

2020-2021 IR Final Year Seminar List

All students majoring in International Relations are required to complete an IR seminar during their final year of studies. Please note that all IR seminars must be taken for percentage grade.

Students may register for only one of these seminars, which will also meet the Arts Research Requirement. List is subject to change. Please confirm course offerings by checking the timetable.

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Term 1

Geography

GEOG 412 101

Water Management: Theory, Policy, and Practice

Mondays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Karen Jessica Bakker

Interdisciplinary analysis of critical water issues, in Canada and internationally. Focus on social science perspectives. Emphasis on presentation, research, and essay-writing skills.

GEOG 446A 101

Topics in Geography

Wednesdays 18:00-21:00

Instructor: Loch Brown

This online seminar has a synchronous scheduled meeting time. This course examines the contemporary dynamics of global agro-food systems from a political ecology perspective in order to unpack the environmental, cultural, ethical, and socio-economic implications of our current food regime. We will explore potential solutions to the global problems brought on by our current agro-food system, as well as take an in-depth look at different grassroots responses to industrial food systems in the form of alternative food movements.

GEOG 498 101

Geographies of the Middle East

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Siobhan McPhee

Course will have a mix of asynchronous and synchronous components: Several synchronous online seminars held during the scheduled class time.

The so-called region of the Middle East is diverse and complex. Often the focus on the Middle East and what most people know about the region is based on rhetoric and media attention of the political conflicts, refugees and rising extremist Islam. The aim of this course is to take a broader approach to understanding the region and its global reach through deconstructing the mainstream narratives surrounding the region. The foundational lens is to understand the Middle East region in terms of its economic and political development, and how these have influenced and continue to influence the societies of the region more broadly. The Middle East has been shaped by conflicts between those with progressive views on flexible social structures and technological change, and those who would favour a rigid social hierarchy in order to maintain the power of a small elite. As academic institutions in the West have often presented a certain perception of the Middle East, this course adopts a different approach; readings and discussions will also focus on the Middle East's perception of the Western world in a reversal of Said's Orientalism rather a case of Occidentalism. Assignments will focus on creating alternative narratives of the region in the hope of building connections and broader understandings.

History

HIST 403A 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations - Origins of WWI

Mondays 13:00-15:00

Instructor: Michael Lanthier

This seminar will be held online. The Origins of the First World War: World War I was one the great turning points of world history: the bloody, brutal birth of the 20th century, it was a watershed moment that gave birth to an era of imperial collapse and total war. The war itself, as well as its causes and ramifications, continue to fascinate both professional and armchair historians. In this course, we will try

to understand why the Great Powers of Europe went to war against each other in 1914. Over a hundred years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, this apparently simple question still cannot be answered in a completely satisfactory fashion. Scholarly disagreements over this question were once the result of patriotically-motivated attempts to blame one side or the other, but they are now indicative of deep divisions within academic history itself. Looking at primary sources, we will examine the diplomatic, military, economic, and social causes of the war that have often been pointed to. But we will also study a century's worth of historical interpretations to see what these tell us about the Great War and about the world it helped shape.

HIST 403G 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Modern North Africa

Wednesday 10:00-12:00

Instructor: Jeffrey Byrne

Further description not released at this time.

HIST 403J 101

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Migration in the Americas

Mondays 14:00-16:00

Instructor: Benjamin Bryce

Migration in the Americas: This course highlights the centrality of migration and cultural pluralism in the history of the Americas. It focuses on the people who migrate and on the responses of government officials, workers, politicians, and other migrant groups to new arrivals. Topics include diplomacy, government policies, gender, the construction of racial categories, and nationalism.

HIST 403L 101

Seminar for Majors in History – International Communist Movement and its Legacies

Wed 11:00-13:00

Instructor: Alexei Kojevnikov

International communist movement and its legacies: The seminar explores the international role of communist movements during the twentieth century, their ambitious or utopian goals and more modest, but impressive accomplishments. Particular attention will be paid to the following topics: the opposition to WWI and the principle of self-determination, communist internationalism and the rise of anti-imperialist movements, women's equality project, ethnic minorities rights and affirmative action, government regulation and planning, public health care and higher education, labour movement and workers' rights, military confrontation with international fascism and WWII, international peace movement, decolonization in Asia and Africa, the struggle against racism and segregation in the US and

South Africa, communist sects (Anarchism, Stalinism, Trotskyism, Maoism, Eurocommunism), the fall of communist parties in Eastern Europe and their continuing influence in Asia.

Political Science

Links to tentative syllabi for many of these PoliSci courses are on a new site (also available as an app) here: <https://swxhf.glideapp.io/full>.

POLI 420C 001

Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics – Core Seminar in U.S. Politics

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Paul Quirk

This course introduces students to the issues and literature of US politics. It is intended for Ph.D. students majoring or minoring in US politics (for whom it is required); all other graduate students in political science; graduate students in other disciplines who would benefit from a sophisticated understanding of American politics; and (in Poli 420B) a few well-qualified upper-level undergraduate political science majors. No prior academic work on the US is assumed.

The readings combine still influential older works and significant recent ones. They cover most of the main topics in the political-science literature on the US, and represent a wide range of theoretical approaches and methods (including historical interpretation, qualitative case studies, statistical analysis, and formal modeling). Whatever the approach, we focus on substantive theories and findings, not technical matters. The course does not presume prior training in statistical or mathematical methods. (description continues on POLI course site)

POLI 423E 001

Issues in Comparative Politics – The Comparative Political Economy of Development

Mondays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Yang-Yang Zhou

This course provides a graduate level introduction to the comparative study of development. Why do some regions of the Global South seem to be better at “development” than others? While Asia is often viewed as developing rapidly, sub-Saharan Africa is often treated as a failure, and Latin America is commonly perceived as a mixed case.

The first part of this course begins with a brief overview of how development is conceptualized and measured. We then consider and discuss existing explanations of developmental success and failure such as the influence of historical legacies, the role of the modern state and political institutions, markets and globalization, structural adjustment, and democracy versus authoritarianism. The second part of this course explores contemporary development initiatives such as democratic governance,

information campaigns, and other channels for citizen participation. We will draw on insights from a variety of social science disciplines in addition to political science such as sociology, economics, and social psychology. Since we will cover a range of topics, each of which could become its own course, you will have the opportunity to delve in more detail the topics and regions that interest you for the final research paper and present your research to the class. To that end, we will also analyze and practice the elements of conducting effective social science research.

POLI 439A 003

Politics and Economic Growth

Fridays 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Kristen Hopewell

Description not available at this time.

POLI 460C 001

Foreign Policy Analysis

Thursdays 17:00-20:00

Instructor: Paul Evans

The world is being changed by the fourth rise of China, its integration into regional production networks and global value chains, its outward investment and infrastructure projects, the growing presence and influence of overseas Chinese, its diplomatic and military assets, its deepening role in international institutions, and the dynamics of its particular form of authoritarian capitalism. Decisions of Chinese officials, citizens, business people, and consumers have impact around the world.

Several questions will surface in many of our sessions. What is global China and how does it differ from China in the 20th century and the imperial period that preceded it? How can we understand its contemporary foreign policy in light of its history, domestic circumstances and new connections around the world? What are the implications of its rise for the balance of power as well as international norms, rules and institutions? What is its emerging leadership role? Will its rise complement, supplant or undermine the liberal world order constructed after World War II and now being shaken by Trump's America First? How and how should other countries, Canada included, respond?

POLI 463 001

International Interdependence

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Justin Alger

This seminar explores how the political economy of environmental issues influences the decisions that governments, environmental groups, and multinational corporations make to address global ecological change. Mainstream environmentalism has, for better or worse, adapted a free-market approach to managing environmental change. Governments tend to adopt environmental targets that do not undermine their economic priorities. Environmental groups are increasingly shying away from more aggressive positions on environmental issues. And corporations continue to adopt eco-labeling and sustainability schemes that only alter practice at the margins. This seminar will analyze the benefits and limitations of this free-market approach to environmentalism. Topics include the problem of global consumption, the politics of climate change, civil society advocacy, conservation politics, corporate sustainability initiatives, and eco-labeling schemes, among others.

POLI 464C 001

Problems in International Relations

Thursdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Arjun Chowdhury

This course will expose students to central problems of order within and between states: specifically, the varying capacity of states to monopolize violence within borders, and shifting patterns of violence across borders. Readings and class discussion will focus on theory and history. For their assignments, students will compile, using online sources, descriptive memos or annotated bibliographies that will test their theories in more granular detail.

POLI 464D 001

Problems in International Relations

Wednesdays 18:00-21:00

Instructor: Zhen Han

The International Order has undergone significant transformations since 2008. The political, economic, and normative influence of rising powers (such as the so-called BRIC countries) has increased. Meanwhile, the disillusionment with the liberal international order has grown. In history rising power challenges are often associated with political instability, violent conflicts, economic crises, and confusion in leadership. However, such transitional eras have sometimes led to new breakthroughs in technology and ideas, and more rarely, the establishment of new international orders. To better understand the impact of rising power challenges we need to study the theories and practices of power politics scientifically. This course adopts an empirical approach to study the political and economic challenges associated with contemporary rising powers. We will discuss the indicators of rising powers, the causes of their rise, the strategy they use to rise, and the implications on central tenets of the so-called liberal international order. We use scientific methods to study four cases of contemporary rising powers – China, Russia, India, and Brazil. In the end, we aim to develop a better understanding of

contemporary rising power behaviours and make reasonable predictions on how they might influence future international relations. We emphasize policy implications of our analyses throughout the course.

POLI 464E 001

Problems in International Relations

Mondays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Alex Butterfield

This course explores the relationship between intelligence and politics. It is primarily concerned with the influence of the intelligence services and the intelligence they produce on policy formation and political decision-making at the national level. Intelligence support to military command at the strategic and operational levels will also be considered. In this context, we will examine how political, structural, and cognitive factors play in the production and delivery of intelligence and the consequences of those influences on warning and decision. We will use a series of historical and contemporary case studies to illustrate aspects of the intelligence-policy interaction in the formulation and execution of national security policy at the highest levels of government.

Term 2

Economics

ECON 457 001

Seminar in International Economic Relations

Tue Thu 15:30-17:00

Instructor: Emrul Hasan

Selected topics focusing upon various issues arising in international economic relations.

Geography

GEOG 412 101

Water Management: Theory, Policy, and Practice

Mondays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Karen Jessica Bakker

Interdisciplinary analysis of critical water issues, in Canada and internationally. Focus on social science perspectives. Emphasis on presentation, research, and essay-writing skills.

History

HIST 403D 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – International Law in Canadian History

Wednesdays 14:00-16:00

Instructor: Bradley Miller

This seminar will explore how international law has shaped Canada from the colonial period to the twentieth century. Topics include Indigenous-settler relations, the law of war, environmental conservation, and Canadian-American relations.

HIST 403E 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – The History of War Strategy from Ancient to Modern Times

Mondays 15:30-17:30

Instructor: David Gossen

The History of War Strategy from Ancient to Modern Times: In this course, students critically analyze the evolution of military strategy around the world, its relationship to technology, politics, and culture, and its impact on warfare throughout history. We will analyze both primary and secondary sources covering strategy from ancient to modern times, with an emphasis on how strategists used history as a guide in dealing with their own security dilemmas. As a capstone research course in International Relations, this seminar requires students to conduct a research project culminating in a 5000 word paper. Please note that this is a reading-intensive seminar course.

HIST 403F 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – The Middle East in Graphic Novels: History, Politics and the Tragic Comic

Thursdays 14:00-16:00

Instructor: Pheroze Unwalla

Once thought of as juvenile and immaterial to politics, society and culture, graphic novels are today frequently considered art forms, political satires and/or intellectual compositions fundamental to the health of our polities as well as our imaginings of past and present. This course explores graphic novels with a focus on their representation of Middle Eastern history, politics and peoples. Reading such works as Joe Sacco's *Footnotes in Gaza*, Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, Craig Thompson's *Habibi*, Brian K. Vaughan's *Pride of Baghdad* and several others, we will discuss the evolution of the medium, the fraught history of visually representing the Middle East, as well as the challenges and opportunities graphic novels present for understanding the region. On this latter note, particular attention will be paid to the contentious use of graphic novels as works of journalism, oral history, and autobiography as well as to

fundamental questions on the ethics of graphically representing tragic episodes from Middle Eastern pasts. Finally, given recent events associated with cartooning (i.e. the Charlie Hebdo massacre) we will also seek to grapple with such divisive issues as Islamophobia, Orientalism, free speech, and the uses and limits of satire.

HIST 403K 201

Seminar in the History of International Relations – Canada-US Relations

Wednesdays 12:00-14:00

Instructor: Lara Silver

The seminar examines Canada-US relations from the 1930s to the present day to obtain an expansive view of bilateral bliss and the uncomfortable aspects of ‘sleeping with an elephant.’ In particular, we will look at the relationships between the presidents and prime ministers in addition to the broader frameworks of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

Political Science

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POLI 422D 002

Selected Problems in Comparative Politics – The Rise and Decline of Liberal Democracy

Mondays 10:00-13:00

Instructor: Christopher Kam

This course examines the rise and decline of liberal democracy. We will start the course by considering what liberal democracy is and is not. We will then examine the evolution of democracy over the course history from the perspective of four books. While the course covers much in the way of history and current events, the aim is to arrive at a theoretical account of current trends in liberal democracy.

POLI 439A 002

Politics and Economic Growth

Wednesday 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Robert Farkasch

This course studies the relationship between politics and economics in order to understand the process of late development –both theoretically and empirically. Specifically, we will study questions such as: How important are political institutions to economic development and what role do they play? How does economics affect political institutions and government policies? Why do inefficient and/or harmful institutions survive? Topics include the role of the state in alleviating or exacerbating poverty, the

politics of industrial policy and planning and the relationship between institutional change and growth. We will also examine the economic effects of different growth strategies and investigate some of the pitfalls of natural resource wealth and the difficulties of foreign aid.

POLI 462 002

International Relations Theory

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Michael Byers

This interdisciplinary seminar examines the role of law in international politics. It does so across a range of issues areas, including human rights, armed conflict, climate change, and international trade. Students will be exposed to the theoretical literature as well as case studies of actual practice—which they will research. No prior legal training is required.

POLI 463 002

International Interdependence

Thursdays 13:00-16:00

Instructor: Justin Alger

This seminar explores how the political economy of environmental issues influences the decisions that governments, environmental groups, and multinational corporations make to address global ecological change. Mainstream environmentalism has, for better or worse, adapted a free-market approach to managing environmental change. Governments tend to adopt environmental targets that do not undermine their economic priorities. Environmental groups are increasingly shying away from more aggressive positions on environmental issues. And corporations continue to adopt eco-labeling and sustainability schemes that only alter practice at the margins. This seminar will analyze the benefits and limitations of this free-market approach to environmentalism. Topics include the problem of global consumptions, the politics of climate change, civil society advocacy, conservation politics, corporate sustainability initiatives, and eco-labeling schemes, among others.

POLI 463 003

International Interdependence

Tuesdays 17:00-20:00

Instructor: Yves Tiberghien

The world stands at a critical juncture. Globalization has both widened and intensified; but it has also become more volatile (at least its financial component). The governance of global markets is in transition since the 2008 global financial crisis. In the midst of the current transformation/turmoil, this much is clear: linkages between global markets and domestic political economics chessboards have

greatly intensified. Everywhere, national systems are challenged to respond to global shocks and global change. Meanwhile, domestic political processes in systemically important countries have a great impact on global governance and globalization itself. These linkages between IPE and CPE form the core focus of the course. (longer description available on POLI course app)

POLI 464D 002

Problems in International Relations

Mondays 10:00-13:00

Instructor: Zhen Han

The International Order has undergone significant transformations since 2008. The political, economics, and normative influence of rising powers (such as the so-called BRIC countries) has increased. Meanwhile, the disillusionment with the liberal international order has grown. In history rising power challenges are often associated with political instability, violent conflicts, economics crises, and confusion in leadership. However, such transitional eras have sometimes led to new breakthroughs in technology and ideas, and more rarely, the establishment of new international orders. To better understand the impact of rising power challenges we need to study the theories and practices of power politics scientifically. This course adopts an empirical approach to study the political and economic challenges associated with contemporary rising powers. We will discuss the indicators of rising powers, the causes of their rise, the strategy they use to rise, and the implications on central tenets of the so-called liberal international order. We use scientific methods to study four cases of contemporary rising powers – China, Russia, India, and Brazil. In the end, we aim to develop a better understanding of contemporary rising power behaviours and make reasonable predictions on how they might influence future international relations. We emphasize policy implications of our analyses throughout the course.

POLI 464F 002

Problems in International Relations - Human Right Advocacy: Case Study - Academic Freedom and Scholars at Risk

Mondays 14:00-17:00

Instructor: Jenny Peterson

In this seminar, students will conduct human rights research, monitoring and advocacy on behalf of a partner organization, the Scholars at Risk Network (<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/>). This international NGO promotes academic freedom through the protection of and advocacy for scholars whose lives, liberty and well-being are at grave risk. Students will work on several specific cases of imprisoned scholars from around the globe. On top of developing professional skills related to international advocacy, media monitoring, communication and legal analysis, students will also advance their scholarly knowledge related to the topic of human rights, transnational advocacy, international law and academic freedom. This work will include a tracing of the growth of international human rights

discourses, an examination of different actors involved in human rights protection and critical analysis of a range of policies and practices including the role of social media campaigns and celebrity involvement.

POLI 464H 002

Problems in International Relations

Wednesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Peter Dauvergne

This seminar reflects on the politics of global sustainability and justice, striving for critical thought that integrates both rigorous analysis and ethical reflection. The focus is on the consequences of political discourses, institutions, and power struggles for global ecological change, taking an interdisciplinary approach that does not assume a background in international relations. How, in what ways, and to what extent is global environmental politics making a difference for advancing global sustainability and justice? How and why is this changing over time? What does this suggest for the future? To answer these questions, the course analyzes topics such as the causes and consequences of unsustainable development, the ecological shadows of consumption, the power of environmentalism as a social movement, the social justice consequences of climate change, the contradictions of technology, the effectiveness of international agreements, the rising importance of city-level governance, the eco-business of multinational corporations, and the value of certification and eco-consumerism. The course concludes by assessing the merits of various pathways toward environmental sustainability and social justice.