

## **POL 2203A**

### **Introduction to International Relations and Global Politics**

#### **Syllabus**

Autumn 2005

Professor: Dr. Jacqueline Best

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Office hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:30, Friday 10:00-11:00, and by appointment

Lectures: Wed 1:00 – 2:30 pm, Fri 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Tabaret 333

Discussion Groups:

1	10:00 - 11:00	SWT 125
2	11:00 - 12:00	SWT 125
3	12:00 - 1:00	LMX 405
4	10:00 -11:00	MRT 219
5	11:00 -12:00	FTX 137
6	12:00 - 1:00	LMX 407
7	10:00 -11:00	MRT 252

#### **Course overview**

What is the study of international relations about? Is it the study of the relations among states, individuals, organizations or corporations? Is it about politics, economics or culture? The possibility of peace or the inevitability of war? As we will discover in the course of the year, international relations can be understood as all of these things. It depends in large measure on how we look at the world around us.

Different answers to the question, “what are international relations?” also produce very different strategies for solving the world’s problems. Is armed conflict a necessary element of world politics or a sign that things have gone terribly wrong? Does increased trade make states more peaceful, more competitive or more unequal? What role can and should institutions like the United Nations play?

In this course, we will tackle the question “what are international relations?” from three different perspectives: historical, theoretical and empirical. In the first half of the fall semester, we will begin by asking

how we got to where we are now. We will study the roots of the modern system of international relations, tracing the evolution of the state system, the development of world trade and the spread of empire. We will then take a look at the great crises of the early twentieth century, the First and Second World Wars and the attempts in their aftermath to build a different kind of international economic and political system, based on the United Nations and the Bretton Woods regime. Finally, we will look at the impact of the Cold War. In each class, we will try to understand how these crucial events shaped our contemporary system and whether they provide us with any lessons for today.

With a better sense of how we got to where we are now, we will then turn to consider the different ways of understanding international relations today. In the last half of the first semester, we will focus on the central theoretical approaches to international relations—realist, liberal, Marxist, constructivist, postmodernist and feminist international relations theory. Each week, we will study the main elements of a different theoretical approach and then look at how these thinkers would address a contemporary problem. This year, we will focus in particular on different interpretations of the war in Iraq.

In the second semester, we will draw on these different theoretical approaches to make sense of several key contemporary questions including the impact of globalization, the changing nature of security, and the role of ethics in international affairs. By the end of the year, you should have developed not only an understanding of some of the key contemporary questions in IR today, but also a critical awareness of the different ways of answering them.

### **Learning objectives**

This course is designed to provide you with an introduction to the study of international relations and world politics. You probably already know something about international relations: you may already follow international affairs in the media or have an interest in certain key international issues. This course will provide you with the tools that you need to gain a richer understanding of international politics—to learn the historical context of contemporary issues, to recognize the different perspectives on international questions, and to develop an understanding of some of the major problems in the world today.

We can break these learning objectives down into four key goals.

- 1) By the end of the year, you should know something of the history of international relations in order to understand the context of contemporary events.
- 2) You should also be able to identify and explain the major theoretical approaches to international relations and to outline their differences from one another.
- 3) You should also be able to apply these theoretical tools to make sense of the contemporary issues that we will study in class.
- 4) Finally, you should develop your critical thinking skills, so that you are able to recognize the assumptions behind what you read—whether in a textbook or a newspaper article—and to develop and support your own arguments about international politics.

## Assessment

### Fall semester

*Participation:* Your participation grade will be based on your contribution to the discussion during discussion groups. You will be assessed on the quality of your contribution rather than the quantity of interventions. There will be four discussion groups per semester. Each DGD will be worth 25% of your semester's participation grade. If you miss one (1) of the first three DGDs this semester, you will have the option of submitting a one to two page analysis of the readings discussed in that DGD to make up for that absence. That analysis must be submitted by the following DGD. Any further DGD absences will reduce your participation grade.

*Discussion questions:* In the course of the lectures, I will often present the class with a discussion question to be debated in class in small groups. In the course of the semester, you will be required to write a one-page response to six (6) of these discussion questions. You must hand in two (2) such discussion questions to your DGD instructor on each of the following dates: October 7, November 4, December 2. In your response to the question, you should refer to the readings, the lecture and the class discussion where appropriate. You must not write more than one (1) page (single spaced).

*Short essays:* You will be required to prepare two short essays in the course of the first semester of 5-6 pp. in length. Two weeks before the essay is due, I will provide you with a question to discuss. You will be expected to answer it by drawing on the readings from the previous weeks. You will be assessed based on your ability to articulate a clear argument and support it with reference to the readings. Short essays will be due **October 12** and **November 16** and must be handed in **during class**.

*Exam:* There will be a **two (2) hour** exam during the exam period in December. The exam will emphasize your ability to engage critically with the course's theoretical and historical readings and to think synthetically about the course themes. To do well in the exam, you must be able to make specific reference to the readings.

### Winter semester

*Participation:* See above.

*Discussion questions:* See above (dates for submission will be included in the winter syllabus).

*Research paper:* A research paper (10-12 pp.) is due towards the end of the second semester. Guidelines for the paper will be handed out during the second semester. You will be required to prepare and hand in an outline for assessment several weeks before the paper is due. The research paper will provide you with a chance to develop your research and writing skills and to apply the concepts that you've learned to current events.

*Final exam:* There will be a **two (2) hour** final exam during the exam period. The exam will cover the entire year of material with an emphasis on the second semester. The exam will emphasize your ability to engage critically with the course's theoretical and historical readings and to think synthetically about the course themes. To do well in the exam, you must be able to make specific reference to the readings.

Course grades will be calculated as follows:

#### First semester

Section attendance and participation in discussion: 5%

Discussion questions: 5%

Short essays (10% each): 20%

December exam: 15%

#### Second semester

Section attendance and participation in discussion: 5%

Discussion questions: 5%

Outline: 5%

Research paper: 20%

Final exam: 20%

### **Please note**

*Late penalties:* Late assignments will lose 3% per day (a weekend counts as three days).

*Plagiarism:* Plagiarism and other forms of academic fraud are taken very seriously at the University of Ottawa. You are responsible for providing clear and accurate references for all of your written work. Direct quotes must be clearly indicated as such. Paraphrased passages must be written in your own words and clearly cited. You will find a statement about academic fraud and its consequences at the end of this syllabus. Please take the time to read it in order to understand your responsibility to ensure the academic integrity of your work.

*Incomplete assignments:* All of the assignments are required. As per Faculty of Social Sciences policy, if you do not complete all of them, you will receive an “Incomplete” for the course, which translates into a failing grade.

### **Required Texts**

The required texts and the course reader are available at Agora Books. All starred readings are in the course reader. We are using the **newest edition** of the Baylis and Smith book. If you have the earlier edition, you will find that many chapters have been revised and several chapters (on constructivism and terrorism) are only included in the new edition.

Please note that the Knutsen text will be arriving late in the bookstore. In the interim, there are multiple copies of the book **on reserve** at the university library. The course reader and Baylis and Smith text are also available on reserve.

John Baylis and Steve Smith, eds. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. **3rd ed.** Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

T. L. Knutsen, *A History of International Relations Theory*. New York: Manchester University Press, 1997.

*Pol 2203A Course Reader: Fall 2005-06*

## **Other sources**

You may find the following sources useful for the second semester's research paper and for additional information about world politics:

### **Journals/magazines**

Review of International Political Economy

International Organization

Review of International Studies

World Politics

New Political Economy

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Millennium

Foreign Affairs

The Economist

### **Websites**

Nouriel Roubini's Global Macroeconomics Site: <http://www.stern.nyu.edu/globalmacro>

Le Monde Diplomatique: <http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/> or <http://mondediplo.com/>

United Nations: <http://www.un.org/>

World Trade Organization: <http://www.wto.org>

International Monetary Fund: <http://www.imf.org>

World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org>

Resources on international financial institutions:  
<http://www.wellesley.edu/Economics/IFI/>

Foreign Affairs Department: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/>

The Brookings Institute: <http://www.brook.edu>

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: [www.policyalternatives.ca/](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/)

International Studies Association internet links: <http://www.isanet.org/netsources.html>

## **Class schedule: Fall 2005**

### **I. Introduction**

Sept. 14: Course overview (no readings assigned)

### **II. History: The Roots of Modern International Relations**

We will begin by exploring the roots of contemporary international relations, turning to history to trace the evolution of the state system, the growth of the global economy and the spread of empire.

The idea of sovereignty and the emergence of the state system

Sept. 16: The Renaissance: Machiavelli and the secularization of politics

T. L. Knutsen, *A History of International Relations Theory*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997, Chapter 2, "The Roots of the Modern Ages: Renaissance Interstate Politics," pp. 36-54.

Sept. 21: The Treaty of Westphalia: Hobbes and the growth of the interstate system

Knutsen, *A History of International Relations Theory*. Chapter 4, "Absolutist Politics: The Seventeenth Century and the Growth of the Interstate System," pp. 83-95, 101-114.

The evolution of liberalism: the individual and the economy

Sept. 23: The Enlightenment and international politics

Knutsen, *A History of International Relations Theory*. Chapter 5, "Enlightenment Politics: The Eighteenth Century and the Rise of Popular Sovereignty," pp. 115-137.

Sept. 28: The global economy

\* Robert Heilbroner, *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers*. 7th ed. New York: Touchstone, 1999, 18-41.

The nineteenth century: power, trade and empire

Sept. 30: The nineteenth century order

Knutsen, *A History of International Relations Theory*. Chapter 7: Intermezzo: Becoming Contemporary," pp. 179-201.

\* Anthony Pagden, "Empires of Liberty, Empires of Trade," *Peoples and Empires: A Short History of European Migration, Exploration, and Conquest, from Greece to the Present*. New York: Modern Library, 2001, pp. 83-98.

### **III. History: Twentieth Century Global Politics**

The End of an Era: 1900-1945

Oct. 5: World War I and II

Knutsen, *A History of International Relations Theory*. Chapter 8, "Interwar Politics: The Twenty Years' Crisis," pp. 202-230.

Susan Carruthers, "International History: 1900-1945," *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 63-91.

Oct. 7: **Discussion group**

\* Charles Maier, "An American Empire? The Problems of Frontiers and Peace in Twenty-first-century World Politics." *Harvard Magazine* Nov-Dec (2002): 2002.

**Discussion questions due in DGD.**

Creation of a Post-War Order

Oct. 12: The Bretton Woods system and the United Nations

\* Eric Helleiner, *States and the Reemergence of Global Finance: From Bretton Woods to the 1990s*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1994, pp. 25-50.

Paul Taylor, "The United Nations and World Order," *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 406-424.

**First short essay due in class.**

Oct. 14: The Cold War

\* Stanley Hoffmann, "Revisionism Revisited." *Reflections on the Cold War: A Quarter Century of American Foreign Policy*. Eds. Lynn H. Miller and Ronald W. Pruessen. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1974. 3-26.

Len Scott, "International History: 1945-1990," *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 93-110.

### **IV. Approaches to International Relations**

For the remaining weeks of the semester, we will look at the many different ways of interpreting international politics – and thus of solving international problems.

Oct. 19: Study break (no class)

Oct. 21: No class (University of Ottawa day)

Realism, neo-realism and power politics

Oct. 26: Classic realism

\* Hans Morgenthau, *Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. Brief ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 1993, pp. 3-16.

Tim Dunne and Brian C. Schmidt, "Realism," *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 161-183.

Oct. 28: Neo-realism today

\* John Mearsheimer, "Great Power Politics in the Twenty-first Century," *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: Norton, 2003.

Liberalism, neo-liberalism and democratization

Nov. 2: Liberalism and neo-liberalism

Tim Dunne, "Liberalism," *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 185-203.

Nov. 4: **Discussion group**

\* Harry Kreisler, "Theory and International Politics: Conversation with Kenneth Waltz." 2003. Institute of International Studies, University of California at Berkeley.  
<http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people3/Waltz/waltz-con6.html>.

\* John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt. *Can Saddam Be Contained? History Says Yes*. 2002. Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.  
<http://www.bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu>.

**Discussion questions due in DGD.**

Nov. 9: Democratic peace theory

\* Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies and Foreign Affairs." *International Relations: Critical Concepts in Political Science*. Ed. Andrew Linklater. Vol. III. London: Routledge, 2000. 870-895.

Nov. 11: **Discussion group**

\* David Held, "Return to the State of Nature." Polity.  
<http://www.polity.co.uk/global/nature.htm>.

\* Michael Ignatieff, "The American Empire: The Burden." *New York Times Magazine*. January 5 2003.

Marxism and the problem of economic inequality

Nov. 16: Marxist theories of international relations

Stephen Hobden and Richard Wyn Jones, "Marxist Theories of International Relations," *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 225-247.

\* Robert Cox, "Gramsci, Hegemony and International Relations: An Essay in Method." *International Relations: Critical Concepts in Political Science*. Vol. III. 1207-1222.

**Second short essay due in class**

Nov. 18: Marxist theory today

\* Immanuel Wallerstein, "Entering Global Anarchy." *New Left Review* 22.July/August (2003): 27-35.

### Constructivism and postmodernism

Nov. 23: Constructivism

Michael Barnett, "Social Constructivism," *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 251-270.

\* Alexander Wendt, "Constructing International Politics." *International Security*. Summer (1995), pp. 71-81.

Nov. 25: Postmodernism

Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, "Alternative Approaches to International Theory," *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 271-293

\* James Der Derian, "War as Game." *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 10.1 (2003): 37-48.

### Feminism and the role of gender

Nov. 30: The feminist critique

Jan Jindy Pettman, "Gender Issues," *The Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 669-687.

\* Jan Jindy Pettman. "Feminist International Relations after 9/11." *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 10.2 (2004): 85-96.

Dec. 2: **Discussion group**

Course review and midterm preparation.

**Discussion questions due in DGD.**

### ***Beware of Academic Fraud!***

Academic fraud is an act committed by a student to distort the marking of assignments, tests, examinations and other forms of academic evaluation. Academic fraud is neither accepted nor tolerated by the University. Anyone found guilty of academic fraud is liable to severe academic sanctions.

Here are a few examples of academic fraud:

- engaging in any form of plagiarism or cheating;
- presenting falsified research data;
- handing in an assignment that was not authored, in whole or in part, by the student;
- submitting the same assignment in more than one course, without the written consent of the professors concerned

In recent years, the development of the Internet has made it much easier to identify academic plagiarism. The tools available to your professors allow them to trace the exact origin of a text on the Web, using just a few words.

In cases where students are unsure whether they are at fault, it is their responsibility to consult the University's Web site at the following address; you will find « *Tools for Writing Papers and Assignments* » to <http://www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/eng/acad1.asp>.

Persons who have committed or attempted to commit (or have been accomplices to) academic fraud will be penalized. Here are some examples of the academic sanctions, which can be imposed:

- a grade of « F » for the assignment or course in question;
- an additional program requirement of between three and 30 credits;
- suspension or expulsion from the faculty.

Last session, most of the students found guilty of fraud were given an « F » for the course and had between three and twelve credits added to their program requirement.

For more information, see:

[http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/info/newsletter/fraud\\_e.html](http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/info/newsletter/fraud_e.html)