POLITICAL SCIENCE 244
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: STATE BEHAVIOUR
Fall 2018

Prof. Fernando G. Nuñez-Mietz

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 2:35 - 3:25
Leacock 132

Office: Leacock 536
Office Hours: Mondays 4:00 - 5:30, or by appointment
Email: fernando.nunez-mietz@mcgill.ca
Telephone: 398-4400 (ext. 0763)

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to what we know about international politics and to the main theoretical lenses that we use to know what we know. After a critical survey of the main theoretical approaches to the study of world politics, the course invites students to revisit the history of modern international relations, and to discuss, in this context, specific theories of world politics. While not exclusively, special attention is given to questions of conflict and cooperation in matters of international security.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Readings

Students are responsible for all required readings listed in this syllabus. The reading load averages 85 pages per week. The following two required textbooks should be available for purchase at the Paragraphe and Le James bookstores:


All other required readings are available online through the McGill Libraries. Material listed as “further reading” is optional and its accessibility may vary from text to text.
**Assignments and grading**

Attendance is mandatory for both lectures and conferences. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, stay for the duration of the class period, and have read the assigned material.

**Participation in conferences (10%)**

Participation in conferences will be calculated based on the quantity and quality of the student’s contributions to discussions.

**Online quizzes (25%)**

There will be four online quizzes. They will consist of multiple-choice questions to be answered on *MyCourses*, which will cover the material from lectures, conferences, and the reading list.

**Research paper (25%)**

Each student should write a 3500-word paper addressing one of the research questions listed by the instructor. The paper is expected not only to provide an answer to the question posed, but also to demonstrate familiarity with, and comprehension of, the pertinent material studied in the course. The research paper must be submitted on *MyCourses* no later than November 20 (5:00 PM).

**Final Exam (40%)**

The final exam is a formal, 3-hour exam. It is a closed-book exam, and will cover all the material from lectures, conferences and the reading list.

**Grade Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in conferences</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online quizzes (4)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
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## CALENDAR (lectures and conferences)

### PART I – Making sense of anarchy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session date</th>
<th>Theme and required reading:</th>
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| **Wednesday, September 5**                                                                                              | Course introduction: Theorizing international politics
                                                                               *FLS – Introduction (pp. xx-xxxii).*
                                                                               
                                                                               *Further reading:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Friday, September 7</strong></th>
<th>International anarchy: Why is the world dominated by sovereign states?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>FLS – Chapter 1, pp. 2-41.</em></td>
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</table>
                                                                               *Further reading:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Monday, September 10</strong></th>
<th>Making sense of international politics: Rationalism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>FLS – Chapter 2, pp. 42-67.</em></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Wednesday, September 12</strong></th>
<th>Making sense of international politics: Realism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>FLS – Chapter 3, pp. 88-96.</em></td>
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</table>
                                                                               *Further reading:*


**Friday, September 14**

**NO CLASS**

**Monday, September 17**

**NO CLASS**

**Wednesday, September 19**

Making sense of international politics: Neoliberalism


*FLS* – Chapter 2, pp. 67-79.

Further reading:


Friday, September 21

Making sense of international politics: Game Theory


*FLS* – Chapter 2, pp. 82-87.

Monday, September 24

Making sense of international politics: Constructivism


Further reading:


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**PART II – International conflict and cooperation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session date</th>
<th>Theme and required reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 26 – October 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conference 1</strong>: Discussion – Mirror, mirror, on the wall, which is the fairest IR paradigm of them all? Elias Götz (2016), “Putin, the State, and War: The Causes of Russia’s Near Abroad Assertion Revisited,” <em>International Studies Review</em> viw009.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, September 28</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quiz 1 due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, October 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>War as bargaining failure (1): Incomplete information and war</strong> <em>FLS</em> – Chapter 3, pp. 96-117.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, October 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, October 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>War as bargaining failure (2): Commitment problems and war</strong> <em>FLS</em> – Chapter 3, pp. 118-133.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monday, October 15

**Hegemonic stability, power transition, and war**


*Further reading:*


Wednesday, October 17

**Making sense of international politics: The New Liberalism**


*Further reading:*


October 17-23

**Conference 4: Discussion – Is major war obsolete?**


Monday, October 22

**War as bargaining failure (3): Domestic politics and war**

*FLS* – Chapter 4, pp. 136-166.

Wednesday, October 24

**The democratic peace**

*FLS* – Chapter 4, pp. 166-181.

*Further reading:*


October 24-30

**Conference 5: Discussion – Does a “democratic peace” make sense?**

Quiz 2 due

International institutions and war (1): The balance of power

*FLS* – Chapter 5, pp. 184-203.


Further reading:


International institutions and war (2): Concerts, collective security, and the United Nations system

*FLS* – Chapter 5, pp. 203-231.

Further reading:


Conference 6: Discussion - *Is there a weapons taboo in world politics?*

Monday, November 5
Violence by non-state actors (1): Civil wars

*FLS – Chapter 6, pp. 234-264.*

*Further reading:*


Wednesday, November 7
Violence by non-state actors (2): Terrorism

*FLS – Chapter 6, pp. 264-287.*

*Further reading:*


November 7-13

**Conference 7: Discussion: How do you solve a problem like terrorism?**


Monday, November 12
International norms and international law

*FLS – Chapter 11, pp. 456-487.*

*Further reading:*


Wednesday, November 14
International human rights

*FLS – Chapter 12, pp. 490-529.*

*Further reading:*


**Conference 8: Discussion - Do Israel’s defense policies violate human rights?**


**Quiz 3 due**

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**PART III – The present and the future of international politics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session date</th>
<th>Theme and required reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, November 19</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rethinking systemic change: The end of the Cold War</strong></td>
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<td>Further reading:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, November 20</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research paper due (5:00 pm)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, November 21</strong></td>
<td><strong>(Neo-)Imperialism, hegemony and the Pax Americana</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Further reading:</td>
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### November 21-27

**Conference 9:** Discussion – The future face of international conflict


**Monday, November 26**

The post-Cold War momentum of collective security

*FLS* Chapter 5 (pp. 203-231).

*Further reading:*


**November 28 - December 4**

**Conference 10:** Discussion – The rise of China and the continuity of the U.S.-led international order


**Wednesday, November 28**

The (in)stability of unipolarity

*FLS* - Chapter 14, pp. 576-600, 611-625.

*Further reading:*


### Monday, December 3

No Class

### Tuesday, December 4

Quiz 4 due

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**Academic Integrity and Students’ Rights**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the
Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

*Note 1:* In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

*Note 2:* If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss the situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (398-6009) before you do this.

*Note 3:* If you are experiencing any problem, inside or outside the classroom, that is affecting your performance in this course, please do not hesitate to approach the instructor.