

**POL 208Y: Introduction to International Relations**  
**Fall 2015**  
**Wednesday 10-12, MS2158**

**Professors:** W. Wong (Fall)

See [www.wendyhwong.com](http://www.wendyhwong.com) for contact info and office hours

A. Jurgensen (Winter)

**Teaching Assistants:**

Maika Sondarjee (Head TA) – [maika.sondarjee@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:maika.sondarjee@mail.utoronto.ca)

Gabriel Boulianne Gobeil – [gabriel.bouliannegobeil@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:gabriel.bouliannegobeil@mail.utoronto.ca)

Ajmal Burhanzoi – [a.burhanzoi@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:a.burhanzoi@mail.utoronto.ca)

Ben Cormier – [ben.cormier@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:ben.cormier@mail.utoronto.ca)

Aden Dur-e-Aden – [aden.dur.e.aden@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:aden.dur.e.aden@mail.utoronto.ca)

Michael Faubert – [michael.faubert@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:michael.faubert@mail.utoronto.ca)

Sara Lee – [Sg.lee@utoronto.ca](mailto:Sg.lee@utoronto.ca)

Yao Wen – [yao.wen@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:yao.wen@mail.utoronto.ca)

**Course Description:**

This is a course on the study of International Relations (IR). More accurately, it is the study of global politics, that is, going beyond the international (between states). This course introduces the basic theoretical frameworks, fundamental assumptions, and history of the sub-discipline of IR within political science. It then moves to “big themes” that we can use some of the tools of IR to address: Power, Inequality, and Conflict. Many of the weeks will assign a case to help us understand the theoretical discussion in lecture. Tutorial sections will also be given shorter, more specific readings that expand on the theory and cases from lecture.

Although a knowledge and interest in current events is helpful in the course, the point of the class is not to know the international headlines, but to understand how to analyze political events and their consequences. The course will offer a survey of the major theoretical, historical, and topical aspects of international relations. This is a second-year course, and designed for those who have already taken other university-level, writing-based classes.

**Readings:**

There are 2 sources of required readings for this course. It is expected that students will complete the assigned readings *before* coming to class.

For purchase at the U of T bookstore:

Frieden, Jeffrey A, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Interests*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. New York: Norton. (FLS). Also on reserve at Robarts. *Be sure you buy the SECOND EDITION.*

Everything else: Available on e-reserve through Robarts Library.

**Blackboard:**

You are REQUIRED to check this site regularly. ALL handouts and assignments will be distributed through Blackboard.

You must have a utoronto.ca account to access this service (please go to Robarts Library if you do not already have an account). It is your responsibility to log into Blackboard to access the information posted regarding the course (portal.utoronto.ca).

**Course Requirements:**

In this half of the course, you will be evaluated on the basis of one in-class midterm, a paper, and your participation in tutorial. The breakdown of your fall course grade is as follows:

Midterm 1 (Week 12):	25%
Paper 1 (due Week 7):	15%
Tutorial:	10%

Your marks from the midterm and paper will be added to your assignments from the Winter to determine your final mark. Please note that your tutorial mark will be assessed for this semester separately from the Winter semester.

All students' course grades will be given based on his/her performance on the assignments in the course, according to the above percentages. There are NO exceptions.

The midterm is a closed-book, closed-note test. The topics covered by the midterm will be clarified in lecture ahead of time. The paper topics will be distributed in advance of the due date.

Tutorial attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Your tutorial leader will discuss themes from the readings and lecture, and review any questions that students may have. You may have assignments designed to clarify challenging material. Your grade in tutorial is based on attendance, informed participation, and performance on in-class or take-home assignments, if applicable. **Attending fewer than 75% of your tutorials will lead to a tutorial grade of 0%.**

Tutorials will meet beginning Week 4.

**Accessibility Concerns:**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

**Grade Appeals:**

If you are unhappy with a grade on an assignment, you may submit a written appeal to your TA, explaining why you feel your grade on an assignment is unjustified. **You must submit this written appeal no later than two weeks after your assignment is returned.** Be warned: no regrades result in an automatic increase in the grade, as assignments must be evaluated anew. Your grade may stay the same, go up, or go down.

Please note: changes to student grades on assignments will only be considered if there is *demonstrable* clerical error in the calculation of a particular score. **You must submit a written appeal** in order to have a grade reevaluated.

If you are still unhappy after your TA's regrade, you may contact the Head TA to request an instructor regrade. These regrades will be granted only in cases where a regrade is deemed necessary by the Head TA or instructor.

### **Other Rules and Regulations:**

Please read the following carefully. By registering in this course, you agree to abide by the rules below:

- 1) All work must be submitted *on time*, on paper in order to avoid penalty. There are no exceptions. No assignments will be accepted via email, fax, or under the instructor's door. You must come to class and turn in your assignments or take tests.
- 2) ALL assignments completed at home MUST be turned in at the specified time. Failure to do so will result in counting the assignment as **1 day late**. See #3.
- 3) The penalty for work turned in after the stated deadline will be 4 points *per day*, in fraction or whole. This includes holidays and weekends. No grace period, unless you have been granted an extension.
- 4) Extensions will only be granted with "good reason," and only with permission of the Head TA in advance of the assignment due date. Having work responsibilities, multiple assignments/exams in this and other classes, or "being stressed" are not "good reasons." Extensions are rarely granted, and only under extreme circumstances. *You must show documentation of your reason for requesting an extension* by submitting a form to be found: <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>.
  - a. For paper extensions, please speak directly to the Head TA.
  - b. For midterm makeups, please speak directly to Head TA.
- 5) All at-home assignments are to be typed, 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1" (2.5 cm) margins. DO NOT fudge these measurements. Staple your assignment in the upper left-hand corner.
- 6) You cannot "make up" missed tutorials with alternative assignments. If you have reasons for not attending a tutorial (trips, appointments, etc.), you should talk to you TA *before* the tutorial to make arrangements. Be aware that missing more than 25% of your tutorials will lead to a tutorial grade of 0%.
- 7) **ACADEMIC HONESTY:** When you use other people's words and ideas, you must properly cite them, whether these words come from the readings, the Internet, or in class. Failing to do so constitutes plagiarism, and is a very serious academic offense. Please consult myself or your TA if you have any questions. See also: [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).
- 8) **ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) service are described on the [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) web site.

- 9) **Final grades are final.** Please do not try to negotiate your grade with the instructor or your TA. Grades are calculated according to the above percentages, assessing your performance on all of the class assignments. **THEY ARE NOT ARBITRARY.** You should ask for help *before* an assignment – we are always happy to answer your questions. Making the effort before the grades are turned in will always be more beneficial to you than making the case afterward for why you need extra points.

## **Schedule of Topics and Readings:**

### **Fall Term – What is International Relations?**

Week 1, What are we Trying to do in IR?  
FLS, Introduction

Week 2, Is IR “Science?”

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson. 2015. “Must International Studies be a Science?” *Millenium* 43 (3): 942-965.

Colin Wight. 2013. “Philosophy of Social Science and International Relations.” In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Eds. Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. 29-57.

*Case: The fiction of numbers?*

Peter Andreas and Kelly M. Greenhill. 2010. “Introduction: The Politics of Numbers.” In *Sex, Drugs, and Body Counts: The Politics of Numbers in Global Crime and Conflict*. Eds. Peter Andreas and Kelly M. Greenhill. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 1-22.

Week 3, Systemic Approaches: Realism and Liberalism

Jeffrey W. Legro and Andrew Moravcsik. 1999. “Is Anybody Still a Realist?” *International Security* 24 (2): 5-55.

Stephen M. Walt. 1998. “International Relations: One World, Many Theories.” *Foreign Policy* 110: 29-35.

*Case: Liberland*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/16/magazine/the-making-of-a-president.html?WT.mc\\_id=D-NYT-MKTG-MOD-36566-0815-PH&WT.mc\\_ev=click&WT.mc\\_c=](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/16/magazine/the-making-of-a-president.html?WT.mc_id=D-NYT-MKTG-MOD-36566-0815-PH&WT.mc_ev=click&WT.mc_c=)

Week 4, Social and Micro Approaches: Constructivism and Rational Choice

FLS, Chapter 2, 75-79

James Fearon and Alexander Wendt. 2002. “Rationalism and Constructivism: A Skeptical View.” In *Handbook of International Relations*. Eds. Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. 52-73.

*Tutorial:* What kinds of options exist to understand IR? What are the benefits and limitations of each, and which ones can we say are “outdated?”

Week 5, Power – What is it? Who has it?

David A. Baldwin. 2013. “Power and International Relations.” In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Eds. Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. 273-297.

Jessica T. Mathews. 1997. “Power Shift.” *Foreign Affairs* 76 (1): 50-66.

*Case:* Power of the people? What was #occupywallstreet?

<http://www.npr.org/2011/10/20/141530025/occupy-wall-street-from-a-blog-post-to-a-movement>

*Tutorial:* Who has power in IR? What does it mean to say that actor has it (and others do not)?

*Recommended:* Joseph S. Nye. 2008. “Public Diplomacy and Soft Power.” *Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science* 616: 94-109.

Week 6, Power – How can we use it? Can it be limited?

Andrew Hurrell. 2006. “Hegemony, Liberalism, and Global Order: What Space for Would-be Great Powers?” *International Affairs* 82 (1): 1-19.

*Case:* The Euro

Thomas Risse, et al. 1999. “To Euro or Not to Euro? The EMU and Identity Politics in the European Union.” *European Journal of International Relations* 5 (2): 147-187.

*Tutorial:* Why is there no North American Union, or no united North American state?

Listen to Freakonomics podcast, “Should the US Merge with Mexico?” *before* tutorial meeting! <http://freakonomics.com/2014/11/06/should-the-u-s-merge-with-mexico-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast/>

What did you learn? Is an “EU” solution viable in North America? What does an IR perspective add to this podcast?

Week 7, Material inequality and what we can do about it

**PAPER DUE – beginning of class**

FLS, Chapter 7, 10

*Case:* Coltan mining

Dena Montague. 2002. “Stolen Goods: Coltan and Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.” *SAIS Review* 22 (1): 103-118.

*Tutorial:* Is fair trade fair?

Listen to Center for Global Development podcast, “How Fair is Fair Trade – Kimberly Elliott” *before* tutorial meeting! <http://www.cgdev.org/blog/how-fair-fair-trade-%E2%80%93-kimberly-elliott>

What does it mean for something to be “fair trade?” Did your opinion of fair trade change as a result of this podcast and the material from this week? How? Is fair trade a solution to inequalities in trade?

Week 8, Status inequality and what we do with it

T.V. Paul, Deborah Welch Larson, and William C. Wohlforth, eds. 2014. *Status in World Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

Ian Hurd. 2002. “Legitimacy, Power, and the Symbolic Life of the UN Security Council.” *Global Governance* 8 (1): 35-51.

*Case*: Why host the Olympics?

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/10/magazine/does-hosting-the-olympics-actually-pay-off.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/10/magazine/does-hosting-the-olympics-actually-pay-off.html?_r=0)

*Tutorial*: Read this article (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/24/g7-countries-snob-putin-refuse-attend-g8-summit-russia>) and discuss the implications of kicking Russia out of the G8.

Week 9, Conflict – What is war?

FLS, Chapter 3, 4

*Case*: Wartime norms

R. Charli Carpenter. 2003. “‘Women and Children First’: Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-95.” *International Organization* 57 (4): 661-694.

*Tutorial*: What, in your mind, is the primary cause of war?

Week 10, Conflict – “Non-traditional” wars

**Guest lecturer: Prof. Ron Deibert**

FLS, Chapter 6 pages 242-263 *only*

Ron Deibert. 2015. “Cyberspace Under Siege.” *Journal of Democracy* 26 (3): 64-78.

Robert A. Pape. 2003. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.” *American Political Science Review* 97 (3): 343-361.

*Tutorial*: Is the use of terrorism new? Are there overlaps between real world and cyberspace warfare, or are they completely different?

Week 11, Conflict – Preventing conflict and pressing for peace

FLS, Chapter 5 pages 188-213 *only*

Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan. 2014. “Drop your Weapons: When and Why Civil Resistance Works.” *Foreign Affairs* 93 (4): 94-106.

*Case:* Ending South African apartheid

Audie Klotz. 1996. "Norms and Sanctions: Lessons from the Socialization of South Africa."  
*Review of International Studies* 22 (2): 173-190.

*Tutorial:* What do we learn by looking at non-violence in international politics?

Week 12, Midterm test

Location TBA

\*Midterm reviews will be scheduled in advance of the test\*