



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 283 L01  
Issues and Trends in World Politics

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<b>OFFICE HOURS</b>	<b>Monday - Thursday 14:30-15:30 or by appointment</b>
<b>WEBSITE</b>	<b><a href="http://d2l.ucalgary.ca">http://d2l.ucalgary.ca</a></b>
<b>LECTURE LOCATION</b>	<b>PF 110</b>
<b>LECTURE TIMES</b>	<b>Monday/Wednesday 09:00-11:45</b>

**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.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES**

**LEARNING 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, 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.]

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class participation/TopHat	15%	Throughout
Test One (1 hour)	20%	Wed, May 31st
Test Two (1 hour)	10%	Wed, June 14th
One Short Written Assignment	25%	Various Options
Cumulative Final Exam (2 hours)	30%	Scheduled by Registrar June 28th-30th
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**Class Participation (15%)** TopHat (an online, interactive response application) will be used in class to assist in attaining learning objectives. Class discussions will also be counted towards your class participation grade, so proper preparation includes tackling the assigned readings prior to each class.

**One Short Written Assignment (25%)** One short written assignment of approx 3-4 pages will be required during the course. Different topics/themes will be offered at different times in the course, so you can select the topic/theme that either most interests you or best fits into your schedule. The schedule of essay topics/themes/readings plus due dates will be provided in the first week of class, along with the grading rubric.

*Hard copy due in class on specified date*

**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>.

**Two In-Class Tests (1 x 20% & 1x10%)** **Test #1 – Wednesday, May 31st** – This test will cover from the beginning of the course to readings and lectures up to Monday, May 29th. Format: Multiple-choice including some map identification.

**Test #2 – Wednesday, June 14th** – This test will cover course readings and lectures from Wednesday, May 31st. Format: Multiple-choice and short answers.

*Note: These will be closed book tests that will happen in the first hour of class. No notes, laptops, cell phones, etc., will be allowed.*

**Cumulative Final Exam (30%)** This final exam will be scheduled by the registrar during the exam period (June 28-30) and will last two hours.

The exam will include multiple-choice, short answers, and one essay (with options). The essay should be well structured with a clear introduction, substantive paragraphs, and a conclusion.

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*Note: This will be a closed book final exam. No notes, laptops, cell phones, etc., will be allowed.*

<b>GRADE SCALE:</b>	<b>A+</b> = 95+	<b>B+</b> = 80-84	<b>C+</b> = 66-69	<b>D+</b> = 54-57
	<b>A</b> = 90-94	<b>B</b> = 75-79	<b>C</b> = 62-65	<b>D</b> = 50-53
	<b>A-</b> = 85-89	<b>B-</b> = 70-74	<b>C-</b> = 58-61	<b>F</b> = 0-49

**LATE PENALTIES:** **Late penalties for written work:** Given the variable deadlines for the Short Written Assignment, there will be a significant late penalty: ten percent (10%) per every day late, including weekends.

Missed tests cannot be re-taken unless the specific requirements below are met (see page 8).

**CLASS PREPARATION & DESIRE2LEARN (D2L)** Lectures focus on the material presented in the textbook and readings as well as general discussion relating to the topic(s) outlined in the lecture schedule. Students are expected to read the assigned text chapters and readings before class, and be prepared for class discussion. Important information and additional readings are posted on Desire2Learn (D2L). Students should regularly check the Announcements or News section of Desire2Learn (D2L) for ongoing notices, as well as the Contents page for additional course materials and assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to understand all concepts presented in the textbook and lectures. If you need clarification, please take the initiative to ask the instructor during class or during office hours.

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

**PROPER USE OF EMAIL** Email is commonly used by students to communicate with their instructor. It is imperative that students regularly check their UofC email accounts for course related information and announcements (or forward that email to a regularly checked account). Email can limit the effectiveness of communication and may not be the best way for instructors to answer student questions. A personal meeting may be requested if necessary.

Students can use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course with the exception of those times when the instructor asks all technology to be turned off. No recording of lectures (audio and/or video) is permitted without prior approval of the instructor. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts or watching cat videos is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to minimal changes)		
DATE	TOPICS & THEMES	REQUIRED READINGS BEFORE CLASS (Textbook and/or articles/links)
<p>Class 1</p> <p>May 15th</p>	<p>Course Introduction</p> <p>Thematic question: Is the world coming together or falling apart?</p> <p><i>Break</i></p> <p>Syllabus &amp; Assignments D2L &amp; TopHat usage Class knowledge inventory</p>	<p><i>NOTE: SEL (Spiegel Et al) refers to the required textbook. Other recommended readings and thematic resources will be posted on D2L.</i></p> <p>SEL, Chapter 1 – World Politics: Complexity and Competing Processes SEL, Chapter 11 – Human Issues: Demographic Trends</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e6f2ff;"> <p>You should start using the World Map learning tool at <a href="http://lizardpoint.com/geography/world-countries-magnifier-quiz.php?qid=1806">http://lizardpoint.com/geography/world-countries-magnifier-quiz.php?qid=1806</a> to learn and test your knowledge of global political geography.</p> </div>
<p>Class 2</p> <p>May 17th</p>	<p>Thematic question: How did we get here (i.e., what are the historical foundations of contemporary international society)?</p>	<p>SEL, Chapter 3 – World Politics and Economics: 1648-1945</p>
<p>Class 3</p> <p>May 24th</p>	<p>[No class Monday, May 22nd – Victoria Day]</p> <p>Thematic question: How did we survive the Cold War?</p>	<p>SEL, Chapter 4 – World Politics &amp; Economics: The Cold War (pp. 112 – 145)</p>
<p>Class 4</p> <p>May 29th</p>	<p>Thematic question: How has imperialism shaped the contemporary global landscape?</p>	<p>SEL, Chapter 5 – Imperialism and Its Survivors</p>
<p>Class 5</p> <p>May 31st</p>	<p><b>**TEST 1 ** First hour of class</b></p> <p><i>Break</i></p> <p>Thematic question: Why does it matter where you start to look for explanations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System</li> <li>• Domestic</li> <li>• Individual</li> </ul>	<p>SEL, Chapter 2 – Theory and World Politics (pp. 19-38)</p>

<p>Class 6 June 5th</p>	<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>SEL, Chapter 2 – Theory and World Politics (pp. 37-56) SEL, Chapter 4 – World Politics &amp; Economics: The Cold War (pp. 107– 112)</p>
<p>Class 7 June 7th</p>	<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>SEL, Chapter 6 – Globalization and Fragmentation in a New World Order: 1991 to ... Trump?  SEL, Chapter 14 – World Politics in Context</p>
<p>Class 8 June 12th</p>	<p><b>Thematic question: What does security mean, for whom, and how do you get it?</b></p> <p>Trends in Security</p>	<p>SEL, Chapter 7 – Security Theory and Practice  SEL, Chapter 8 – Contemporary Security Issues</p>
<p>Class 9 June 14th</p>	<p><b>**TEST 2 ** First hour of class</b></p> <p><i>Break</i></p> <p>Trends in the Global Environment</p>	<p>SEL, Chapter 12 – Resource Issues</p>
<p>Class 10 June 19th</p>	<p>Trends in Global Political Economy I</p>	<p>SEL, Chapter 9 – World Politics: Trade and Investment</p>
<p>Class 11 June 21st</p>	<p>Trends in Global Political Economy II</p>	<p>SEL, Chapter 10 – World Politics: Development</p>
<p>Class 12 June 26th</p>	<p>Trends in Global Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USRI Course Evaluations</li> <li>• TopHat Tournament</li> </ul>	<p>SEL, Chapter 13 – Global Governance: International Law &amp; Organizations</p>
<p>June 28, 29, or 30</p>	<p><b>FINAL EXAM – Scheduled by Registrar (Exact date/time/location TBA)</b></p>	

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test 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 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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)  
Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association  
Phone: 403-220-5997  
Email: [ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca](mailto:ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca)  
URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman  
Phone: 403-220-6420  
Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)