstore, SU's Bound & Copied Bookstore, online booksellers, etc.]

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
TOPHAT Participation & Quizzes	10%	Throughout
Mid-Term 1	20%	Monday, February 12th
Mid-Term 2	20%	Friday, March 23rd
One Short Written Assignment	20%	Varied Due Dates (uploaded to D2L Dropbox)
Two Hour Final Exam	30%	Scheduled by registrar (Apr 16-26)
Total	100%	

TOPHAT PARTICIPATION (10%)

Due to the size of this class, student participation grades will be accumulated via TopHat, an online response application available for free for all University of Calgary students. Using a laptop, tablet, or smart phone, students answer questions in real-time in class or, sometimes, as homework outside of class. Some questions generate participation points only, while other questions (short quizzes announced in advanced) also generate points for correct answers.

MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS (20% x 2 = 40%)

Two mid-term exams will be done in class, the first on Monday, February 12th, the second on Friday, March 23rd. They will comprise mostly multiple-choice or similar computer-scored questions, although some maps and short answers/exercises may also be included.

RESEARCH CONCEPT ASSIGNMENT (20%)

Each student will submit a short “research concept” assignment designed to develop skills related to reading, understanding, and researching scholarly literature about world politics.

Detailed instructions will be discussed in class with the assignment details and parameters posted on D2L, along with variable deadlines tied to different substantive topics in the course. Assignments will be submitted via D2L Dropbox. **Late penalties** of five percent (5%) will be applied for each 24 hours past the specified deadline, including weekends.

FINAL EXAMINATION (30%)

A Registrar-scheduled Final Exam (2 hours) will include multiple-choice & short answers/exercises, and will be cumulative for the whole course.

Both the Mid-Term Exams and the Final Exam will be closed book exams with no external aids available (e.g., no notes, textbook, electronic devices, etc.). Students need to take both mid-terms and the final exam, and submit the short research concept assignment, in order to pass.

Note: Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>. There will also be a course-specific “Written Work Hints & Checklist” posted on D2L.

GRADE SCALE:

The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (95+)	B+ (80-84)	C+ (66-69)	D+ (54-57)
A (90-94)	B (75-79)	C (62-65)	D (50-53)
A- (85-89)	B- (70-74)	C- (58-61)	F (0-49)

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to minimal changes)		
DATE	WEEKLY TOPICS & THEMES (Classes are Mon-Wed-Friday)	REQUIRED READINGS BEFORE CLASS (Textbook and/or articles/links)
Week 1 Jan 8-12	Course Introduction Thematic question: Is the world coming together or falling apart? Syllabus & Assignments D2L & TopHat usage Class survey	<i>NOTE: SEL (Spiegel Et aL) refers to the required textbook. Other recommended readings and thematic resources may be posted on D2L.</i> SEL, Chapter 1 – World Politics: Complexity and Competing Processes SEL, Chapter 11 – Human Issues: Demographic Trends
You should start using the World Map learning tool at http://lizardpoint.com/geography/world-countries-magnifier-quiz.php?qid=1806 to learn and test your knowledge of global political geography.		
Week 2 Jan 15-19	Thematic question: How did we get here (i.e., what are the historical foundations of contemporary international society)?	SEL, Chapter 3 – World Politics and Economics: 1648-1945
Week 3 Jan 22-26	Thematic question: How did we survive the Cold War?	SEL, Chapter 4 – World Politics & Economics: The Cold War (pp. 112 – 145)
Week 4 Jan 29 -Feb 2	Thematic question: How has imperialism shaped the contemporary global landscape?	SEL, Chapter 5 – Imperialism and Its Survivors
Week 5 Feb 5-9	Thematic question: How did we go from the “end of history” to 9/11, Putin, Brexit, and Trump since the end of the Cold War?	SEL, Chapter 6 – Globalization and Fragmentation in a New World Order: 1991 to ... Trump?
Week 6 Feb 12-16	Monday, February 12th – Mid-Term 1 Explaining World Politics: Why does it matter where you start to look for explanations?	SEL, Chapter 2 – Theory and World Politics (pp. 19-38)
Week 7	FAMILY DAY & READING BREAK! February 19-23	No classes

Week 8 Feb 26 -Mar 2	Thematic question: How do different fundamental assumptions about human nature, human organization, and knowledge translate into theoretical frameworks of analysis and action in global politics?	SEL, Chapter 2 – Theory and World Politics (pp. 37-56) SEL, Chapter 4 – World Politics & Economics: The Cold War (pp. 107– 112)
Week 9 Mar 5-9	Thematic questions: How are ethics and justice integrated into or sidelined in world politics? How does global governance happen without global government?	SEL, Chapter 14 – World Politics in Context (pp. 484-496) SEL, Chapter 13 – Global Governance: International Law & Organizations
Week 10 Mar 12-16	Thematic question: What does security mean, for whom, and how do you get it?	SEL, Chapter 7 – Security Theory and Practice
Week 11 Mar 19-23	Trends in Security Friday, March 23rd – Mid-Term 2	SEL, Chapter 8 – Contemporary Security Issues
Week 12 Mar 26-30	Trends in the Global Environment Trends in Global Political Economy I Friday, March 30th – No Class	SEL, Chapter 12 – Resource Issues SEL, Chapter 9 – World Politics: Trade and Investment
Week 13 Apr 2-6	Trends in Global Political Economy I (con't) Trends in Global Political Economy II	SEL, Chapter 9 – World Politics: Trade and Investment SEL, Chapter 10 – World Politics: Development
Week 14 Apr 9-13	Trends in Global Political Economy II (con't) • TopHat Tournament/Review • USRI Course evaluations	SEL, Chapter 10 – World Politics: Development
Apr 16-26	FINAL EXAM (2 hours)	Scheduled by Registrar (Date & Time TBA)

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor or TA during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one-on-one meeting outside of these hours. It is imperative that students regularly check their UofC email accounts and D2L for course related information and announcements.

Course D2L: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home/208149>

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. No recording of lectures (audio and/or video) is permitted without prior approval of the instructor, with exceptions of course made in the case of approved accommodations. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing social media is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated. Your own performance will also suffer.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term exam for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student can then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head.

University Regulations:

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests will be destroyed after three months; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)

Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca