

International Relations I

Actors, Structures, Processes

POLI 2383.1

3.0 credit hours

Prerequisite: 3 credit hours at the 1000 level in POLI

Academic Calendar Course Description: Students are introduced to the field of International Relations with an emphasis on the main political actors, the dominant international structures, and central global processes of international and world politics.

The field of International Relations is one of four areas of study in the discipline of Political Science. The overall objective of this course is to serve as an initial foundation for understanding the field.

This course operates in a blended learning environment which means that the course site in Brightspace* is an integral part of the course. It serves as both: (1) the home for course resources and material, including announcements, grades and the cumulative online quiz; and (2) the method by which I communicate with you on an ongoing basis, not only in posting detailed requirements covered in class, but also in framing and following up discussions and questions with news articles or additional material as well as my responses or thoughts. This helps to keep a dynamic learning environment in the course.

*Brightspace is the university's learning management system and every student should know how to access and use it. For specific help, go to <https://studio.smu.ca/brightspace/> or visit the Software and Application Support Centre in Atrium 107.



REQUIRED BOOK:

McGlinchey, Stephen, ed. 2017. *International Relations*. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing.

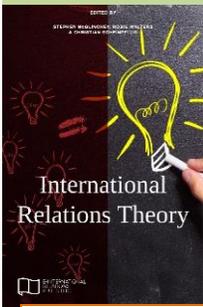
Available free to download at

<https://www.e-ir.info/publication/beginners-textbook-international-relations/>

Course Times and Location:
T, Th 1:00-2:15 pm; LA 171

Syllabus Contents

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McGlinchey, Stephen, Rosie Walters and Christian Scheinpflug, eds. 2017. *International Relations Theory*. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing.

Selected chapters required
Available free to download at <https://www.e-ir.info/publication/international-relations-theory/>

Course Evaluation

WORK	DESCRIPTION	DATE	VALUE
In-Class Work and Activities (20%)	Discussions, Think-Pair-Share, Quickwrites, Attendance	Throughout the term	20%
Pop Quizzes on Readings (40%)	Five (5) unannounced reading quizzes with the best 4 counted -each quiz is worth 10% and is composed of the same three questions on the reading due on that day (quiz template posted in Brightspace) -students either take the quiz the first 30 minutes of class <u>OR</u> submit a hard copy of prepared responses (300-500 words, 12 font, Times New Roman, single-spaced), at the beginning of class -students who submit a reading quiz may leave and return to the classroom after 30 minutes	Sept 18-Nov 6 (Eleven [11] possible dates for pop quizzes)	10%
		-Sept 18 -Sept 20 -Sept 27 -Oct 2 -Oct 4 -Oct 9 -Oct 11 -Oct 16 -Oct 23 -Oct 30 -Nov 6	10%
			10%
			10%
Group Research Poster and Presentation (30%)	Group Research Poster	Nov 20	10%
	Group Research Presentation (15-20 mins)	Nov 22, Nov 27, or Nov 29 (to be assigned)	10%
	Group assigned grade	Nov 29	10%
Cumulative Online Quiz (10%)	30-minute quiz, 20 multiple-choice and true/false questions	Available Nov 30, 5:00 pm until Dec 3, 12:00 noon	10%
			100%

Teaching and Learning

POLI 2383 is an introductory course to the study of International Relations (IR), and it is one of the foundational courses in the Political Science program at Saint Mary's. I have two primary teaching objectives for the course: (1) to foster student practice in regularly preparing for class by doing the readings; and (2) to facilitate a cohort-based, collaborative learning environment for students through group work.

This course focuses on nurturing specific skills centred on deep reading and group collaboration. As your *International Relations* textbook points out in the "Getting Started" section (p. 1-6), by reading the book closely you will go "from no knowledge to competency" (p. 1), learning key terms and becoming acquainted with the "language" of the IR field. As you do so, you will be given "sufficient context for you to think for yourself" (p. 3) and to conduct further research on a topical issue as a member of a group. Being able to read deeply and to work productively in a group are key elements of student (and life) success.

By placing a great deal of weight on in-class work and activities, I expect you to attend class faithfully and to participate actively in groups. I will give you the opportunity to choose your own groups for the research poster and presentation, so use the classroom to develop relationships with your peers. Try to be aware of each other's "Striving Style" (leader, socializer, performer, adventurer, artist, intellectual, visionary, and/or stabilizer) because some styles work better together than others. I will deal with different approaches to collaboration as part of your learning environment.



Group Research Poster and Presentation

What is a research poster? "A poster is a snapshot of your research. It is neither as detailed as an article nor as brief as an abstract. The goal is [to] provide enough information so that a detailed discussion can be carried out based on it, yet remain short enough that someone can scan the poster in a few minutes and understand what your [group's] research is about."

See <https://library.mtroyal.ca/c.php?g=436471&p=2975480>

I will provide detailed guidelines on both the group research poster and presentation in the course. You will have the opportunity on Tuesday, September 25, in class to begin to know your peers and to form groups. You will also have the opportunity to explore what it takes to put together a good research poster as well as how to make a good presentation.

You will have until Thursday, October 18, in class to decide on your group, and after that date, those of you who are not part of a group will be assigned to one.

The research poster expo of the course will be on Tuesday, November 20, when everyone in the class will have the opportunity to see all the group posters before presentations on November 22, 27 and 29.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, cheating, falsification, and tampering are not only serious academic offences punishable by the university but also unethical acts: they are simply wrong and they have no place in the university. The *Academic Calendar 2018-2019* is clear about each student's academic responsibility and specific examples of academic offences (p. 19-20) are posted in Brightspace. If you have any questions on what constitutes an academic offence, please come see me. I care about how hard students work so, in fairness to all, any offence will result in an "F."



Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is defined in the *Academic Calendar 2018-2019* (p. 19) as resting on five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

Fairness is an important aspect of how I teach the course. You are required to attend classes and to meet deadlines. The reason why I do not have a late policy for work is because, in fairness to all members of the class, I only allow make-ups, give extensions and/or excuse class absences in cases of serious illness or extenuating circumstances. I expect you to organize, and prioritize, your work. You are required to keep up regularly with the work in this course. Come see me if you find yourself falling behind.

The development of peer relationships is an important part of this course. Always treat each other with courtesy and respect, listening carefully to each other's contributions and taking care to be attentive to the range of experiences and perspectives both in your group and in the class as a whole.

A university, at its core, is a *community* of learners, and I want you to feel that you are not only part of the Saint Mary's community, but also an important member of this class.

The grading for this course is based on Academic Regulation 5a (p. 32) which is more fully explained in "Grading Guidelines" on the Department of Political Science website: <http://www.smu.ca/academics/departments/political-science-undergraduate-courses.html>.

Political Science

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed 12:30-3:30 pm
or by appointment

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

Shirayev, Eric B. And Vladislav M. Zubok. 2016. *International Relations*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Shirayev, Eric B. And Vladislav M. Zubok. 2016. *Current Debates in International Relations*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Drezner, Daniel. 2015. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* (Revived Edition). Princeton: Princeton University Press.

On Reserve at the Library

Safe and Respectful Saint Mary's
<http://www.smu.ca/about/safety-videos.html>



Course Outline (Fall 2018)

DATE	TOPIC AND READING	CHAPTER
Sept 6	Syllabus and Introductions	
Sept 11	The Making of the Modern World	Chap 1
Sept 13	Diplomacy	Chap 2
Sept 18	One World, Many Actors	Chap 3*
Sept 20	International Relations Theory	Chap 4*
Sept 25	Group Learning: Formation, Poster and Presentation	
Sept 27	Realism	<i>IR Theory</i> , Chap 1*
Oct 2	Liberalism	<i>IR Theory</i> , Chap 2*
Oct 4	Constructivism	<i>IR Theory</i> , Chap 4*
Oct 9	Marxism	<i>IR Theory</i> , Chap 5*
Oct 11	Feminism	<i>IR Theory</i> , Chap 8*
Oct 16	International Security	John Baylis, "International and Global Security" (Brightspace)*
Oct 18	International Security (cont'd)	
Oct 23	International Law	Chap 5*
Oct 25	International Organizations	Chap 6
Oct 30	Global Political Economy	Chap 8*
Nov 1	Global Political Economy (cont'd)	
Nov 6	Religion and Culture	Chap 9*
Nov 8	Global Civil Society	Chap 7
Fall Break – No Classes Nov 12-18		
Nov 20	Group Research Poster Expo	
Nov 22- Nov 29	Group Research Presentations	
Cumulative Online Quiz Available Nov 30, 5:00 pm until Dec 3, 12:00 noon		
*Possible Pop Quiz on Reading		