University of New Brunswick – Fredericton
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Political Science 2703 – Fall 2013

Introduction to International Relations
Dr. Carolyn Bassett

Class Time:	M W F 9:30-10:20	**Location:**	C104
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Office Hours:	Wednesdays 10:30-11:20		

Calendar description: A general introduction to the theory and practice of international relations. Issues examined include: war, the global economy, international organizations, and the environment. The course is designed to be suitable for students who do not have a political science background.

Course readings:

John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (2011), *The Globalization of World Politics*, 5th edition, Oxford. The book is available for purchase at the university bookstore, and second hand copies may be available there or on line. We will also utilize some supplementary materials available via the course section on Desire2Learn.

Course requirements:

Defining terms and explaining concepts – 4 submitted in part I:	10%
Applying theories to an example – 3 x 15%:	45%
Take-home final examination	25%
Attendance:	10%
Participation in class discussion (normally Friday's class):	10%

You are expected to come to class with the assigned readings completed in advance. Attendance is mandatory and although you may have to miss an occasional class, absences amounting to more than 20% of the classes will be penalized. You are invited to raise questions and comments in lecture; and expected to do so in tutorial so ensure you prepare for the scheduled tutorials in advance.

Topics and readings by date:

Part I – key concepts and themes in international relations

September 9, 11, 13. Introduction to the study of International Relations – states, sovereignty, transnational actors and globalization. Readings: *The Globalization of World Politics* (GWP), chs 1, 20, 33.

September 16, 18, 20 (tutorial). War's centrality to international relations. Readings: GWP chs 3, 13.

September 23, 25, 27 (tutorial). Economic drivers of international relations. Readings: Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams (2007), *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics*, 2nd edition (Palgrave), chs 2 and 3 (available via Desire2Learn).

September 30, October 2, 4. International law, international institutions. Readings: GWP chs 17, 19.

Part II – paradigms in IR – learning and applying

In-lecture cases for this section: the lectures in this section will use the topic of cyberwar to explore the application of each of the theoretical approaches covered in the course to a real-world example. Background readings are available via Desire2Learn.

October 7, 9, 11, 16, 18, 21 (tutorial), 23 (tutorial). Introducing traditional paradigms of IR – realism, liberalism and neo-realism. GWP chs 5, 6, 7.

October 25, 28, 30, November 1, 4, 6 (tutorial), 8 (tutorial). Post-structuralist paradigms of IR – constructivism and post-structuralism. GWP chs 9, 10.

November 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25 (tutorial), 27 (tutorial). Marxist and political economy IR approaches; feminist approaches. GWP chs 8, 15, 16.

November 29, December 2 (tutorial). Paradigms of IR – comparing and assessing approaches as they apply to our cases. No additional readings (but make sure you're caught up)!

Part III – is sovereignty still relevant in a globalized world?

December 4. GWP ch 32.

Assignments

Assignment 1
In 200-250 words, answer one of the two questions assigned for the week. Your answer must be presented in sentences and paragraphs, be clear and concise, be based only on course materials and be referenced (using in-text citations – note: you must use the last-name of the chapter's author(s) for your citation, not the editors). The questions will be based on concepts introduced in the readings and the lecture, and will be posted on Desire2Learn; you will submit your response via D2L. Your answer will be due on the Monday following the week we cover the topic by midnight. Late penalty: 5% per day.

Assignment 2
This assignment requires you to explain how each of three of the theoretical approaches described in section 2 of the course interprets the significance of a current event or issue for global politics and its implications for future action on the part of states or other global actors. Theories to select from: realism, neo-realism or liberalism (due October 25); constructivism or post-structuralism (due November 13); political economy and feminist theory (due November

29); compare and contrast – final assessment (as take-home test – due December 18).

You will choose one of the following cases for the assignment, using the same case each time. You must use the assigned textbook chapter and the readings provided on Desire2Learn; you may add a maximum of three additional library sources. Each submission should be 700-1000 words – you won't have much space so focus on presenting how the perspective you've chosen would interpret the issue. The final take-home test will be longer – approximately 1500 words.

Cases to select from:
- What is the appropriate role of the international community in Egypt's revolution?
- Does the growing navigability of Arctic waters pose a threat to Canada?
- Are current mechanisms to regulate international migration appropriate?

Your answer will be due by midnight on the date specified, submitted on Desire2Learn. Late penalty: 5% per day.

Academic honesty and plagiarism:
The University of New Brunswick places a high value on academic integrity and has a policy on plagiarism, cheating and other academic offences.

Plagiarism includes:
1. quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement;
2. adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, arrangement, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement;
3. submitting someone else's work, in whatever form without acknowledgement;
4. knowingly representing as one's own work any idea of another.

Examples of other academic offences include: cheating on exams, tests, assignments or reports; impersonating somebody at a test or exam; obtaining an exam, test or other course materials through theft, collusion, purchase or other improper manner, submitting course work that is identical or substantially similar to work that has been submitted fro another course; and more as set out in the academic regulations found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Penalties for plagiarism and other academic offences range from a minimum of F (zero) in the assignment, exam or test to a maximum of suspension or expulsion from the University, plus a notation of the academic offence on the student's transcript. For more information, please see the Undergraduate Calendar, Section B, Regulation VII.A, or visit http://nocheating.unb.ca. It is the student's responsibility to know the regulations.