

UNIVERSITY of ALBERTA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POL S 261 A3

Tory 1 103

Fall 2015 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-1:50PM

Professor Ashley Esarey

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Office Hours: Monday, 2-4PM or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course serves as an introduction to the study and practice of international relations. It addresses relations between states as well as the roles played by an increasing number of non-state actors in the global arena. This course introduces key concepts, theories and tools that will help students to analyze global issues relating to conflict, war, trade, culture, and other relevant dimensions of global politics. Topics will include peace and security, international political economy, human rights, international organizations, gender, poverty, development, and the environment. The course will also introduce students to the processes of “globalization” and to the possible futures of world politics. The course embraces a broad approach to world politics and introduces students to theoretical debates relating to the complex nature of governance at the global level.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

Students without the course prerequisite (POL S 101) should speak with the instructor before registering. The Department may cancel your registration if you do not have the required course prerequisites.

CLASS FORMAT:

This class consists of three sessions per week—two fifty-minute lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays between 1PM and 1:50PM and a discussion session on Friday afternoon at 1PM. Attendance at every session of the course is mandatory. The lectures offer an overview of key themes and debates in the field of International Relations and make references to historical events and current topics in international relations. Although lecture sessions will afford opportunities for questions and some discussion, discussion sessions on Friday are designed to encourage more in-depth consideration of the week’s required reading and lecture materials. Students are expected to come to each class prepared to address the particular questions and themes designated on the syllabus. Discussion sessions will often be organized around a particular topic or reading (i.e. a particular short reading, newspaper article or audio file) and questions will typically be sent to students on Wednesdays. A full description of the expectations for discussion sessions will be elaborated upon during the first and second weeks of class.

COURSE TEXTS:

See below for a list of the required course textbooks for sale at the University of Alberta bookstore.

John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (editors), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* Sixth Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014).

Talal Asad, *On Suicide Bombing* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007)

Joseph Nye, *The Future of Power* (New York: PublicAffairs, 2011)

In addition, student will occasionally be required to download readings for class on their tablet or in hard copy. *If for any reason you experience any difficulties accessing the required course material, please contact Professor Esarey via email immediately.*

General Reading and Media Resources:

Students are expected to maintain general knowledge of world events. While you will not be tested on this information per se, it will help you to follow course lectures and to participate more effectively in class. Ideally your regular consumption of news of the world will become habitual! Students should consult a range of Canadian and international media as well as academic sources. A non-exhaustive list of media outlets include The Globe and Mail, The Guardian (London), The New York Times, CommonDreams, Al-Jazeera English, BBC World Service, National Public Radio (NPR), Foreign Policy, Opendemocracy.net, Democracy Now, the London Review of Books, New York Review of Books, New Left Review, RadioOpenSource (Brown), the New Yorker, China Daily, Asahi News, Spiegel Online, Taipei Times, and the Times of India. It will also be valuable to peruse relevant academic journals including *International Organization*, *Security Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Economy and Society*, *World Politics*, *Studies in Political Economy*, *Global Networks*, *Global Society*, *International Journal of Political Economy*, *International Journal of Communication*, and *Global Governance*.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

The course requirements are outlined below. Students should note that all components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade. Tests and assignments will be assigned a letter grade. The instructor will not “curve” or adjust final grades according to any preset formula.

Evaluation of the following course requirements will determine students’ grades:

- ***Discussion Session Participation: 15% of course grade.***

Friday class periods will generally be used for discussion sessions, although there are two exceptions on October 30, when the midterm exam will be taken, and on November 23. Attendance in discussion sessions is mandatory and vigorous participation is essential to success in the course. Students are expected to prepare for seminar discussions by reading all required readings carefully. In class, students will participate actively by offering critical and insightful comments related to the course materials, and by listening respectfully to other students.

- ***Op-Ed Writing Assignment—due 14 October—20% of course grade.***

This assignment asks students to reflect critically on some of the theories and problems

introduced in the course and to articulate a strong argument in a mock op-ed style essay of 1,000 words or less. More detailed instructions will be distributed and discussed in class in late September.

- ***International crisis simulation participation—held from 27 November – 4 December: 5% of course grade.*** Details on this exercise will be distributed late in the term.
- ***In-Class Midterm Examination—on 30 October: 25% of course grade***
- ***Take-Home Final Examination—due on 11 December: 35% of course grade***

GRADING SCHEME:

<i>Descriptor</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Poor	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	D	1.0
Failure	F	0

Academic Integrity

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and working environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or

- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department. For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice: (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL a <https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110>

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook and Information for Students). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process.

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan.

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Policy for Late Assignments:

It is your responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as it becomes clear that your work will be turned in late. If you do not communicate in advance, and your reason for being late does not also explain this lack of communication, then you should be prepared to be penalized 10 percent of the assignment’s score for each working day that the assignment is late.

Specialized Support & Disability Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; ssdsrec@ualberta.ca; 780-492-3381; www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

FEELING OVERWHELMED? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?): The Student Distress Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:

- Call: 492-HELP (492-4357)
- Drop in: 030-N in the S.U.B.
- Visit: www.su.ualberta.ca/sdc
- Chat: <http://www.campuscrisischat.com/>

******Please note that the instructor may revise this course outline at any time. Any changes will be announced in class and via the course eclass website******

COURSE SCHEDULE

2 September

Introduction and Organization

There are no required readings for this session, although students should become intimately familiar with the rules for the course in the course outline (or “the syllabus”).

4 September

IR as a Divided Discipline: Then and Now

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 3: Len Scott, “International History, 1900-90,” pages 50-64.

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 4: Michael Cox, “From the Cold War to a New Global Era,” pages 65-79.

7 September

*****Labour Day, No Class*****

9 September

Rising Powers and Changes to the Global (Dis)Order

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 5: Andrew Hurrell, “Rising Powers and the Emerging Global Order,” pages 80-98.

John Mearsheimer, “Why China’s Rise Will Not be Peaceful,” September 17, 2004. Available online at <http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/A0034b.pdf>

11 September

Discussion Session

14 September

Power in the 21st Century

Joseph Nye, *The Future of Power*, pp. 3-24

16 September

The Role of Military Force

Joseph Nye, *The Future of Power*, pp. 25-50

18 September

Discussion Session

21 September

Realism and the Security Dilemma

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 6: Tim Dunne and Brian C. Schmidt, "Realism," pages 99-112.

Recommended further reading: Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, 30, 2 (1978), pages 167-214. Available through the University of Alberta library website

http://journals.cambridge.org/login.ezproxy.library.ualberta.ca/download.php?file=%2F720_A895F8DA418321E40D736C9396B74D32_journals__WPO_WPO30_02_S0043887100016191a.pdf&cover=Y&code=11c5ee8ae9b47a94d990e75cf703ee45.

23 September

Liberalism

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 7: Tim Dunne, "Liberalism," pages 112-125.

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 8: Steven L. Lamy, "Contemporary Mainstream Approaches: Neo-realism and Neo-liberalism," pages 126-140.

25 September

Discussion Session

28 September

Post-Colonialism and Orientalism

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 12: Christine Sylvester, "Post-Colonialism", pages 184-197.

30 September

Feminism as a Critique of Mainstream IR

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 17: J. Ann Tickner, "Gender in World Politics," pages 258-273.

Recommended further reading:

Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals," *Signs*, 12, 4 (1987), pages 687-718. Available via the University of Alberta Library website at <http://www.jstor.org/login.ezproxy.library.ualberta.ca/stable/pdfplus/3174209.pdf?acceptTC=true&jpdConfirm=true>

2 October
Discussion Session

5 October
Social Constructivism

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 10: Michael Barnett, "Social Constructivism," pages 155-168.

Recommended further reading:

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of State Politics," *International Organization* 46 (Spring 1992), pages 391-425 available via the University of Alberta Library website at <http://journals.cambridge.org/login.ezproxy.library.ualberta.ca/action/displayFulltext?type=1&pdfType=1&fid=4310172&jid=INO&volumeId=46&issueId=02&aid=4310164>

7 October
Post-Structuralism

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 11: Lene Hanson, "Post-Structuralism," pages 169-184.

9 October
Discussion Session

12 October—Thanksgiving! No Class****

14 October
Nationalism in a Global Era

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 25: John Breuilly, "Nationalism," 387-400.

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 32: Andrew Linklater, "Globalization and the Transformation of Political Community," pages 499-512.

****Op-Ed Writing Assignment—due****

16 October
Discussion Session

19 October
Op-Ed De-briefing

21 October
Nuclear Proliferation

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 24: Sheena Chestnut Greitens, "Nuclear Proliferation," 372-386.

Washington Post, "Thirteen Charts and Maps that Make the Iran Deal a Little Easier to Understand," July 14, 2015.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/07/14/12-charts-and-maps-that-make-the-iran-deal-a-little-easier-to-understand/>

23 October

Discussion Session

26 October

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 16, "International Political Economy in an Age of Globalization," pages 243-257.

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 27, "Global Trade and Finance," pages 417-429.

28 October

Economic Power and Interdependence

Joseph Nye, *The Future of Power*, pages 51-80.

30 October

In-Class Midterm Examination

2 November

Marxism in International Relations Theory

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 9: Stephen Hobden and Richard Wyn Jones, "Marxist Theories of International Relations," pages 141-154.

V.I. Lenin, "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism," chapters 1-3.

Please note: There are numerous versions of this famous essay available online. One complete version, with (appropriately Marxist) commentary, is here:

<http://www.readingfromtheleft.com/Books/Classics/LeninImperialism.pdf>

4 November

Leninist View of the Global Economy

V.I. Lenin, "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism," chapters 4-8.

6 November

Discussion Session

9-13 November

****Reading Week. No class****

16 November

Culture and Conflict

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993, pages 22-49. Available here via University of Alberta Libraries ejournal search:

<http://www.jstor.org/login.ezproxy.library.ualberta.ca/stable/pdfplus/20045621.pdf?acceptTC=true&jpdConfirm=true>

18 November

Islam and Violence

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 23: James D. Kiras, "Terrorism and Globalization," pages 357-371.

Talal Asad, *On Suicide Bombing*, pages 7-38.

20 November

Suicide Terrorism

Talal Asad, *On Suicide Bombing*, pages 39-96.

23 November

Discussion Session

(Professor Esarey is in Stockholm presenting research at academic conference)

25 November

Human Security and Humanitarian Intervention

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 29: Amitav Acharya, "Human Security," pages 448-462.

Baylis/Smith/Owens, Chapter 31: Alex J. Bellamy and Nicholas J. Wheeler, "Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics," pages 479-496.

27 November

International Crisis Simulation Introduction

30 November

International Crisis Simulation Round I

2 December

International Crisis Simulation Round II

4 December –Discussion Session

International Crisis Simulation Debriefing

7 December

Persuasion and Rhetorical "Force" in International Relations

Joseph Nye, *The Future of Power*, pp. 81-112.

*****Take-home final exam prompt distributed in class *****

11 December—Take-Home Final Exam Due