

POLI 205 – Introduction to International Relations (3 Credits)
Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Mark Paradis

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Office Hours: Mondays from 17:45-18:30 in H-1213

Tuesdays from 16:45-17:30 in H-1125-28

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Office Hours: See Moodle

Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays from 16:15-17:30

Class Location: FG C070 SGW

This course provides an introduction to the study of international relations (IR). Three of the fundamental questions in International Relations are: 1) why do states go to war, 2) what are the alternatives to war, and 3) how do states cooperate? In order to answer these questions, this course presents theories about the actions and interactions of individuals, institutions, and states. The course begins by presenting the most prominent theories and approaches in IR. Once students are familiar with these theories, we will examine some current issues in IR, including terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, ethnic conflict, and environmental security. Throughout the course, we will have lectures, readings, discussions, and simulations. This course prepares students for more advanced courses in international relations and provides students with the analytical skills required to understand current events in the world.

COURSE FORMAT

The course will be held in-person. Lectures will not be recorded. Students are expected to be in Montreal throughout the session. Students are expected to follow all public health guidelines that are in place at the time. If I must miss any sessions due to illness, isolation, or conferences, lecture videos will be posted online as a replacement for those missed dates.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

For emails with the instructor, every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours on weekdays. On weekends, the delay may be longer. For emails, you are expected to:

1. Include the course number and purpose of the email in the email subject.
2. Do not send follow-up emails within 24 hours or on weekends. If you do, both the original and follow-up emails will be ignored.
3. If your email is asking about facts found directly in the syllabus, it will be ignored (for example, asking about the date of the midterm). The syllabus is made available to all students, and it is disrespectful to expect the instructor to look up something when you are unwilling to do so.
4. Do not send messages through Moodle. I almost never check Moodle messages.

COURSE READINGS

All course readings will be posted on Moodle for download. I have also tried to select a mixture of classic pieces and cutting-edge new research. For most topics, I have included a list of required

readings and optional readings. For the optional readings, students will only be responsible for any portion of the reading discussed in class.

REQUIREMENTS

Midterm 1: 35%

Midterm 1 will be a take home, open book exam. You may use your notes, readings, lecture slides, and lecture videos to complete the midterm, but may not communicate with others. The exam will include essay questions. Students will have some choice. While time should not be a factor in completing the exam, this does not mean that longer answers are better answers. Students will be graded on how well they can answer the questions. They will not be graded on how much they can write about literature related to the question topic. Each question will also include some element of analysis. Repeating facts will not be sufficient to earn the highest grades. Midterm 1 will be assigned on October 18 at 16:15 and is due by October 20 at 16:15. Completed midterms must be submitted on Moodle..

Midterm 2: 35%

Midterm 2 will be a take home, open book exam. You may use your notes, readings, lecture slides, and lecture videos to complete the midterm, but may not communicate with others. The exam will include essay questions. Students will have some choice. While time should not be a factor in completing the exam, this does not mean that longer answers are better answers. Students will be graded on how well they can answer the questions. They will not be graded on how much they can write about literature related to the question topic. Each question will also include some element of analysis. Repeating facts will not be sufficient to earn the highest grades. Midterm 2 will be assigned on November 27 at 16:15 and is due by October 29 at 16:15. Completed midterms must be submitted on Moodle.

Research Paper: 30%

Students will write a 7-9 page (excluding references) term paper. Students are advised to clear their topic with me. For the papers, students will conduct a case study in order to understand why a particular decision was made or action was taken. Once students have chosen a case that interests them, they must identify a research puzzle for that case, propose a thesis and theory to answer the research question, and then use available evidence to test their proposed explanation. The chosen theory does not need to be one presented in the course. In fact, it does not even need to be a political science theory. As long as the case relates to international politics, students are free to select any theory they believe may be useful. Papers must be double-spaced with normal margins. The cover page, reference lists and appendices do not count towards the page limit. I do not read any main body text beyond the 9th page. Papers are due December 6 at 16:15. Completed papers must be submitted on Moodle.

LATE POLICY

All assignments must be submitted on Moodle. Midterm 1 is due by October 20 at 16:15. Midterm 2 is due by November 29 at 16:15. Papers must be submitted on Moodle by December 6 at 16:15. Exams and papers that are not turned in on time will be penalized 5% per day. Late papers will not receive any comments and will not be accepted more than a week late. If you are having any

problems in handling the course load, please speak to me ASAP. There are more solutions available if you approach me in advance.

RE-GRADES

If you believe that your grade on an assignment does not reflect the quality of your work, it is your right to request a re-grade. However, you must follow these steps:

1. You must wait 3 days before requesting a re-grade.
2. You must submit a written statement detailing why you believe your grade should be changed. You should point to specific areas of your exam/paper that you believe were graded unfairly AND explain why.
3. I will then re-grade your ENTIRE assignment. I reserve the right to RAISE or LOWER your grade.
4. After the re-grade, if you still believe that your grade is unfair, you must then follow the Department's procedures for re-grades.

CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS

I reserve the right to amend the schedule of meetings and assignments listed in this syllabus as might become necessary based on events throughout the semester. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced and students will receive an amended syllabus in writing. Copies of the most up to date syllabus can be found on the course website on Moodle.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 6

- **Introduction to the Course**
- **Introduction to International Relations**
 - Readings:
 - Walt, Stephen M. 2022. "An International Relations Theory Guide to the War in Ukraine." *Foreign Policy*.
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/08/an-international-relations-theory-guide-to-ukraines-war/>.
 - Optional Reading:
 - Snyder, Jack. 2004. One World, Rival Theories. *Foreign Policy* 145: 52-62.

Monday, September 11 and Wednesday, September 13

- **Classical Realism**
 - Readings:
 - Morgenthau, Hans J. 1978. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. 5th Ed. Revised. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 4-15.
<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/morg6.htm>.
- **Structural Realism**
 - Readings:
 - Mearsheimer, John J. 2001. *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, 29-54.

- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1988. The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4): 615-628.
- Optional Readings:
 - Walt, Stephen S. 1987. *The Origin of Alliances*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 17-21, 27-32.
 - Jervis, Robert. 1978. Cooperation under the Security Dilemma. *World Politics* 30 (2): 167-214.
 - Rose, Gideon. 1998. Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy. *World Politics* 51 (1): 144-172.

Monday, September 18 and Wednesday, September 20

• Liberalism and Domestic Politics

- Readings:
 - Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics. *International Organization* 51 (4): 513-553.
 - Owen, John M. 1994. How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace. *International Security* 19 (2): 87-125.
 - Allison, Graham T. 1969. Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis. *American Political Science Review* 63 (3): 689-718.
- Optional Readings:
 - Doyle, Michael W. 1983. Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs. *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 12 (3): 205-235.

Monday, September 25

• Rationalist Theories

- Readings:
 - Fearon, James D. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414.
- Optional Readings:
 - Snidal, Duncan. 1985. The Game Theory of International Politics. *World Politics* 38 (1): 25-57.
 - Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1988. The Contribution of Expected Utility Theory to the Study of International Conflict. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* 18 (4): 629-652.

Wednesday, September 27

• Neoliberal Institutionalism

- Readings:
 - Stein, Arthur A. 1982. Coordination and Collaboration: Regimes in an Anarchic World. *International Organization* 36 (2): 299-324.
 - Powell, Robert. 1991. Absolute and Relative Gains in International Relations Theory. *American Political Science Review* 85 (4): 1303-1320.
- Optional Readings:
 - Oye, Kenneth A. 1985. Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies. *World Politics* 38 (1): 1-24.

- Grieco, Joseph M. 1988. Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism. *International Organization* 42 (3): 485-507.

Monday, October 2 and Wednesday, October 4

- **Constructivism**
 - Readings:
 - Wendt, Alexander. 1992. Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics. *International Organization* 46 (2): 391-425.
 - Optional Readings:
 - Checkel, Jeffrey. 1998. The Constructivist Turn in International Relations Theory. *World Politics* 50 (2): 324-248.
 - Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. International Norm Dynamics and Political Change. *International Organization* 52 (4): 887-917.
- **Critical and Non-Western IR**
 - Readings:
 - Tickner, J. Ann. 1988. Hans Morgenthau's Principles of Political Realism: A Feminist Reformulation. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 17 (3): 429-440.
 - Barkawi, Tarak and Mark Laffey. 2006. "The Postcolonial Moment in Security Studies." *Review of International Studies* 32 (2): 329-352.
 - Optional Readings:
 - Shani, Giorgio. 2008. "Toward a Post-Western IR: The Umma, Khalsa Panth, and Critical International Relations Theory." *International Studies Review* 10 (4): 722-734.

Monday, October 9 and Wednesday, October 11

- **No Class** (Thanksgiving and Midterm Break)

Monday, October 16

- **Midterm Review**

Wednesday, October 18

- **Midterm 1**
 - Assignment: Midterm 1 is assigned at 16:15 and due on October 20 at 16:15.

Monday, October 23 and Wednesday, October 25

- **Political Psychology and Public Opinion**
 - Readings:
 - Jervis, Robert. 1968. Hypotheses on Misperception. *World Politics* 20 (3): 454-479.
 - Kertzer, Joshua D. and Dustin Tingley. 2018. Political Psychology in International Relations: Beyond the Paradigms. *Annual Review of Political Science* 21: 1-23.

- Optional Readings:
 - Rathbun, Brian C., Joshua D. Kertzer, and Mark Paradis. 2017. "Homo Diplomaticus: Mixed-Method Evidence of Variation in Strategic Rationality" *International Organization* 71 (S1): S33-S60.
- **Weapons of Mass Destruction**
 - Readings:
 - Sagan, Scott D. 1996/1997. Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons?: Three Models in Search of a Bomb. *International Security* 21 (3): 54-86.
 - Waltz, Kenneth N. 1990. Nuclear Myths and Political Realities. *American Political Science Review* 84 (3): 731-745.
 - Optional Readings:
 - Tannenwald, Nina. 2005. Stigmatizing the bomb: Origins of the nuclear taboo. *International Security* 29 (4): 5-49.

Monday, October 30 and Wednesday, November 1

- **International Political Economy**
 - Readings:
 - Milner, Helen V. 1999. The Political Economy of International Trade. *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 91-114.
 - Broz, J. Lawrence and Jeffry A. Frieden. 2001. The Political Economy of International Monetary Relations. *Annual Review of Political Science* 4: 317-343.
 - Friedman, Thomas L. 1999. DSCapital. *Foreign Policy* 116: 110-116.
 - Optional Readings:
 - Hiscox, Michael J. 2010. The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies. In *Global Political Economy*, 3rd Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 51-83.

Monday, November 6 and Wednesday, November 8

- **International Organizations**
 - Readings:
 - Martin, Lisa L. and Beth A. Simmons. 2002. "International Organizations and Institutions." In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2nd ed., edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons, 326-351. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
 - Barnett, Michael N. and Martha Finnemore. 1999. The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations. *International Organization* 53 (4): 699-732.
 - Optional Readings:
 - Milner, Helen V. 2005. Globalization, Development, and International Institutions: Normative and Positive Perspectives. *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (4): 833-54.

Monday, November 13

- **Ethnic Conflict and Civil Wars**
 - Readings:

- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 75-90.
- Posen, Barry R. 1993. The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict. *Survival* 35 (1): 27-47.
- Optional Readings:
 - Lake, David A. and Donald Rothchild. 1996. Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict. *International Security* 21 (2): 41-75.
 - Collier, Paul. 2003. The Market for Civil War. *Foreign Policy* 136: 38-45.

Wednesday, November 15

- **Terrorism**

- Readings:
 - Kydd, Andrew H. and Barbara F. Walter. 2006. The Strategies of Terrorism. *International Security* 31 (1): 49-80.
 - Pape, Robert A. 2003. The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. *American Political Science Review* 97 (3): 343-361.

Monday, November 20 and Wednesday, November 22

- **Environmental Politics**

- Readings:
 - Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162 (3859): 1243-1248.
 - Homer-Dixon, Thomas. 1994. Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases. *International Security* 19 (1): 5-40.

- **Health and Biosecurity**

- Readings:
 - Koblenz, Gregory D. 2010. "Biosecurity Reconsidered: Calibrating Biological Threats and Responses." *International Security* 34 (4): 96-132.

- **Midterm Review**

Monday, November 27

- **Midterm 2**

- Assignment: Midterm 2 is assigned at 16:15 and due on November 29 at 16:15.

Wednesday, November 29

- **Environmental Politics Simulation**

- **Conclusion**

- Optional Readings:
 - Zakaria, Fareed. 2008. The Rise of the Rest. *Newsweek*. <https://fareedzakaria.com/2008/05/12/therise-of-the-rest/>
 - Ikenberry, G. John. 2008. The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive? *Foreign Affairs*: 23-37.
 - Seidel, Brina and Laurence Chandy. 2016. Donald Trump and the Future of Globalization" *Brookings Institute*. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2016/11/18/donaldtrump-and-the-future-of-globalization/>

- Fortna, Virginia Page. 2015. Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes. *International Organization* 69 (3): 519–556.

Monday, December 4

- **Term Paper Writing Day (No Class)**

Wednesday, December 6

- **Assignment:** Term Paper Due at 16:15 on Moodle

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Content belonging to instructors shared in online courses, including, but not limited to, online lectures, course notes, and video recordings of classes remain the intellectual property of the faculty member. It may not be distributed, published or broadcast, in whole or in part, without the express permission of the faculty member. Students are also forbidden to use their own means of recording any elements of an online class or lecture without express permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized sharing of course content may constitute a breach of the Academic Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Rights and Responsibilities. As specified in the Policy on Intellectual Property, the University does not claim any ownership of or interest in any student IP. All university members retain copyright over their work.

PLAGIARISM

Department of Political Science Statement on Plagiarism

The Department of Political Science has zero tolerance for plagiarism.

1. What is plagiarism? The University defines plagiarism as “the presentation of the work of another person, in whatever form, as one’s own or without proper acknowledgement” (Concordia Undergraduate Calendar 2020-2021, section 17.10.3 (<https://www.concordia.ca/academics/undergraduate/calendar/current/17-10.html>)). Plagiarism is an academic offence governed by the Code of Conduct (Academic). To find out more about how to avoid plagiarism, see the Concordia University Student Success Centre at: <https://www.concordia.ca/students/success.html>
2. What are the consequences of being caught? Students caught plagiarizing are subject to the following sanctions: (a) a written reprimand; (b) a piece of work be re-submitted; (c) an examination be taken anew; (d) a grade reduction or grade of zero for the piece of work in question; (e) a grade reduction or failing grade for the course; (f) a failing grade and ineligibility for a supplemental examination or any other evaluative exercise for the course; (g) the obligation to take and pass courses of up to twenty-four (24) credits in addition to the total number of credits required for the student’s program; (h) suspension for a period not to exceed six (6) academic terms. Suspensions shall entail the withdrawal of all University privileges, including the right to enter and be on University premises; (i) expulsion from the University. Expulsion entails the permanent termination of all University privileges. In the case of a student who has already graduated, the only two available sanctions are (i) a notation on the student’s academic record that he or she has been found guilty of academic misconduct; or (ii) a recommendation to Senate for the

revocation of the degree obtained. (Undergraduate Calendar, p. 58). Complete regulations can be found in section 17.10.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar.

3. See also The Political Science Department's "Resources on Avoiding Plagiarism" at: <https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/polisci/student-life/students.html#plagiarism> and the full (and updated) Academic Code of Conduct here: <http://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/common/docs/policies/official-policies/Academic-Code-Conduct-2015.pdf>.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

For undergraduate courses & courses that are cross-listed with graduate courses:

In the event of extraordinary circumstances and pursuant to the [Academic regulations - Concordia University](#) - Concordia University, the University may modify the delivery, content, structure, forum, location and/or evaluation scheme. In the event of such extraordinary circumstances, students will be informed of the changes.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Concordia University is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) as soon as possible so that this office can assist with the necessary accommodations.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

As a professor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. If you have experienced sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination, Concordia's Sexual Assault Resource Centre provides information available resources: <https://www.concordia.ca/students/sexual-assault.html>.