

POLI 205/4 D Introduction to International Relations (3 Credits)

Concordia University, Winter 2018

Wednesday, 13:15-16:00

Classroom: H-937

Professor: Dr. Ronald Behringer

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts and Science

Office: H-1225-34**Office Hours:** Monday, 11:00-12:00; 13:00-14:00**Telephone:** (514) 848-2424, ext. 2147 **E-mail:** ronald.behringer@concordia.ca

Course Description and Objectives: This course introduces the principal theories, concepts, and debates in the contemporary study of international relations. It provides an overview of international relations theory, foreign policy, international security, international political economy, and global governance. The objective of this course is to provide students with a basic theoretical, conceptual, and empirical grounding in the field of international relations.

Course Materials: The following textbook is required and can be purchased from the Concordia University Bookstore:

Spiegel, Steven L., Elizabeth G. Matthews, Jennifer M. Taw, and Kristen P. Williams. 2015. *World Politics in a New Era*. Sixth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 9780199965625).

Grading: The final grade will be calculated from the following:

Participation (10 %): Students will be required to attend every class and contribute in a positive manner to our educational environment. Three (3) points will be deducted for each absence that is not excused by the professor. For an absence to be excused, students must send the professor a medical note or other acceptable documentation as an email attachment within three (3) days of returning to campus. One (1) point will be deducted from a student's participation grade for each time that they arrive more than fifteen minutes late for class.

Midterm Test (30 %): There will be a one-hour midterm test covering the material in the textbook and course lectures. A preparation session will be held on Wednesday, February 7th. **The midterm test will be held on Wednesday, February 14th.** Students who miss the midterm test will need to provide the professor with a medical note or other acceptable documentation in order to write a make-up test.

Research Paper (30 %): Describe the contemporary relations (in 2018) between two national governments of your choice. The narrative should be 5-6 pages in length, and should briefly discuss as many relevant aspects of the relationship as possible (i.e., political, security, economic, and/or cultural). The paper should be stapled and have a

cover page, page numbers, and double-spacing. All references must be listed in a reference section at the end of the paper. There will be a preparation session on Wednesday, February 28th. **The research paper is due in class on Wednesday, March 21st.** The penalty for late submissions is one (1) point per business day. Students who have submitted late must immediately send the professor an email stating the date and time of submission and detailing the reason for the late submission. Late papers should be submitted either in class or to the professor's mailbox at the Department of Political Science. **No papers will be accepted after April 11, 2018 at 13:15.**

Final Exam (30 %): The three-hour final exam will be scheduled during the final exam period by the Examinations Office. There will be a final exam preparation session on Wednesday, April 11th.

Grading Scale:

90-100 %	A+	77-79 %	B+	67-69 %	C+	57-59 %	D+
85-89 %	A	73-76 %	B	63-66 %	C	53-56 %	D
80-84 %	A-	70-72 %	B-	60-62 %	C-	50-52 %	D-
						0-49 %	F

Regrading: Students may submit their work for review within three (3) days of the graded paper or test being returned to them. No requests for review will be accepted after that date. The request for review must be typed and submitted with the paper or test, and should indicate clearly where errors in grading were made, while referring to course materials to support the claim. In requesting a review, students acknowledge that the professor may regrade the entire paper or test, and that the grade may either increase, decrease, or remain the same.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

The Department has zero tolerance for plagiarism.

1. What is plagiarism? The University defines plagiarism as “the presentation of the work of another person, in whatever form, as one’s own or without proper acknowledgment.” (Concordia Undergraduate Calendar 2017–2018, pages 55-56). Plagiarism is an academic offence governed by the Code of Conduct (Academic).

To find out more about how to avoid plagiarism, see
<http://www.concordia.ca/students/academic-integrity/plagiarism.html>.

2. What are the consequences of getting caught? The Dean may impose the following sanctions on students caught plagiarizing:

- a. Reprimand the student;
- b. Direct that a piece of work be resubmitted;
- c. Direct that the examination be taken anew;
- d. Enter a grade reduction for the piece of work in question or enter a grade of "0" for the piece of work in question;
- e. Enter

a grade reduction in the course or enter a failing grade for the course; f. Enter a failing grade and ineligibility for a supplemental examination or any other evaluative exercise for the course; g. Impose the obligation to take and pass courses of up to twenty-four (24) credits, as specified by the Dean, in addition to the total number of credits required for the student's program. If the student is registered as an Independent student, the sanction will be imposed only if he or she applies and is accepted into a program.

An Academic Hearing Panel may impose the following sanctions:

- a. Any or all of the sanctions listed above; b. Impose a suspension for a period not to exceed six (6) academic terms. Suspensions shall entail the withdrawal of all University privileges, including the right to enter and be upon University premises; c. Expulsion from the University. Expulsion entails the permanent termination of all University privileges. (Undergraduate Calendar, page 56.)

Complete regulations can be found beginning on page 54 of the Undergraduate Calendar or at <http://www.concordia.ca/academics/undergraduate/calendar/current/17-10.html>.

3. See also The Political Science Department's "Resources on Avoiding Plagiarism" at: http://alcor.concordia.ca/~mlipson/01Plagiarism_Home.html

Course Schedule

Wednesday, January 10th:

A) Introduction.

B) Understanding International Relations.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 1 and Chapter 2, pp. 19-38.

I) Theoretical Paradigms

Wednesday, January 17th: Theoretical Paradigms.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 2, pp. 38-56.

II) Historical Background

Wednesday, January 24th:

A) From Westphalia till the Second World War.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 3.

B) The Cold War.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 4.

Wednesday, January 31st: Imperialism.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 5.

Wednesday, February 7th:

A) The Post-Cold War Era.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 6.

B) Midterm Test Preparation Session

*** Wednesday, February 14th: Midterm Test.**

*** Monday, February 19th-Sunday, February 25th: Mid-term Break (No Class).**

III) Foreign Policy and Security

Wednesday, February 28th:

A) Foreign Policy.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 2, p. 26.

B) Research Paper Preparation Session.

Wednesday, March 7th: Security.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapters 7 and 8.

IV) International Political Economy

Wednesday, March 14th:

A) International Trade and Multinational Corporations.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 9.

B) Economic Intergovernmental Organizations.

Read: Chapter 13, pp. 470-475.

Wednesday, March 21st: Development.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 10.

*** Research paper is due in class.**

V) Global Governance and Issues

Wednesday, March 28th: The United Nations.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapter 13, pp. 441-470.

Surf: United Nations website (un.org).

Wednesday, April 4th: The European Union.

Surf: European Union website (europa.eu).

Wednesday, April 11th:

A) Global Issues.

Read: Spiegel et al., Chapters 11 and 12.

B) Final Exam Preparation Session.

*** Final Exam: To be scheduled during the final exam period by the Examinations Office.**

List of Academic Services

- **Concordia Counselling and Development** offers career services, psychological services, and student learning services (<http://cdev.concordia.ca>).
- **The Concordia Library Citation and Style Guides** (<http://library.concordia.ca/help/howto/citations.html>).
- **Advocacy and Support Services** (<http://supportservices.concordia.ca>).
- **Student Transition Centre** (<http://stc.concordia.ca>).
- **New Student Program** (<http://newstudent.concordia.ca/>).
- **Access Centre for Students with Disabilities** (<http://supportservices.concordia.ca/disabilities>).
- **Student Success Centre** (<http://studentsuccess.concordia.ca/>).
- **The Academic Integrity Website** (<http://provost.concordia.ca/academicintegrity/>).
- **Financial Aid & Awards** (<http://web2.concordia.ca/financialaid/>).
- **Health Services** (<http://www-health.concordia.ca>).

NOTE: The professor reserves the right to make any modifications to the syllabus, including the due date of the research paper and the date of the midterm test, at his discretion. The professor also reserves the right to amend the schedule of meetings and assignments listed in this syllabus as might become necessary based on events throughout the semester. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced and students will receive an amended syllabus in writing. Copies of the most up to date syllabus can be found on the course website on Moodle.