

POLI 205 – Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
Summer 2021

Instructor: Dr. Mark Paradis
Email: mark.paradis@concordia.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:45-12:45

TA: Eugene Danso
Email: eu_danso@live.concordia.ca
Office Hours: Thursdays: 11:45-13:45

Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45-11:30

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 a mixture of **asynchronous lectures** and **synchronous discussions/reviews**. Recorded lectures will be posted online before the start of the scheduled class time. Discussions will be optional. While no exam questions will be taken directly from the discussions, they will help students to gain a better understanding of the course material.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

For emails with the instructor or TA, every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours on weekdays. On weekends, the delay may be longer. For emails, you will be 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 or TA to look up something when you are unwilling to do so.

COURSE READINGS

All course readings will be posted on Moodle for download. Since this is a summer class, I've tried to keep the reading load manageable. 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 the portion of the readings covered in lectures.

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 May 27 at 10:00 and is due by May 29 at 10:00. 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 June 10 at 10:00 at the end of class and is due by June 12 at 10:00. 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. Reference lists and appendices do not count towards the page limit. I do *not* read any main body text beyond the 12th page. Papers are due June 22 at 11:30.

LATE POLICY

All assignments must be submitted on Moodle. Midterm 1 is due by May 29 at 10:00. Midterm 2 is due by June 12 at 10:00. Papers must be submitted on Moodle by June 22 at 11:30. 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

Tuesday, May 11

Introduction to the Course (8:45-9:15)

Introduction to International Relations

- Readings:
 - Snyder, Jack. 2004. One World, Rival Theories. *Foreign Policy* 145 52-62.

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>.

Thursday, May 13

Structural Realism

- Readings:
 - Waltz, Kenneth N. 1988. The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4): 615-628.
 - John J. Mearsheimer, 2001. Anarchy and the Struggle for Power. From *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, 29-54.
- Optional Readings:

- Walt, Stephen S. 1987. *The Origins of Alliances*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 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.

Class Discussion (11:00-11:30)

Tuesday, May 18

Liberalism and Domestic Politics

- Readings:
 - Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics. *International Organization* 51 (4): 513-553.
 - 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.
 - Owen, John M. 1994. How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace. *International Security* 19 (2): 87-125.

Thursday, May 20

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.

Neoliberal Institutionalism

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

Class Discussion (11:00 – 11:30)

Tuesday, May 25**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.

Thursday, May 27**Midterm Review (8:45-9:45)****Midterm Exam**

- Assigned: May 27 at 10:00
- Due: May 29 at 10:00

Tuesday, June 1**Political Psychology and Public Opinion**

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

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.
- Optional Readings:
 - Waltz, Kenneth N. 1990. Nuclear Myths and Political Realities. *American Political Science Review* 84 (3): 731-745.

- Tannenwald, Nina. 2005. Stigmatizing the bomb: Origins of the nuclear taboo. *International Security* 29 (4): 5-49.

Thursday, June 3

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.
- 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.
 - Friedman, Thomas L. 1999. DOScapital. *Foreign Policy* 116: 110-116.

Class Discussion (11:00-11:30)

Tuesday, June 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.
- Optional Readings:
 - Milner, Helen V. 2005. Globalization, Development, and International Institutions: Normative and Positive Perspectives. *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (4): 833-54.
 - Barnett, Michael N. and Martha Finnemore. 1999. The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations. *International Organization* 53 (4): 699-732.

Ethnic Conflict and Civil Wars

- Readings:
 - Collier, Paul. 2003. The Market for Civil War. *Foreign Policy* 136: 38-45.
- Optional Readings:
 - Posen. Barry R. 1993. The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict. *Survival* 35 (1): 27-47.

Thursday, June 10

Midterm Review (8:45-9:45)

Midterm Exam

- Assigned: June 10 at 10:00
- Due: June 12 at 10:00

Tuesday, June 15**Environmental Politics Simulation (8:45-10:00)****Environmental Politics – Lecture**

- 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.

Thursday, June 17**Term Paper Writing Day – No Class****Tuesday, June 22****Paper Due at 11:30****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

In the event of extraordinary circumstances and pursuant to the Academic Regulations, 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>.