

POLS-1600 (1)

Introduction to International Relations

Dr. Jamey Essex / Winter 2019 / Tues & Th 2:30 pm - 3:50 pm / Toldo 200

Office: 1139 CHN / Office hours: Wed 9:30 to 11:30 am, 2:30 to 4:30 pm

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Course description

An examination of competing perspectives on international relations and of such critical themes as power, security, war, imperialism, nationalism, interdependence, development and underdevelopment, human rights, environmental concerns, and the quest for a new world order. This course is required in all Department of Political Science programs, and fulfills Social Science and/or options requirements in most other programs at the university.

Course goals and learning outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Describe and explain major issues and phenomena related to the specific themes of the course as outlined in the course calendar description.
- Critically analyze how states interact with one another, and the benefits and detriments of the state system, as well as the growth of non-state actors, and the effect that they are having on the larger field of study.
- Dissect academic literature by identifying its research questions, main findings and contributions, as well as weaknesses.
- Conduct a literature review to identify a core debate in international relations and construct a compelling argument to justify a conclusion.
- Engage in focused dialogue and debate concerning complex and controversial International Relations issues, presenting well-reasoned arguments while being respectful of alternative opinions.

Required readings

There are **two** required textbooks for this course, a longer primary one covering major themes, theories, and issues in international relations, and a shorter one on diplomacy. Only the most current editions of these books are recommended. They are available packaged together at a discounted rate in the university bookstore but you can probably also find them online.

- Steven Lamy, John Masker, John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. (2019) *Introduction to Global Politics (5th ed.)*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.
- Joseph Siracusa. (2010) *Diplomacy: A Very Short Introduction*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Exams are based on the assigned readings and class lectures. Come to class and keep up with the assigned materials if you want to have a solid understanding of cases and concepts and do well in this course.

Assignments and grades

Your grade in this course will be based on three exams, which will consist of a mix of question types, such as multiple choice, fill in the blank, definition, short answer, reading interpretation, and/or essay. The final exam will be cumulative. It is possible that I will curve final course grades if necessary.

- **Midterm exam 1 (30% of course grade) – during class on Thursday, Jan 31**
- **Midterm exam 2 (30% of course grade) – during class on Thursday, March 7**
- **Final exam (40%) – TBA**

During the final two weeks of the term, I will give out the Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) forms in class and you will be able to evaluate your experience and my teaching in this course. The official Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences grading policy can be found online at http://www.uwindsor.ca/fahss/sites/uwindsor.ca.fahss/files/policies_procedures_course-outline-june_26-17.pdf. My primary concern is that I mark your work **fairly, accurately, and consistently**, and not that a particular expected distribution is met.

Late Policy

All work is to be completed according to the schedule on this syllabus. If you must miss an exam for medical or personal reasons, you need to contact me beforehand or as soon as possible afterward (**i.e., within 24 hours**) to let me know. I only permit makeup exams due to illness or emergency, and for illness, with a valid doctor's note. Makeup exams may be different from those given during the regularly scheduled time; makeup final exams will be offered according to a schedule determined by the Department of Political Science. Problems with marks and requests to reconsider or change marks must be brought to me **within one week (7 calendar days) from when they are delivered in class, with a rationale** for why reconsideration of or a change to received marks is warranted. Please be mindful of the course schedule – with up to 150 students in this course, I must adhere strictly to these policies.

Email and office hours

I am available in my office, 1139 Chrysler Hall North, on Wednesdays in the mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am, and again in the afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, or by appointment. If I have to change or cancel office hours, I will post alternative times and other information on the course Blackboard site. If you need to see me but are unable to make it to these office hours, please contact me by email and we can arrange a suitable alternative meeting time. As a general rule, I try to reply to emails sent to me within two working days of receiving them. **I do not usually**

answer student emails after 4:30 pm, or on the weekends. If you email me and do not receive a reply within two working days, assume that I did not receive your email, and try again. **I do not provide course materials or grades via email.** Please see me during office hours or check the course Blackboard site. Please also note the university's email policy states that students must use their @uwindsor.ca email accounts to communicate with faculty. I also request that you use appropriate etiquette when using email – I will not reply to emails that do not include a subject line, a greeting, and your name.

Students with learning/physical differences

If you have a learning or physical difference, please obtain the appropriate paperwork from the University and let me know as soon as possible so that necessary arrangements can be made. More information is available via Student Accessibility Services, located in the basement of Dillon Hall and online at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/studentaccessibility/>.

Course expectations

Below I outline very clearly what I expect of you as a student in this course, and what you should expect of me as the instructor. For more information on the rules and regulations that govern student rights and responsibilities, please consult: University Senate Bylaws 31, 32, 33, and 51) at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/secretariat/47/senate-bylaws-and-policies>; the Academic Integrity Office at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/academic-integrity/>; and relevant Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Science policies at <https://bit.ly/2sK7AG6>.

In this course and in this classroom, I expect that you will:

- Attend class regularly, arrive on time, and do all required reading;
- Pay attention, put down your phone, refrain from distracting yourself and your classmates, and use your electronic devices for class-related activities only;
- Approach the course materials with an open mind and a serious attitude;
- Strictly adhere to the student code of conduct and observe the University's policies regarding academic honesty;
- Respect your fellow students' right to learn in a safe and hospitable classroom;
- Respect and take advantage of office hours, particularly if you are falling behind or having difficulty with the material;
- Understand that grades refer to the quality and precision of work being graded, not to your need for a particular grade or to an open-ended negotiation between you and me.

For my part, you can expect that I will:

- Arrive to class on time and well-prepared to lecture and facilitate discussion;
- Complete the grading of exams and assignments in a timely fashion;
- Reply to emails in a timely fashion, normally within two working days;

- Be available during my scheduled office hours, and will re-schedule them if necessary (i.e., I won't cancel them without making them up at some other time);
- Take your questions and ideas seriously, so long as they are relevant to the material;
- Maintain a relaxed but professional classroom space for learning and discussion;
- Treat all students equitably with regard to grading and class discussion.

Classroom etiquette and academic integrity

Consistent with University of Windsor policy, cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct are not tolerated. **Relevant official university and faculty policies on plagiarism and academic misconduct are at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/academic-integrity/>.** Those suspected of violating these policies will be referred to the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences for potential disciplinary action. If you feel you need help with the materials, don't cheat – please see me or the GAs instead for assistance.

In class, you are expected to respect others' right to learn and discuss course themes and content in an environment conducive to learning and open engagement with your peers and the ideas and materials covered in the course. You should rely on facts, reason, and evidence to back your arguments. Racist, sexist, threatening or otherwise derogatory remarks and actions will not be tolerated.

Course schedule

- **Jan 3 and 8: Themes and traditions in international relations**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 1

- **Jan 10 and 15: Global political history from the nation-state to globalization**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 2

- **Jan 17 and 22: Theories of IR – Realism, Liberalism, and their Critics**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 3

- **Jan 24 and 29: International institutions and governance**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 5

- **Jan 31: Midterm exam #1**

- **Feb 5 and 7: The dynamics of foreign policy**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 4

- **Feb 12 and 14: Security, military affairs, and the ‘war on terror’**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 6

- **Feb 19 and 21: Reading week**
 - No class this week

- **Feb 26 and 28: Understanding diplomacy**
 - Siracusa, chapters 1-6 (ch 1-3 for Feb 26 / ch 4-6 for Feb 28)

- **Mar 5: Midterm exam #2**

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- **Mar 7 and 12: Human rights and human security**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 7
 - March 13 – last day to voluntarily withdraw from courses
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- **Mar 14 and 19: The global economic system**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 8
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- **Mar 21 and 26: The global environment**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 10
 - Special guest speaker on Thursday, March 21 - Dr. Barry Rabe, University of Michigan
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- **Mar 28 and Apr 2: Poverty, development, and aid**
 - Lamy *et al.*, chapter 9
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FINAL EXAM – TBA