

POLI 486
Advanced Seminar in International Relations (3 credits)
International Orders in Turbulent Times
Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Mark Paradis

Email: mark.paradis@concordia.ca

Office Hours:

- Fridays from 13:15-14:15 in H-1213
- Tuesdays from 16:15-17:15 in H-1125-28

Class Time: Tuesdays from 17:45-20:30

Class Location: H 621 SGW

This advanced seminar delves into the complexities of the international order in the face of historical and contemporary global challenges. We will analyze the interplay between hierarchy and anarchy in shaping international relations, and explore various historical world orders. A significant focus will be placed on the modern state system, the rise and characteristics of the liberal international order, and the contemporary debate surrounding its potential decline. Students will develop a critical understanding of the key concepts and theories that frame the study of international order and will be encouraged to apply these frameworks to analyze current events and emerging trends.

COURSE FORMAT

The course will be held in-person. Since this course is a seminar, attendance is required. Students are expected to follow all public health guidelines that are in place at the time.

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. 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.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation: 15%

This class is a seminar. Other than the first day of class, there will be no lectures. Therefore, attendance and participation are extremely important. Each week, students should come to class having read the assigned readings and prepared to discuss the topic of the week.

Weekly Questions: 10%

Each week, students will submit three (3) discussion questions based on the readings. These questions must be submitted on Moodle by 10pm the night before the class. Ideally, questions won't focus on a single reading, but will build links between multiple readings (although, questions on single readings may be acceptable). Each student must submit questions for 8 of the 10 classes.

Discussion Leadership: 10%

In order to help structure the discussion each week, 1-2 students will be responsible for leading the discussion. When leading discussions, students should take extra care in doing the readings. The weekly questions are available in order to help you structure the discussion. You may use none, some, or all of the questions to structure a coherent discussion.

Response Papers: 25%

Twice during the semester, students will submit a 5-7 page (double-spaced) critical response paper to the readings for the chosen week. The first response is worth 10%. The second response paper is worth 15%.

- Papers should *briefly* summarize the readings and then discuss areas of weakness, or opportunity for growth in the literature.
- For the summary portion of the response paper, students should summarize the key points of every reading for the week. Each summary should be approximately half a page (i.e. if there are 5 readings, the summary section should not exceed 2.5 pages).
- For the critique portion of the response papers, students should focus on 1-2 readings and analyze weaknesses and/or areas for future research in those papers. The entire critique section should ideally include 2-3 arguments. Critiques should focus on the logic of the author(s)' argument, not the argument/paper you wish they wrote.
- Response papers are due the week after the topic is discussed in class. You may not submit a response paper for the weeks you are discussion leader.

Research Paper: 40%

Students will write a 20-page research paper on a topic of their choice. Papers can either be a) empirical papers or b) a critical review of the literature on a particular topic. Empirical papers require the selection of a research puzzle, the identification of a theory that could explain this puzzle (not an entire paradigm), and provide evidence that tests the proposed theory. Critical review papers *do not* simply summarize the literature on the topic. Instead, it critically analyzes the literature and suggests a typology, areas of possible synthesis, critical weaknesses, or avenues for future research. Papers must be double-spaced with normal margins. References lists and appendices do not count towards the page limit. Papers are due on November 26 by the start of class.

LATE POLICY

Papers must be submitted by the end of class on August 16. 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 early.

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 7 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**September 3 – Introduction to the Course****September 10 – Hierarchy and Anarchy**

- Milner, Helen. 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique." *Review of International Studies* 17 (1): 67-85.
- Lake, David A. 2007. "Escape from the State of Nature: Authority and Hierarchy in World Politics." *International Security* 32 (1): 47-79.
- Mattern, Janice Bially and Ayşe Zarakol. 2016. "Hierarchies in World Politics." *International Organization* 70 (3): 623-654.
- Ikenberry, G. John and Daniel H. Nexon. 2019. "Hegemony Studies 3.0: The Dynamics of Hegemonic Orders" *Security Studies* 28 (3): 395-421.
- Nedal, Dani K. and Daniel H. Nexon. 2019. "Anarchy and Authority: International Structure, the Balance of Power, and Hierarchy." *Journal of Global Security Studies* 4 (2): 169-189.

September 17 – International Order

- Tang, Shiping. 2016. "Order: A Conceptual Analysis." *Chinese Political Science Review* 1 (1): 30-46.
- Butcher, Charles R. and Ryan D. Griffiths. 2017. "Between Eurocentricism and Babel: A Framework for the Analysis of States, State Systems, and International Orders." *International Studies Quarterly* 61 (2): 328-336.
- Ikenberry, G. John and Daniel H. Nexon. 2019. "Hegemony Studies 3.0: The Dynamics of Hegemonic Orders." *Security Studies* 28 (3): 395-421.
- Heiskanen, Jaakko. 2021. "Found in Translation: The Global Constitution of the Modern International Order." *International Theory* 13 (2): 231-259.
- McKeil, Aaron. 2021. "On the Concept of International Disorder." *International Relations* 35 (2): 197-215.

September 24 – Historical World Orders

- Butcher, Charles and Ryan Griffiths. 2015. "Alternative International Systems? System Structure and Violent Conflict in Nineteenth-Century West Africa, Southeast Asia, and South Asia." *Review of International Studies* 41 (4): 715-737.
- Phillips, Andrew and Jason C. Sharman. 2015. "Explaining Durable Diversity in International Systems: State, Company, and Empire in the Indian Ocean." *International Studies Quarterly* 59 (3): 436-448.
- Kang, David C. 2020. "International Order in Historical East Asia: Tribute and Hierarchy Beyond Sinocentrism and Eurocentrism." *International Organization* 74 (1): 65-93.
- Balci, Ali. 2021. "Bringing the Ottoman Order Back into International Relations: A Distinct International Order or Part of an Islamic International Society?" *International Studies Review* 23 (4): 2090-2107.
- Acharya, Amitav. 2022. "Before the 'West': Recovering the Forgotten Foundations of Global Order." *Perspectives on Politics* 20 (1): 265-270.

October 1 – The Modern State System (Part I)

- Teschke, Benno. 2002. "Theorizing the Westphalian System of States: International Relations from Absolutism to Capitalism" *European Journal of International Relations* 8 (1): 5-48.
- Reus-Smit, Christian. 2011. "Struggles for Individual Rights and the Expansion of the International System." *International Organization* 65 (2): 207-242.
- Hoffman, Philip T. 2012. "Was It Europeans Who Conquered the World?" *The Journal of Economic History* 72 (3): 601-633.
- Buzan, Barry and George Lawson. 2013. "The Global Transformation." *International Studies Quarterly* 57 (3): 620-634.
- Sharman, J. C. 2018. "Myths of Military Revolution: European Expansion and Eurocentrism." *European Journal of International Relations* 24 (3): 491-513.

October 8 – The Modern State System (Part II)

- Philpott, Daniel. 2000. "The Religious Roots of Modern International Relations." *World Politics* 52 (2): 206-245.

- Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2020. "Beyond War and Contracts: The Medieval and Religious Roots of the European State." *Annual Review of Political Science* 23: 19-36.
- Huang, Chin-Hao and David C. Kang. 2022. "State Formation in Korea and Japan, 400–800 CE: Emulation and Learning, Not Bellicist Competition." *International Organization* 76 (1): 1-31.
- Acharya, Amitav. 2022. "Race and Racism in the Founding of the Modern World Order." *International Affairs* 98 (1): 23-43.

October 15 – NO CLASS (Reading Week)

October 22 – Liberal International Order (Part I)

- Deudney, Daniel and G. John Ikenberry. 1999. "The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order." *Review of International Studies* 25 (2): 179-196.
- Ikenberry, G. John. 2009. "Liberal Internationalism 3.0: America and the Dilemmas of Liberal World Order." *Perspectives on Politics* 7 (1): 71-87.
- Sterling-Folker, Jennifer. 2015. "All Hail to the Chief: Liberal IR Theory in the New World Order." *International Studies Perspectives* 16 (1): 40-49.
- Reus-Smit, Christian. 2017. "Cultural Diversity and International Order." *International Organization* 71 (4): 851-885.
- Barnett, Michael. 2021. "International Progress, International Order, and the Liberal International Order." *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 14 (1): 1-22.

October 29 – Liberal International Order (Part II)

- Wohlforth, William C. 1999. "The Stability of a Unipolar World." *International Security* 24 (1): 5-41.
- Ikenberry, G. John. 2004. "Liberalism and Empire: Logics of Order in the American Unipolar Age." *Review of International Studies* 30 (4): 609-630.
- Monteiro, Nuno P. 2011. "Unrest Assured: Why Unipolarity Is Not Peaceful." *International Security* 36 (3): 9-40.
- Parmar, Inderjeet. 2018. "The US-Led Liberal Order: Imperialism by Another Name?" *International Affairs* 94 (1): 151-172.

November 5 – End of the Liberal International Order? (Part I)

- MacDonald, Paul K. and Joseph M. Parent. 2011. "Graceful Decline? The Surprising Success of Great Power Retrenchment." *International Security* 35 (4): 7-44.
- Ikenberry, G. John. 2018. "The End of Liberal International Order?" *International Affairs* 94 (1): 7-23.
- Mearsheimer, John J. 2019. "Bound to Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Liberal International Order." *International Security* 43 (4): 7-50.
- Norrlof, Carla and William C. Wohlforth. 2019. "Is US Grand Strategy Self-Defeating? Deep Engagement, Military Spending and Sovereign Debt." *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. 36 (3): 227-247.
- Lake, David A., Lisa L. Martin, and Thomas Risse. 2021. "Challenges to the Liberal Order: Reflections on International Organization." *International Organization* 75 (2): 225-257.

November 12 – Paper Workshop

November 19 – End of the Liberal International Order? (Part II)

- Linklater, Andrew. 1996. "Citizenship and Sovereignty in the Post-Westphalian State." *European Journal of International Relations* 2 (1): 77-103.
- Drezner, Daniel W. 2004. "The Global Governance of the Internet: Bringing the State Back In." *Political Science Quarterly* 119 (3): 477-498.
- Kornprobst, Markus and T.V. Paul. 2021. "Globalization, Deglobalization and the Liberal International Order." *International Affairs* 97 (5): 1305-1316.
- Gordon, David J. and Kristin Ljungkvist. 2022. "Theorizing the Globally Engaged City in World Politics." *European Journal of International Relations*. 28 (1): 58-82.
- Paris, Roland. 2020. "The Right to Dominate: How Old Ideas About Sovereignty Pose New Challenges for World Order." *International Organization* 74 (3): 453-489.

November 26 – The Rise of China and Other Challengers

- Tammen, Ronald L. and Jacek Kugler. 2006. "Power Transition and China-US Conflicts." *Chinese Journal of International Politics* 1: 35-55.
- Acharya, Amitav. 2017. "After Liberal Hegemony: The Advent of a Multiplex World Order." *Ethics & International Affairs* 31 (3): 271-285.
- Hurrell, Andrew. 2018. "Beyond the BRICS: Power, Pluralism, and the Future of Global Order." *Ethics & International Affairs* 32 (1): 89-101.
- Mearsheimer, John J. 2021. "The Inevitable Rivalry: America, China, and the Tragedy of Great-power Politics." *Foreign Affairs* 100 (6): 48-59.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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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>.