

POSC 170: International Relations and World Politics

Fall 2021

CMC 206

MW: 12:30PM – 1:40PM CST

F: 1:10PM – 2:10PM CST

Professor Summer Forester

Office: Willis 408

Office Hours:

Mondays 2:00PM – 3:30PM

Thursdays 9:30AM – 11:30AM

By appointment

For all office hours, please [sign up for a time using this link](#).

### Professor Forester's Welcome Message

Welcome to POSC170: International Relations & World Politics! In this class we will explore the foundational theories and practices of the discipline of International Relations. This course addresses topics of a geopolitical, commercial, and ideological character as they relate to world politics including: great power politics, international organizations, identity, and security. It also explores the dynamic intersection of world politics with war, human security, human rights, climate change, and the globalization of economic and social development.

Kudos to all of us for engaging with these topics while contending with a global pandemic, pursuing racial justice, and more. And navigating our own personal and professional commitments. I want to encourage you all to embrace chaos with a solid sense of grace, patience, and flexibility.

I have done my best to design the course so that everyone can be successful, regardless of personal circumstances. Communication will be key; please keep me updated about your situation in addition to reaching out to the other relevant offices on campus. If you experience significant technological problems that limit your ability to participate, please contact the ITS Helpdesk at 507-222-5999 or [helpdesk@carleton.edu](mailto:helpdesk@carleton.edu). For announcements of known technical issues, visit the [Helpdesk portal](#). If your personal situation (due to COVID-19 illness or other circumstances) begins to impact your ability to engage with the course, please contact the Dean of Students Office.

### Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

**Course Objectives:**

1. Introduce major theories and debates within the field of International Relations
2. To cultivate the conceptual and analytical tools necessary to analyze and thoughtfully discuss current events and global grand challenges

3. To clarify the ways in which international phenomena are deeply personal.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Understand the historical origins and evolution of both the dominant and heterodox theories in the field of International Relations
2. Sharpen the analytical skills necessary to read, comprehend, and synthesize scholarly articles on world politics in order to advance an argument
3. Understand and appreciate your position as a global citizen

## Ethics & Expectations

### **Confidentiality**

I believe in transparency and open communication, and strive to ensure you understand the purpose and intent of the readings, activities, grading, and other course-related materials/decisions. My goal is for us to create a collaborative environment where we can grapple with difficult topics and sharpen our intellect in a trusted and secure space. As such, I require that you treat our course, course content, and all communication (e.g., emails, Moodle posts, discussion forums, etc.) with confidentiality. I will not share your comments, communication, or other submissions and ask that you do the same for your colleagues and me.

### **Mutual Respect**

Treat each everyone in the class with respect. We will be discussing a variety of politically charged issues and I expect all of us to interrogate, critique, and discuss these issues in a safe environment free from judgement or fear of reprisal from any member of the class. In other words, I hope that you feel free to disagree with your colleagues, but I will require that you disagree *respectfully*.

### **What you can expect of me:**

- I will return assignments in a timely manner
- I will be available and accessible during my office hours. If you cannot meet me during my office hours, please do not hesitate to contact me and we will arrange for an alternative time to meet.
- I will strive to make this course understandable and accessible for everyone. If you have any questions about the content or structure of the course or about specific assignments, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always happy to help if you come to me *before* assignments or exams are due. Please do not wait to ask for help until after the due date – come talk to me before if you have lingering questions or would like me to elaborate on some aspect of the readings or an assignment.

## Course Components & Assessment

The requirements for this course involve both the completion of assignments on your own and your active and informed contributions to our class discussions. All of your assignments will be submitted electronically via Moodle. I will often provide in-text commentary or line edits for your written work. **Please submit your documents in Word (.doc or .docx).** Your grade will be based on the following requirements:

Overview:

<u>Participation</u>	25%
<u>Midterm exam</u>	20%
<u>Short Current Events Papers (3)</u>	30%
Special Issue of an IR Journal	25%

Required components:

- Topic Selection
- Annotated bibliography
- Draft of editor's introduction
- Final submission

## Description of Assignments

### *Participation (25%)*

A large portion of your grade is based on your willingness to contribute to and engage in our class. What does this require of you? You should prepare for and participate meaningfully in class every week, to the best of your ability. "Meaningful" participation comes in a number of forms: asking questions to clarify course topics, answering questions that I pose in class, drawing connections between course topics and current events, and/or participating respectfully in class discussions.

### *Midterm Exam (20%)*

You will take one exam in week four of the course. The exam will assess your grasp of the key concepts presented in the first three weeks of the course. The exam will consist entirely of essay questions. You will receive the exam questions on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, and your answers are due by 9PM on Monday, October 11. I will provide more in-depth instructions via Moodle.

### *Three Short Current Events Papers (30%)*

During the first week of the term, you will select one current event related to international politics (very broadly construed) that you will write about throughout the course. For example, you might choose to follow: reconstruction efforts Afghanistan; nuclear talks in Iran; Chilean mining prospects in the Boundary Waters; Russian influence in the US elections; or the effects of climate change in the Amazon. All of these are issues that IR scholars regularly study.

Over the course of the term, you will write three papers in which you apply different IR theories or concepts to the **same** current event you selected. Each paper should be between 500 - 750 words. By the end of the term, you should feel like an expert on your topic and be able to discuss the nuances of it from a number of different perspectives. I will provide prompts for each paper via Moodle.

### *Special Issue of an IR Journal (25%)*

You will design and curate a special International Relations journal issue on a topic of your choice. You will find seven academic articles (they *must* come from academic journals) that address some question,

debate, methodological approach, or issue in the field of International Relations and write a 1,500 word “editor’s introduction” to the selected pieces. Special issues are quite common in academic journals, though they tend to collate articles from a single journal. You, however, may include articles from many different journals.

You will submit your special issue in stages, starting with the topic that you’d like to pursue. I will provide more information on each component via Moodle as well as links to different special issues that will give you an idea of what I’m expecting you to produce.

### **Citation Style:**

Please adhere to the APA citation guidelines in your papers and other assignments:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html)

### **Grading Scale**

The course will follow a standard grading scale:

A: Achievement outstanding relative to the basic course requirements

A 93 or higher

A - 90-92

B: Achievement significantly above the basic course requirements

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C: Achievement meeting the basic course requirements

C+ 77-79

C 74-76

C- 70-72

D: Achievement worthy of credit but below the basic course requirements

D+ 67-69

D 63-66

D- 60-62

F Below 60

### **Additional Grading Policies**

1. I will not consider grade complaints if more than one week has passed after the assignment has been returned to you.

Before I review your grade, you must first:

- Wait 24 hours.
- Schedule a time to meet with me to discuss your grade.
- Submit a formal appeal in writing (email is sufficient—but be clear that it is the appeal in the subject heading) that clearly identifies content in the assignment and the reasons why you think your grade should be changed. These appeals should refer to specific things in the assignment, and not vague reasons like “I worked really hard.”
- The second grade, higher or lower, will become your grade on the assignment.

2. Murphy's Law<sup>1</sup> Deadline Extension: Over the course of the term, you have **one** no-questions-asked opportunity to submit an assignment 48 hours after the deadline has passed. You may only use this grace period once per term. However, we are showing up for classes in a pandemic. If you are struggling to meet a deadline, then please talk to me and I will do my best to accommodate you. But please be respectful of group-work situations. No one person should carry all the weight of the group!

## Resources & Well-Being

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Carleton College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Services office (Henry House, 107 Union Street) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, autism spectrum disorders, chronic health, traumatic brain injury and concussions, vision, hearing, mobility, or speech impairments), please contact [disability@carleton.edu](mailto:disability@carleton.edu) or call Jan Foley, Student Accessibility Specialist (x4464) or Chris Dallager, Director of Disability Services (x5250) to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

### **Academic Integrity**

In writing course papers, students must document all passages, paraphrases and/or ideas that are borrowed from any source, and direct quotations must be placed within quotation marks. Similarly, papers must represent research conducted for the course in which they are assigned and no other; it is not appropriate to submit a paper that has already been or will be submitted to another course. Finally, papers must be the product of students' own work. Papers written by anyone other than the student, including those purchased from commercial research services, are unacceptable.

All work is expected to be your own. Cheating, plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without properly citing them), and all forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will be strictly handled according to university policy. If you are uncertain, cite your sources! A discussion of plagiarism can be found at: <https://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity/>.

### **Well-Being**

During these particularly rough times, I urge you to make yourself – your own health and well-being – a priority throughout this ten-week term. It is important to recognize stressors you may be facing, which can be personal, emotional, physical, financial, mental, or academic (along with the global pandemic, struggles for racial justice, and a tense US election). Sleep, exercise, and connecting with others can be strategies to help you flourish at Carleton. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, feel free to contact me and/or pursue other resources, such as [Student Health and Counseling](#) or the [Office of Health Promotion](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Murphy's Law: anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.

An additional word<sup>2</sup> on wellness and health: Audre Lorde once said, “Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.” Please see your wellness as an act of power and perseverance. The core to your success. Hold each other – and me – accountable. Go for walks. Let your mind wander. Take a deep breath. Drink water. All of your work will wait for you, and your final product will be better when you are in balance.

## Weekly Readings & Due Dates (tentative!)

**Refer to the Moodle page for additional activities (e.g., videos, discussion forums, collaborative reading guides, etc.) These readings and due dates are all tentative and subject to change. Prof. Forester will alert you to any changes.**

### Week 1:

September 15 (Wednesday)  
Course introduction

September 17 (Friday): What is International Relations? *When* is International Relations?

Required readings

1. The discipline and evolution of International Relations (2 chapters)
  - a. Problems & Questions in IR
  - b. Historical Evolution of International Politics

### Week 2: Theories of International Relations

September 20 (Monday):

1. Beyond Eurocentricity in IR  
[Select current event for short papers](#)

September 22 (Wednesday):

Required readings:

1. [Global South Perspectives on International Relations](#)
2. Capan, Z. G. (2017). Decolonising international relations?. *Third World Quarterly*, 38(1), 1-15.

September 24 (Friday):

Required Readings:

1. From *International Relations Theory*: Introduction, Realism, and Liberalism

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<sup>2</sup> Thank you to Dr. Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve at Brown University and Dr. Simon Weffer at Northern Illinois Univ for this addition

Excerpts from *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*, D. Drezner (available on Moodle in a single PDF):

“The Realpolitik of the Living Dead”

“Regulating the Undead in a Liberal World Order”

“The Social Construction of Zombies”

### **Week 3**

September 27 (Monday): Constructivism

Required readings:

1. Chapter 4: constructivism Sarina Theys
2. Finnemore, M and Sikkink, K (2001). [“Taking Stock: The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics,”](#) *Annual Review of Political Science*, 4, pages 391 – 416.

**Short paper 1 due by 9PM on Monday, 27 September**

September 29 (Wednesday): Feminist Theories & Queer IR theory

[LGBT Politics, Queer Theory, and International Relations](#)

Tickner, J. Ann. 1992. “Engendered Insecurities: Feminist Perspectives on International Relations.” In *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security*, J. Ann Tickner. New York: Columbia University Press, Ch.1

Film: God Loves Uganda (available on Kanopy)

October 1 (Friday): Race and IR theory

**Select topic for special issue: submit via Moodle by 9PM on Friday, 1 October**

Required readings:

1. Duncan Bell (2013) Race and international relations: introduction, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 26:1, 1-4, DOI: [10.1080/09557571.2013.770297](#)
2. Errol A Henderson (2013) Hidden in plain sight: racism in international relations theory, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 26:1, 71-92, DOI: [10.1080/09557571.2012.710585](#)

Supplemental listening:

[Race and Securitization Theory from the podcast “Whiskey & IR Theory”](#)

### **Week 4: [WAR AND NOT WAR]**

October 4 (Monday):

Required readings:

1. Power Politics
2. Why are there wars?

October 6 (Wednesday):

Required readings:

1. Caprioli, M. (2003). Gender equality and state aggression: The impact of domestic gender equality on state first use of force. *International Interactions*, 29(3), 195-214.
2. Kroenig, "Why a strike is the least bad option" Foreign Affairs
3. Mandelbaum, "How to Prevent an Iranian Bomb," Foreign Affairs
4. Waltz, "Why Iran Should get the bomb" Foreign Affairs
5. Drezner, "How the West should Respond to Putin," Washington Post

October 8 (Friday): The Democratic Peace theory

Required readings:

1. Weart, "Investigating the Puzzle of Democratic Peace"
2. "Four Trends That Could Put The Democratic Peace at Risk"

Supplementary:

Poznansky, M. (2015). Stasis or decay? Reconciling covert war and the democratic peace. *International Studies Quarterly*, 59(4), 815-826

**Exam circulated in class on Friday, 8 October. Exam due by Monday, October 11 AT 9PM**

## **PART II: GLOBAL GRAND CHALLENGES**

### **Week 5: Globalization**

October 11 (Monday): No class. Use this time to work on your exam. **Please submit your exam by 9PM.**

October 13 (Wednesday):

Required readings:

1. Dupuy, A. (2001). Globalization, the nation-state, and imperialism: A review essay. *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*, 10(1), 93-116.
2. [Watch Parag Khanna: Connectography](#)

October 15 (Friday): Globalization & COVID-19

Required readings

1. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/coronavirus-pandemic-globalization/>
2. <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/05/14/has-covid-19-killed-globalisation>
3. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/coronavirus-wont-spell-the-end-for-globalization-but-change-is-unavoidable>

### **Week 6: Climate Change**

**October 18 (Monday): Midterm break**

October 20 (Wednesday): The Politics of Climate Change



Required readings:

1. [Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action](#)
2. [The Politics of Climate Change](#)
3. [Changing the Atmosphere in Political Science: Ten Key Political Questions about Climate Change](#)
4. [The Global Politics of Climate Change](#)

Before the start of class on Wednesday, submit (via moodle) a **current** picture of a place that holds some significance for you. Along with your photo, please write 150-200 word imagining this place in 100 years through the lens of climate change. How will the landscape change? What else has changed? What do you smell? What do you see different? What other tactile changes do you note? Can you imagine international institutions or multinational corporations having some effect on how this place has changed?

Annotated bibliography due by Wednesday at 9PM

October 22 (Friday): Climate Change: A Global Problem with Local Effects

1. <https://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2020/0702/Conservation-vs.-copper-Minnesota-town-debates-its-future-with-a-mine>
2. <http://thecirclenews.org/cover-story/tensions-arise-between-natives-non-natives-in-indian-country/>
3. <https://queticosuperior.org/blog/watch-patagonias-new-short-film-featuring-the-boundary-waters/>

Short paper 2 due by 9PM on Saturday, 23 October

### **Week 7: trade & inequality; Terrorism**

October 25 (Monday)

Required Readings

1. Arvanitakis, James and David Hornsby. Global Poverty and Wealth
2. Moore, P. W. (2005). QIZs, FTAs, USAID and the MEFTA: A political economy of acronyms. *Middle East Report*, (234), 18-23
3. Jacqui True & Aida A. Hozic (2020) Don't mention the war! International Financial Institutions and the gendered circuits of violence in post-conflict, *Review of International Political Economy*, DOI: [10.1080/09692290.2020.1732443](https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2020.1732443)

October 27 (Wednesday)

1. Willman-Navarro, A. (2006). Making it at the margins: The criminalization of Nicaraguan women's labor under structural reform. *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 8(2), 243-266.
2. [Forced Labor in Malaysia's Electronic Industry](#)
3. [Garment workers are facing a humanitarian crisis – but don't blame COVID-19 Scavenger hunt! Who made my stuff?](#)

October 29 (Friday): Transnational Terrorism

Required readings:

1. Katherine Brown, "[Transnational Terrorism](#)"
2. Savun, B., & Tirone, D. C. (2018). Foreign aid as a counterterrorism tool: more liberty, less terror?. *Journal of conflict resolution*, 62(8), 1607-1635.

### **Week 8: International law**

November 1 (Monday)

Required readings:

1. International Law & Norms (from Friedan, Lake, & Schultz)

Supplementary: Jurkovich, M. (2020). What Isn't a Norm? Redefining the Conceptual Boundaries of "Norms" in the Human Rights Literature. *International Studies Review*, 22(3), 693-711.

November 3 (Wednesday)

Required Readings

1. Hafner-Burton, E. M., & Tsutsui, K. (2007). Justice lost! The failure of international human rights law to matter where needed most. *Journal of Peace Research*, 44(4), 407-425.

Supplementary:

Htun, M., & Weldon, S. L. (2012). The civic origins of progressive policy change: Combating violence against women in global perspective, 1975–2005. *American Political Science Review*, 548-569.

November 5 (Friday)

1. [What is R2P? A background briefing](#)
2. Saba, A., & Akbarzadeh, S. (2018). The Responsibility to Protect and the use of force: an assessment of the just cause and last resort criteria in the case of Libya. *International Peacekeeping*, 25(2), 242-265.

**Draft of editorial intro to special issue due**

### **Week 9: Simulation –KILLER ROBOTS**

November 8 (Monday)

Killer Robots Sim

November 10 (Wednesday)

Killers Robots Sim

November 12 (Friday)

Readings TBD

**Short paper 3 due by Friday @ 9PM**

**Week 10:**

Monday POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Friday: POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Final draft your special issue due via Moodle on Monday, 22 November by 9PM**