

## **POSC 170 International Relations and World Politics**

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Office hours: Mon, Wed, 11:30am-13:00pm, and by appt.

### **Course Description**

This course will attempt to provide a reasonably comprehensive survey of the study of world politics, with an emphasis on theories of international relations, and violence. Nonetheless, three things should be kept in mind. First, in one semester, it is possible to only scratch the surface of what is a complex and extensive literature. Second, any introductory course on IR inevitably will be structured by the instructor's biases. Some topics and levels of analysis will receive emphasis here that might well be slighted by other instructors. A number of topics, equally inevitably, will simply be ignored. Finally, an exposure to the nooks and crannies of a subfield should help sensitize students to the virtues and liabilities of various approaches and analyses. By the time the course is over, the hope is that students will have gained a theoretical understanding of the dynamics at play in world politics and sharp intellectual tools to approach these dynamics and make sense out of the apparent chaos of international relations.

### **Required Text**

Scott Burchill et.al. *Theories of International Relations*. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan. 2009.

Jack Levy and William Thompson. *Causes of War*. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell. 2010.

(I will scan and upload the other required texts as needed)

### **Course Requirements**

*Class attendance (10% of your final grade)*

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session. Each student starts the class with 10 attendance point. You will lose 0.5 points from your attendance grade every time you are absent. For instance if you miss 4 classes you will receive 8 instead of 10 attendance points. Only documented absences will be accepted (e.g. doctor's note).

*Participation (10% of your final grade)*

Students are expected to participate actively in the class. I will be asking you to contribute to class discussions and will invite you to express your opinion on required readings or on related events unfolding as the course goes on.

*Quizzes (20% of your final grade)*

Throughout the semester you will take two quizzes. They will have several components such as multiple choice questions, short answers, true/false questions and so forth. You will be tested to see whether you understood the general line of argument of a theory or the main events that shaped the outlook of a historical turning point.

*Mid-term (20 % of your final grade)*

The Mid-term will be divided into two parts: 1) A series of questions to which you will be expected to reply with short answers. The questions will cover all the material discussed in class from the first lecture to the last. 2) An essay you will be asked to write and which will test your ability to think critically on the material we covered. Reading the material and taking notes in class is indispensable to do well in the exam, but it takes more than just that. You must demonstrate an ability to reflect analytically on the topic and express your own opinions and ideas. You will only be responsible for the required reading. The recommended reading is for your own intellectual development, but will not be included in the final exam.

*Final exam (40% of your final grade)*

Same structure as the mid-term.

**What is expected of you as you do the readings?**

As you read, you will be expected to think critically on the articles by asking yourselves the following questions:

- 1) What is the author's main argument?
- 2) Do I find that argument convincing or not? Why?
- 3) What alternative explanations can be thought of for the author's evidence?
- 4) What are the implications of the argument made by the author?

## **Academic Integrity**

All work submitted by you is assumed to be your own original work that has not been submitted for another class. Any words, ideas, data, images, or other material borrowed from other sources must be properly attributed. All permitted collaboration with others must still be acknowledged. The use of unauthorized materials for homework or for exams is strictly prohibited. Any cases of suspected dishonesty will be forwarded to the Academic Standing Committee, as required by [Carleton's policy on academic integrity](#). Confirmed cases of dishonesty will result in a grading penalty that may range from a failing grade for the assignment to failure of the course.

## **Readings and Exams**

**1-Sept 15:** No reading assigned.

**2- Sept 17: Theories of IR: Realism (1)**

Mingst and Arreguin-Toft: Chapter 3 (pp79-86)

Daddow: Chapter 6 (pp80-92)

**3- Sept 19: Theories of IR: Realism (2)**

Burchill et al: Chapter 2 (pp31-56)

**4- Sept 22: Theories of IR: Realism (3)**

Levy and Thompson: Chapter 2 (pp28-54)

**5-Sept 24:** Documentary and class discussion

**6- Sept 26: Theories of IR: Liberalism (1)**

Mingst and Arreguin-Toft: Chapter 3 (pp86-92)

Dunne et al: Chapter 10 (pp 178-194)

**7-Sept 29: Theories of IR: Liberalism (2)**

Burchill et al: Chapter 3 (pp57-85)

**8-Oct1: Theories of IR: Constructivism (1)**

Mingst and Arreguin-Toft: Chapter 3 (pp95-100)

Dunne et al: Chapter 9 (pp178-194)

**9-Oct3: Theories of IR: Constructivism (2)**

Burchill et al: Chapter 9 (pp212-236)

Dunne et al: Chapter 10 (pp195-212)

**10-Oct6: Theories of IR: The Radical Approaches (1) + (QUIZZ1).**

Mingst and Arreguin-Toft: Chapter 3 (pp92-95)

Dunne et al: Chapter 8 (pp157-174)

**11-Oct 8: Theories of IR: Theory in Action** – How can we use theories to explain the 2003 invasion of Iraq; or the Rise of China; or the War on Terror?

Mingst and Arreguin-Toft: Chapter 3 (pp100-104)

Dunne et al: Chapter 4 (pp89-91)

Dunne et al: Chapter 8 (pp170-173)

**12- Oct 10: Levels of Analysis 1: the Individual Level: Levy and Thompson: Chapter 5**

(pp128-164)

**13-Oct 13: Levels of Analysis 2: the Organizational Level: Levy and Thompson: Chapter 6**

(pp162-185)

**14-Oct 15: Levels of Analysis 3: the State and Societal Level: Levy and Thompson: Chapter 4**

(pp83-127)

**15- Oct 17: In class preparation for Mid-Term**

**16-Oct 20: Mid-Term**

**17-Oct 22: Civil Wars (1)**

Kalyvas *in* Boix and Stokes (pp416-434)

**18-Oct 24: Civil Wars (2)**

Levy and Thompson (pp 186-204)

**19-Oct 27: Civil Wars (3)**

Midlarsky (pp 193-226)

**20-Oct 29: Documentary and discussion**

**21-Oct 31: Ethnic Conflicts (1)**

Kaufman (pp1-48)

**22-Nov3: Ethnic Conflicts (2)**

Petersen (pp 17-84)

**23-Nov 5: Ethnic Conflicts (3) + (QUIZZ2)**

Kaufman *in* Walter and Snyder (pp 221-260)

**24-Nov 7:** Documentary and discussion

**25-Nov 10: Terrorism (1)**

O'neil (pp 277 – 308)

**26- Nov 12: Terrorism (2)**

Wilkinson in Cavelti and Mauer (pp 129-138)

**27- Nov 14:** Documentary and discussion

**28- Nov 17: Organized Crime (1)**

Phill Williams in Cavelti and Mauer (pp 149 – 158)

**29- Nov 19: Nuclear Weapons and Proliferation (1)**

Wirtz in Cavelti and Mauer (pp139-148)

**30- Nov 21: In class preparation for Final exam**

**31- Nov 24: Final**