

Lingnan University
Department of Political Science
POL3203 International Politics
Term 2, 2017-2018

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Office Hours: Wed 9:30-10:30 and 3:30-4:30; Thur 9:30-10:30 and 3:30-4:30

Course Description and Aims:

The course introduces students to the core issues in the study of international relations, including the key theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding global politics. You will learn about how the various actors, forces and ideas have influenced and shaped the past and contemporary global events. The course will also examine some of the more significant features of the international system – such as how change occurs, the relations between politics and economics and the interconnections between individuals and governments. Illustration from particular case studies and issues is designed to assist you better appreciate the dynamic relations between policy-making in the international arena. This course serves as an introduction to other courses on international affairs being offered in the Social Sciences programme.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. describe and explain the role of key players in shaping contemporary global politics;
2. apply fundamental political science theories, methods and concepts to the study of current global affairs;
3. critically synthesize and evaluate media reports, official or governmental and non-governmental organisations' policy statements, as well as the academic literature on international politics;
4. the linkages between politics and economics and nature of globalization; and be aware of your rights and your duties as a responsible global citizen.

Assessment:

The Continuous Assessment (50%) is sub-divided into four components:

1. A tutorial presentation which demonstrates your ability to (i) research and organise content in a coherent and logical manner, (ii) present this content together with your own analysis in a clear manner, and (iii) defend your arguments during the discussion period.

You will be arranged into groups of 2-3 students, so a collective group grade is given (10%). The lecturer reserves the right to lower a grade if there is clear evidence of a group member not pulling his/her weight. [Learning outcomes 1-4]

2. A term paper related to your tutorial presentation is discussed in a logical and clear manner. Weight is given to your research and analytical skills as demonstrated by the nature of the content and your critical analysis. You must include footnotes/citations and references list/bibliography. Its length must be between 2,500-3,000 words (20%).

Submission deadline is 26 April 2018 (Thursday). [Learning outcomes 1-3]

3. Participation in class discussions. Credit will be given to those who join in actively and regularly in class discussions. Your grade depends on the quality as well as the quantity of your contributions (5%). [Learning outcomes 1-4]

4. A Mid-term Test which will examine your knowledge and understanding of key concepts and factual information in the first part of the course (15%). This test will be held on 8 March 2018. [Learning outcomes 1-3]

The Final Exam will be held during the normal University exam period in May. The exam will evaluate your knowledge and understanding of key concepts and factual information over the whole course (50%). [Learning outcomes 1-3]

Lectures (Thursday 10:30-12:30 @ LKK302)

Week	Date	Topic
1	18 Jan	Introduction
2	25 Jan	Concepts and Theories of IR (I)
3	1 Feb	Concepts and Theories of IR (II)
4	8 Feb	Concepts and Theories of IR (III)
5	15 Feb	Chinese New Year Holiday, No Class
6	22 Feb	International Security (I)
7	1 Mar	International Security (II)
8	8 Mar	Mid-term Test
9	15 Mar	International and Regional Institutions (I)
10	22 Mar	International and Regional Institutions (II)
11	5 Apr	Ching Ming Festival, No Class
12	12 Apr	Global Non-state Actors (I)
13	19 Apr	Global Non-state Actors (II)
14	26 Apr	Recap

Suggested Readings:

Reading assignments provide you with the necessary knowledge to help you meet learning outcomes; in particular they help you to participate actively in class discussions. Class discussions and tests will draw from the readings -- hence keep-up with your readings.

Also, keep yourself informed with current international events as they will help you better understand the conceptual issues and we will be making reference particularly in the final two-thirds of the course to current affairs. Regularly read a daily newspaper, such as the *South China Morning Post*, *International Herald Tribune*, or *Financial Times*. You can also keep yourself informed about daily news through radio and television (stations such as the BBC, CNN, Channel News Asia, and CNBC) and their appropriate websites (the BBC News website on <http://news.bbc.co.uk>).

Getting into the habit of regularly reading a quality newspaper will be of benefit to you not just for this course, not just for other courses in the Social Sciences Programme, but also for your future career, as major Hong Kong employers welcome graduates with good English-language skills and knowledge about global events.

Required Reading:

Karen Mingst and Ivan Arreguin-Toft. (2010). *Essentials of International Relations* (5th edition). New York: W.W.Norton & Co.

Supplementary Reading:

Robert Art and Robert Jervis, 2010. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* (10th edition). New York: Pearson

John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, eds, 2008. *The Globalization of World Politics* (4th edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Joshua Goldstein and Jon Pevehouse, 2012, *International Relations* (10th edition). Boston: Longman.

Charles Kegley Jr., 2010. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation* (12th edition). Boston: Thomson Wadsworth.

Richard Mansbach and Kirsten Rafferty, 2011. *Introduction to Global Politics* (2nd edition). London: Routledge.

Joseph S. Nye Jr., 2010. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History* (8th edition). New York: Pearson.

Important Notes:

(1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.

(2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without

proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

(3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.

(4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.

(5) No photography or recording is allowed in class.

Assessment rubrics

Participation (5%)

Criteria	Excellent	Fair	Below Standard
Class attendance and participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class attendance is regular and the student speaks up regularly and enthusiastically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class attendance is quite regular but the student participates only when asked by the instructor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class attendance is erratic and participation is nil or almost nil
3%	3 marks	1-2 marks	0 mark
Articulateness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expression of ideas or opinions were consistently factually accurate, logical and clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expression of ideas or opinions were generally factually accurate, logical and clear, but with a number of minor lapses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas or opinions were not expressed logically, and were characterized by significant factual inaccuracies and lack of clarity
2%	2 marks	1 marks	0 mark

Presentation (10%)

Category	Excellent	Fair	Below Standard
Conceptual understanding of subject matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover a good range of relevant concepts/theories Important ideas pertinent to the topic are skillfully applied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concepts/ theories and important ideas pertinent to the topic are accurately used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concepts/theories and important ideas pertinent to the topic are not accurately used
3%	3 marks	2 marks	0-1 mark
Analysis of Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoroughly interpret and evaluate the information Comprehensively analyze and synthesize the issues from multiple perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information with some interpretation/evaluation Basic analysis or synthesis from two perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List information without interpretation/evaluation Superficially analyze or synthesize the issue Single perspective is discussed
3%	3 marks	2 marks	0-1 mark
Integration of sources and evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empirical evidence or information (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) is highly relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empirical evidence or information (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) is generally relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much of Information included is not relevant and inadequate to support the topic. Some information is inaccurate or unverifiable
2%	2 marks	1 mark	0 mark
Appropriate time allocation and pace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocated time appropriately and managed time effectively Appropriate pace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marginally long or marginally short but uses time reasonably effectively Reasonable pace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significantly too short or too long and did not use time effectively Pace is significantly too fast or too slow
2%	2 marks	1 mark	0 mark

Term-paper (20%)

Category	Excellent	Proficient	Meets Minimum Standard	Below Standard
Argument	Arguments both well supported and genuinely compared to conflicting explanations	Main arguments valid, systematic, and well supported	Some arguments valid and well supported, some not	Weak, invalid, or no argument, perhaps a simple assertion
7%	6-7 marks	4-5 marks	2-3 marks	0-1 marks
Use of Data or Evidence	Fully exploits the richness of the data/evidence/ideas, and is sufficiently persuasive	Feasible evidence appropriately selected and not over-interpreted	Some appropriate use of evidence but uneven	Draws on little or no evidence, mostly relies on assertions or opinions, or evidence not clearly presented
7%	6-7 marks	4-5 marks	2-3 marks	0-1 mark
Organization and Writing	Structure enhances the argument, strong sections and seamless flow. Virtually no English error.	Structure supports the argument, clearly ordered sections fit together well. Some minor English errors.	Structure is of inconsistent quality, may have redundancies or disconnections. Frequent English errors.	Needs significant reorganization. English errors significantly impair readability.
6%	6 marks	4-5 marks	2-3 marks	0-1 mark

Mid-term Test (15%)

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Meets Minimum Standard	Below Standard
Comprehension of all the relevant aspects about the question	Demonstrates a deep insightful level of understanding	Demonstrates a good surface level of understanding	Demonstrates an adequate level of surface understanding	Demonstrates an inadequate level of understanding
5%	4-5 marks	3 marks	2 marks	0-1 mark
Application of concepts to the problem posed	Appropriate concepts are all applied correctly	Appropriate concepts are correctly applied	Some concepts are applied at too general a level or misapplied but the central ones are applied correctly and specifically	Most concepts are applied at too general a level or misapplied
4%	4 marks	3 marks	2 marks	1 mark
Extent to which ideas are expressed logically, accurately and clearly	Expression of ideas were consistently accurate, logical and clear	Expression of ideas is generally accurate, logical and clear with some minor lapses	Expression of ideas is comprehensible but there are some major lapses	Largely incomprehensible with some major inconsistencies and errors
3%	3 marks	2 marks	1 mark	0 mark
Quality of English	English is consistently excellent	English is proficient with no major errors	English conveys the essential meaning but contains a number of errors	English is below acceptable university standard
3%	3 marks	2 marks	1 mark	0 mark

Exam (50%)

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Meets Minimum Standard	Below Standard
Comprehension of all the relevant aspects about the question	Demonstrates a deep insightful level of understanding	Demonstrates a good surface level of understanding	Demonstrates an adequate level of surface understanding	Demonstrates an inadequate level of understanding
15%	12-15 marks	8-11 marks	4-7 marks	0-3 marks
Application of concepts to the problem posed	Appropriate concepts are all applied correctly	Appropriate concepts are correctly applied	Some concepts are applied at too general a level or misapplied but the central ones are applied correctly and specifically	Most concepts are applied at too general a level or misapplied
15%	12-15 marks	8-11 marks	4-7 marks	0-3 marks
Extent to which ideas are expressed logically, accurately and clearly	Expression of ideas were consistently accurate, logical and clear	Expression of ideas is generally accurate, logical and clear with some minor lapses	Expression of ideas is comprehensible but there are some major lapses	Largely incomprehensible with some major inconsistencies and errors
10%	8-10 marks	5-7 marks	3-4 marks	0-2 marks
Quality of English	English is consistently excellent	English is proficient with no major errors	English conveys the essential meaning but contains a number of errors	English is below acceptable university standard
10%	8-10 marks	5-7 marks	3-4 marks	0-2 marks