

**INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GLOBAL POLITICS  
POL 2103 E  
WINTER 2021**

**PROFESSOR TYLER ATTWOOD  
SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES**

**Course schedule:** Wednesdays 1:00-2:20pm & Fridays 11:30am-12:50pm

**Course location:** Online/Virtual

**Office:** My home!

**Office hours:** Mondays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm & Wednesdays 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm (see the virtual office hours section below for more information)

**Telephone:** n/a

**E-mail:** [Tyler.Attwood@uottawa.ca](mailto:Tyler.Attwood@uottawa.ca)

**Teaching Assistants:** Ebby Abramson ([eabra059@uottawa.ca](mailto:eabra059@uottawa.ca)); Alexandra Ledbury ([aledb100@uottawa.ca](mailto:aledb100@uottawa.ca)); Elizaveta Cheryachukina ([echer016@uottawa.ca](mailto:echer016@uottawa.ca))

**Syllabus version:** 13 January 2021

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## Official Course Description

Study of international relations & the dynamics within global order with an emphasis on key concepts, theories & analytic frameworks. Analysis of contemporary issues & their impact on globalization & global relations (INT)

## General and Specific Course Objectives

This course gives students a broad introduction to the theory and practice of International Relations (IR). Emphasis is placed on key concepts, units of analysis, major debates in the field, and competing theories and analytical frameworks. The course aims to examine diverse ways of understanding what goes on in IR, who benefits, and why. Our survey will include establishing the boundaries and importance of the field; exploring how theory is used to explain, understand, and act within global politics; using the levels of analysis framework to think about global events; exploring the history of the nation-state and beyond in an era of globalization; how war and security impact the system and how they can be understood; and the value of a global political economy approach to understanding trade, finance, production, debt, and other topics.

Throughout the course we examine ways in which the study and practice of IR has broadened to encompass a variety of issues and actors beyond the traditional state-centric focus, making the label 'global politics' a more accurate description of the field in the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century. IR has always been more than an isolated, ivory tower subject of study, and IR theory is connected to real world events and processes via the halls of government, the project offices of non-governmental organizations, and the boardrooms of transnational corporations. Therefore, one goal of the course will be to highlight these interconnections between theory and practice, both past and present.

## Learning Objectives and Goals

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- ❖ Compare and contrast the key assumptions, strengths, and weaknesses of the major theories in IR
- ❖ Explain how theories try to understand and predict outcomes
- ❖ Identify and classify the main actors or units of analysis
- ❖ Distinguish the different levels of analysis and recognize their utility for various situations
- ❖ Evaluate the importance of major events in key historical periods
- ❖ Analyze the role of power, self-interest, ideas, values, institutions and identities in affecting outcomes
- ❖ Explain why and under what conditions cooperation or conflict results
- ❖ Discuss various influences on foreign policy decision making
- ❖ Appraise arguments around the relevancy and significance of international law and organizations
- ❖ Identify important areas of study within 'branches' of IR: Security, GPE, and International Development
- ❖ Recognize how 'globalization' has posed serious challenges to traditional views in IR

## Course Text

- ❖ ***Global Politics: Applying Theory to a Complex World*, Mark A. Boyer, Natalie F. Hudson, and Michael J. Butler, Oxford University Press, 2020, ISBN: 9780190655532**
- ❖ The paperback version of the textbook is available through **Benjamin Books** (122 Osgoode St.). You may order the physical copy of the book there and it can be shipped to you. You may also purchase the digital copy of the book through one of the sites listed below:
- ❖ **You can purchase the digital version here:** <https://redshelf.com/book/1317198/global-politics-1317198-9780190655587-mark-a-boyer-natalie-f-hudson-michael-j-butler>
- ❖ **Or here:** <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/global-politics-mark-a-boyer-natalie-f-v9780190655587?term=boyer+global+politics>
- ❖ **I strongly recommend that you buy and use the digital version of the book.** It is cheaper (up to 50% the cost of the paperback!) and has enhanced interactive features. You can take notes in the book, highlight sentences, etc.

## Brightspace/Virtual Campus

There is a Brightspace site for the course and you should check it frequently. The most up-to-date course outline, non-textbook readings, assignment guidelines, and other important documents are posted there. There is also a discussion forum for the assignments and current events. You are encouraged to participate in online discussions on the readings and course themes, news events, etc., and there is a participation component of your grade that involves discussion board engagement. I will send out announcements regarding new content, postings, and any changes such as cancelled office hours. Grades will be made available on Brightspace as assignments are marked. I strongly recommend that you enable notifications on the Brightspace course page, especially for announcements and when items have been graded.

## Components of Final Mark

- ❖ **DGDs (15%, 3 @ 5% each)** – Feb 5/10, Mar 3/5, Mar 24/26
- ❖ **Quizzes (15%)** – 1 per chapter (you must do 8 out of 9), due dates on schedule below
- ❖ **Essay (35%)** – due no later than Apr. 9
- ❖ **At-Home Final Exam (35%)** – due no later than Apr. 23 (questions will be posted Apr. 16)
- ❖ **NOTE:** The essay and final exam must be completed to successfully complete the course. Failure to submit an essay and/or the final exam will automatically result in a course mark of EIN (failure/incomplete).

- ❖ **NOTE:** You will have received 3 DGD marks (15%) and have done up to 7 quizzes (13%) by the March 26 deadline to drop a course without academic penalty.

## Notes on Grade Components

- ❖ **DGDs (15%, 3 @ 5% each)** – On three occasions we will break into smaller groups of around 20 students each and meet, using Zoom, in an 80-minute discussion group. The groups will meet during the scheduled class time. You will be sorted into groups randomly and this information will be available on Brightspace under “Groups”. No changing groups will be allowed to preserve numerical balance. Each of the TAs and I will run a pair of groups. Prior to the DGDs, you will receive a list of questions and other activities we will focus on in the meeting. Your mark for each meeting will result from attendance through the entire meeting and active participation, with more emphasis on the latter. The person who runs the DGD will determine your DGD mark. The dates for the DGDs are listed in the reading schedule below.
- ❖ **Quizzes (15%, 8 out of 9)** – You will take **one short quiz on each assigned chapter**. The quizzes may be taken at any time (once they are released) but should be finished by the due date noted on the quiz – **normally** this is 11:59pm Sunday following the consideration of the chapters in the reading schedule. For example, quiz 1 on chapter 1 (class on Jan. 15/20) must be completed by 11:59pm Sunday Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. Check the reading schedule below for due dates for all quizzes. Each quiz on Brightspace also notes the deadline by which to complete it. **Quizzes cannot be completed after the deadline has passed!** This is to give you an incentive to keep up with the readings. Therefore, I strongly suggest that you attempt them early in the week rather than at the last minute to avoid disappointment. You will take the quizzes on Brightspace (go to the Quizzes link at the top Nav Bar) and you have **90 minutes** to complete each quiz. The timer starts when you begin the quiz, and you can't pause! You have **2 attempts**, and the system will keep your highest score on the total quiz. All questions are multiple choice (4 choices, 1 right answer). Each quiz will be scored out of 10, and then converted by the system to the correct weight. The answers to all quiz questions can be found in the chapter the quiz covers. The system will point out the questions you answered incorrectly, but you may not receive the same questions on the second try. You are expected to use your book in answering the questions. **Remember, you may miss one quiz without losing any points from this assignment.** The system will drop your lowest quiz score (that is, the 0 once you skip one).
- ❖ **Essay (35%)** - You are required to submit a research essay toward the end of the semester. I will make available a list of suggested topics, although you are free to develop your own topic apart from the list. To avoid writing a paper that does not fit the course, I would suggest having your topic confirmed by your TA or Prof. Attwood if it is not on the suggested list. The paper is a straightforward research essay where you will describe the issue, including historical background, explore the main dynamics (driving forces, nature of interactions, full explanation of what's at work in the case), and propose some solutions to obstacles if appropriate (this will naturally vary based on the topic). **You will need a central thesis or main argument that you construct around the topic you have chosen.** In other words, you are not simply describing the case, but also using it to make a claim about the world of IR. You should employ a theoretical lens in explaining your case. Your use of a theoretical lens should be explicitly acknowledged, and you should be theoretically minded in your analysis. **Try to use a theory for your own understanding**, not just how others might have seen things or acted on things. This paper should be about 2250 words (+/- 10%). The paper must be submitted by **April 9<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm** (on Brightspace) to avoid late penalties. Late papers should be submitted on Brightspace not by email. Additional guidelines for the paper, including a list of possible topics, will be posted on Brightspace.
- ❖ **At-Home Final Exam (35%)** – The final exam questions will be posted on Brightspace on or before April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. You must submit your completed exam on Brightspace no later than **April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59 pm**. The final exam will cover material from the all the assigned readings in the textbook, any

additional readings assigned during the term, and the lectures. The exam format will consist of questions that will require written answers of varying length – some shorter ones (terms, concepts, simple one-part questions) and some longer ones (multipart questions of a more complex, comprehensive nature). Outside research or additional sources other than the course material is not expected, however if anything you use comes from external sources (including news/current events), you should provide citations. The textbook should be cited as a regular source would be, and for lectures you may cite in this form: (Attwood, <date>). **Note that I expect you to use the course material primarily** (textbook, etc.). If you do not do this, and only use outside sources, you will be penalized.

## Office Hours

Since our course will be entirely online, I will hold virtual office hours using Zoom. **You are required to book a 15-minute block of time during designated office hour times.** Office hour reservations can be made by simply emailing me. Once you have reserved a time slot, I will send you the Zoom meeting link. Days and times are as follows: (starting Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>). You may use video or not during the office hour visits, it is up to you (I will be). Of course, audio will be necessary!

## Important Policies

Any questions sent by email should receive a response within two business days or during the following class if taken place within the 48 hours following receipt of the email.

There will be a penalty for late submissions. Exceptions are made only for illness or other serious situations. **The late penalty for all assignments unless otherwise indicated is 5 points per day for the first five days, then 10 points per day after that.** For example, if a paper is 6 days late, it will be penalized 35 points out of 100. Merely having a lot of work in, or outside of, school is not a valid reason for an extension or a waiver of late penalties. Late assignments should be submitted in the manner prescribed in the instructions for that assignment.

University regulations require all absences from exams and all late submissions due to illness to be supported by a medical certificate (including the student's name, date of both the absence and the return to studies, medical consultation date, and physician's signature), by filling out a request for a Deferred Mark. Absence from an examination or test and the late submission of assignments due to exceptional personal circumstances must be justified in writing, by filling out a request for a Deferred Mark. The academic unit and the Faculty concerned reserve the right to accept or reject the reasons presented. Reasons such as travel, work and misreading of examination schedules are not accepted, except in exceptional and properly documented circumstances. I suggest that you advise me as early as possible if a religious holiday or a religious event will force you to be absent during an evaluation.

## Writing Style

I recommend APA, although you may use any style you prefer. You may wish to consult the Faculty's writing and style guide at: <http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/undergraduate/writing-style-guide>. See also: <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/writing/kit/referencing.php>.

## Deferrals

A Request for a Deferred Mark form must be completed by students for each request and for all exams, tests, assignments.

**The Request for a Deferred Mark form can be obtained at:**

<https://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/students/undergraduate-forms>. Once completed, the form with supporting

documentation (ex. medical certificate) will automatically be sent to the academic unit, which offers the course. The request must be completed within five working days of the date of the examination and must respect all the conditions of Academic Regulation I9.5 (<https://www.uottawa.ca/administration-and-governance/academic-regulation-9-evaluation-of-student-learning>).

Students who are excused for missing an examination (exams, tests, assignments) will be required to write a deferred exam, except where the professor offers a re-weighting scheme which applies to the student's case. Professors may decline to offer a deferred exam and instead re-weight the remaining pieces of work only if (i) the re-weighted scheme is indicated on the syllabus and (ii) it respects both the 25 percent rule (Academic Regulation 9.0) and the final exam rule.

## **PLEASE SEE THE END OF THE SYLLABUS FOR MORE DETAILS ON DEFERRALS**

The language of instruction for this course, including all readings, is English. However, per university policy, all students may write their papers/exams in either French or English.

## **Sexual Violence Prevention**

The University of Ottawa does not tolerate any form of sexual violence. Sexual violence refers to any act of a sexual nature committed without consent, such as rape, sexual harassment or online harassment. The University, as well as student and employee associations, offers a full range of resources and services allowing members of our community to receive information and confidential assistance and providing for a procedure to report an incident or make a complaint. For more information, visit [Sexual violence: support and prevention](#).

## **Beware of Academic Fraud!**

Academic fraud is an act committed by a student to distort the marking of assignments, tests, examinations, and other forms of academic evaluation. Academic fraud is neither accepted nor tolerated by the University. Anyone found guilty of academic fraud is liable to severe academic sanctions.

Here are a few examples of academic fraud:

- engaging in any form of plagiarism or cheating;
- presenting falsified research data;
- handing in an assignment that was not authored, in whole or in part, by the student;
- submitting the same assignment in more than one course, without the written consent of the professors concerned.

In recent years, the development of the Internet has made it much easier to identify academic plagiarism. The tools available to professors allow them to trace the exact origin of a text on the Web, using just a few words. In cases where students are unsure whether they are at fault, it is their responsibility to consult the [Writing and Style Guide for University Papers and Assignments](#).

Persons who have committed or attempted to commit (or have been accomplices to) academic fraud will be penalized. Here are some examples of the academic sanctions, which can be imposed:

- a grade of "F" for the assignment or course in question;
- an additional program requirement of between 3 and 30 credits;
- suspension or expulsion from the Faculty.

For more information, refer to the [Student's Guide to Academic Integrity](#) and the [Academic Integrity Website](#) (Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs).

## COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS

DATE	TOPIC	READING	NOTES
Jan. 13	Introduction, course overview	Preface, Chap. 1 pp. 1-8 + Additional readings (see Announcement)	
Jan. 15 & 20	Global Politics Matters	Chap. 1	<b>Do quiz 1 by Jan. 24</b>
Jan. 22 & 27	IR Theory	Chap. 2	<b>Do quiz 2 by Jan. 31</b>
Jan. 29 & Feb. 3	Levels of Analysis	Chap. 3	<b>Do quiz 3 by Feb. 7</b>
Feb. 5 & 10	DGDs	TBA	Groups A, B, C, D meet Feb. 5 Groups E, F, G, H meet Feb. 10
Feb. 12	A history of nation-states	Chap. 4	<b>Do quiz 4 by Feb. 21</b>
Feb. 17 & 19	No class – Reading Week		
Feb. 24 & 26	Globalization & Transnationalism	Chap. 5	<b>Do quiz 5 by Feb. 28</b>
Mar. 3 & 5	DGDs	TBA	Groups A, B, C, D meet Mar. 3 Groups E, F, G, H meet Mar. 5
Mar. 10 & 12	War & Terrorism	Chap. 7	<b>Do quiz 6 by Mar. 14</b>
Mar. 17 & 19	Security	Chap. 8	<b>Do quiz 7 by Mar. 21</b>
Mar. 24 & 26	DGDs	TBA	Groups A, B, C, D meet Mar. 24 Groups E, F, G, H meet Mar. 26
Mar. 31 & Apr. 7	GPE: The North	Chap. 10	<b>Do quiz 8 by Apr. 11</b>
Apr. 9 & 13	GPE: The South	Chap. 11	<b>Do quiz 9 by Apr. 18</b> <b>Paper due 11:59pm Apr. 11</b>

*The above reading list may be supplemented/alterd during the term as deemed necessary by the professor. The most recent copy of the outline will always be posted on Brightspace.*

## Policy on the 'EIN' grade for the School of Political Studies

**Course failure – EIN (F):** according to regulation 10.6 (<https://www.uottawa.ca/administration-and-governance/academic-regulation-10-grading-system>), a student receives the equivalent to a failure mark whenever he or she has failed to complete **a significant portion of the course assignments and/or examinations**.

**According to the policy established by the School of Political Studies**, a significant portion of the work is either one or more examinations (mid-term, final) or any work (quizzes, tests, presentations, research paper, etc.) **worth a total of 15% or more of the final grade**. Please, note that a denied request for a deferral may therefore lead to a failure mark.

## Policy on justification of late submission of assignments and take-home examinations for the School of Political Studies

The new deadline granted by the School will be equal to the number of working days included in the period of disability specified on the medical certificate.

The medical certificate (sent online by the student with the DFR form) **MUST** specify in accordance with academic regulation 9.5:

- the name of the student;
- **the date of both the absence and the return to studies;**
- the medical consultation date and the physician's signature

### Determination of the new deadline:

- If the date of both absence and return to studies are before the due date for the assignment: the new deadline will be calculated from the day following the original due date for the assignment or take-home exam.
- If the date of return to studies is during or after the due date for the assignment or take-home exam: the new deadline will be calculated from the day of the date of return to studies specified on the medical certificate.

**Please, note that in the case of a short-term absence, the new deadline established by this policy applies even if the request for a deferral has not yet been approved.**

### Example 1:

- Due date for an assignment: April 20, 2020.
- DFR form submitted on April 24, 2020 (as allowed by Academic Regulation 9.5).
- Disability period specified on the medical certificate: March 19 to 24, 2020 (**6 calendar days but 4 working days**).

**New deadline granted:** until April 27, 2020, at the same time as on the original due date (**4 working days following April 20, 2020 and assignment to be handed-in on the 5<sup>th</sup> working day following April 20, 2020**). If the assignment is handed-in after the new deadline, the penalty for late submission specified in the course outline may apply.

### Example 2:

- Due date for an assignment: April 20, 2020.
- DFR form submitted on April 24, 2020 (as allowed by Academic Regulation 9.5).
- Disability period specified on the medical certificate: April 20, 2020 (**1 working day**).

**New deadline granted:** until April 22, 2020, at the same time as on the original due date (*1 working day following April 20, 2020 and assignment to be handed-in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> working day following April 20, 2020*).

If the assignment is submitted on April 24 (*2 days later*) or at any time after April 22, 2020, the penalty for late submission specified in the course outline may apply.

## ***Resources for you***

**FACULTY MENTORING CENTRE** - <http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/mentoring>

The goal of the Mentoring Centre is to help students with their academic and social well-being during their time at the University of Ottawa. Regardless of where a student stands academically, or how far along they are in completing their degree, the Mentoring Centre is there to help students continue on their path to success.

A student may choose to visit the Mentoring Centre for very different reasons. Younger students may wish to talk to their older peers to gain insight into programs and services offered by the University, while older student may simply want to brush up on study and time management skills or learn about programs and services for students nearing the end of their degree.

In all, the Mentoring Centre offers a place for students to talk about concerns and problems that they might have in any facet of their lives. While students are able to voice their concerns and problems without fear of judgment, mentors can garner further insight in issues unique to students and find a more practical solution to better improve the services that the Faculty of Social Sciences offers, as well as the services offered by the University of Ottawa.

**ACADEMIC WRITING HELP CENTRE** - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/writing/>

At the AWHC you will learn how to identify, correct and ultimately avoid errors in your writing and become an autonomous writer. In working with our Writing Advisors, you will be able to acquire the abilities, strategies and writing tools that will enable you to:

- **Master the written language of your choice**
- **Expand your critical thinking abilities**
- **Develop your argumentation skills**
- **Learn what the expectations are for academic writing**

**COUNSELLING AND COACHING** - <http://sass.uottawa.ca/en/personal>

There are many reasons to take advantage of the Counselling Service. We offer:

- Personal counselling
- Career counselling
- Study skills counselling

**HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE** - <https://www.uottawa.ca/respect/en>

### **Mandate:**

To provide leadership in the creation, implementation and evaluation of policies, procedures and practices on diversity, inclusion, equity, accessibility and the prevention of harassment and discrimination.

### **Contact information:**

1 Stewart St. (Main Floor – Room 121) - Tel.: 613-562-5222 / Email: [respect@uOttawa.ca](mailto:respect@uOttawa.ca)

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS** - <http://sass.uottawa.ca/en/access>

The University has always strived to meet the needs of individuals with learning disabilities or with other temporary or permanent functional disabilities (hearing/visual impairments, sustained health issues, mental health problems), and the campus community works collaboratively so that you can develop and maintain your autonomy, as well as reach your full potential throughout your studies. You can call on a wide range of services and resources, all provided with expertise, professionalism and confidentiality.

If barriers are preventing you from integrating into university life and you need adaptive measures to progress (physical setting, arrangements for exams, learning strategies, etc.), contact the Access Service right away: in person in [our office](#) ; online ; by phone at 613-562-5976

**Deadlines for submitting requests for adaptive measures during exams**

- midterms, tests, deferred exams: seven business days before the exam, test or other written evaluation (excluding the day of the exam itself)
- final exams:
  - November 15 for the fall session
  - March 15 for the winter session
  - Seven business days before the date of the exam for the spring/summer session (excluding the day of the exam itself).

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE** - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/careers/>

Career Development Centre offers various services and resources in career development to enable you to recognize and enhance the employability skills you need in today's world of work.

**STUDENT RESOURCES CENTRES** - <http://www.communitylife.uottawa.ca/en/resources.php>

The Student Resources Centres aim to fulfill all sorts of student needs.

***uoSatisfACTION***

**SHAKE THINGS UP!**

Do you have any comments on your university experience or suggestions on how to improve it? **Tell us!**

<https://www.uottawa.ca/vice-president-academic/satisfaction?p=2>