

University of the Fraser Valley
International Relations & Global Politics
(Political Science 260-AB2)
Winter 2012

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Time and Location

Friday, 10am-12:50pm, Abbotsford Campus, Room C1423

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory course in international relations. The course will introduce students to the enduring concepts, theories, debates and patterns that shape the interaction of actors in the global system. Students will be introduced to core areas/themes in the field including international security, international political economy and globalisation, international law, human rights, international development, and foreign policy.

Part one of the course is dedicated to understating the history of the field and the traditional/mainstream theoretical perspectives—Realism and Liberalism. We will also study the critical perspectives of international relations including Marxism, Feminism, Constructivism and Postmodernism. Drawing on the theoretical perspectives we will turn our attention to discussing issues and debates around global security, the global economy and international development and how actors including states, international organisations, and non-governmental organisations have responded to them in parts two and three. In part two we will focus our attention on issues of international security including war, arms control, terrorism, organised crime, intervention, and human security. Finally, part three is dedicated to studying the global economy and international development. Among other things we will discuss global trade and finance, regional cooperation, the environment, and poverty and inequality in the Global South.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce students to the broader field of international relations.
2. To explain the theories, concepts, and analytical approaches that helps us to understand and interpret historical as well as current events in the global arena.
3. To identify and analyse the major debates in the field of international relations.
4. To provide students with some practical exposure to the issues and debates in the field.

COURSE GOALS:

1. In the writing of exams, term papers, and during class discussions, students should be able to adopt a more critical and analytical approach to develop and articulate their own perspectives on international issues.
2. Students would develop their knowledge base and background in the theories, concepts, issues, and debates that would pave the way for analysing more complex and specialised issues in upper level international courses.

CLASS FORMAT:

Classes will be organised as lectures and end with discussion and question and answer period. When necessary, in addition to the assigned readings for the week, we will watch short documentaries. We may also have guest lecturers who will present on specialised topics. We will adopt a combination of whole-class and small groups’ discussion. The discussion section is an opportunity for students to engage in a detailed examination of the issues that came up during the lectures and in the assigned readings.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change or modify the syllabus as the course progresses

RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES:

Students are expected to attend ALL lectures having done all the assigned readings and having prepared to engage in the day’s topic. I strongly advise that students keep abreast with current international issues by reading at least one of the following (*The Globe and Mail, National Post, the New York Times, the Economist and Toronto Star.*) or watch news bulletins from television stations such as *CBC, BBC, CNN, CTV and Global News*. Students may also consult periodicals and quarterly journals such as: *Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, International Journal, New Left Review, the Review of International Political Economy, international organisation, and Washington Quarterly*. These Materials are available online, through the provider, or through the UFV online journals.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Students should note that all components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade.

Guidelines for Grading

A+ = 90%+ A = 85-89% A- = 80-84%	EXCELLENT	Evidence of original thought, and exceptional writing skills (i.e. superior composition, no grammatical errors/typos)
B+ = 77-79% B = 73-76%	GOOD	Mastery of material and solid writing skills (i.e. good syntax and no more than one or two

B- = 70-72%		typos)
C+ = 67-69% C = 63-66% C- = 60-62%	SATISFACTORY*	Clear understanding of material and adequate writing skills (less than five typos, grammatical errors and or awkward sentences)
P = 50-59%	UNSATISFACTORY	Limited understanding of material and/or deficient writing skills (i.e. awkward syntax and or frequent errors)
F = below 50%	INADEQUATE	Misunderstanding of material and or unacceptable writing skills (i.e. terrible syntax and copious errors)

***NOTE:** The UFV calendar describes grades in the C range as “average.” **The conversion of numeric grades to letter grades at the end of the course will also be made according to this chart.**

ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

- Class Attendance and Participation in Discussions -----20%
- Critical Review-----20% Due, February 24, 2012
- Research Paper -----20% Due, March 23, 2012
- Final Examination -----40% TBA

Class Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend ALL classes to obtain the full marks for attendance (10%). Students’ participation in discussions (10%) will be evaluated based on showing evidence of reading the course material and able to demonstrate an independent and original analysis of the material as well as providing examples in support of your arguments.

Critical Review: The critical theoretical review assignment must be 5 double-spaced pages. Students should select ONE of the theories of international relations and discuss its strengths

and **weaknesses** as well as its **significance** for the study of international relations. Students should note that this is **NOT** a research paper. The purpose of this assignment is to think more carefully about the key assumptions of the theory you have selected and provide your own thoughts about the strengths, weaknesses and significance of the theory in the study international issues. You are required to provide **at Least Three (3) examples from Newspapers/websites** to illustrate your argument but this should **NOT** be discussed extensively. Focus more on the theory itself. Provide the sources of your examples.

Research paper: The research paper must be **8 double-spaced pages** plus references/bibliography on any topic on International Relations. **As well, your paper must draw on one of the Theories of International Relations.** Your research paper must have a clear **thesis statement** and you must use **at least five (5) scholarly articles** from journals or books together with other sources. You may use a citation style of your choice.

Examination: The final examination will be **scheduled by University** and announced in class.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

W. Andy Knight and Tom Keating (2010). *Global Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Bradley A. Thayer and Nuray V. Ibryamova (2010). *Debates in International Relations*. Toronto: Longman (Pearson)

The required textbooks are available for purchase in the bookstore. Journal Articles will be sent to you electronically and also posted on Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part One: Theoretical Perspectives in International Relations

Week One

January 13, 2012 *Introduction to International Relations: The Historical Context of Contemporary Practices*

Knight and Keating “Introduction” (pages 1-15) and “Chapter 3” (pages 73-92)

Week Two

January 20, 2012 *Mainstream Theories in International Relations-Realism and Liberalism*

Knight and Keating “Chapter One” (Pages 18-43)

DISCUSSION: Thayer and Ibryamova—Chapter 2: “Realism vs. Morality in Foreign Policy” (Pages 25- 37)

Week Three

January 27, 2012 *Critical Theories of International Relations I—Marxism and Feminism*

Knight and Keating “Chapter Two” (Pages 44-72)

DISCUSSION: Betsy Reed, “Sex and the GOP” *The Nation*, October 18, 2010 (See electronic files)

Paul Shipale, “The rise of Women in Political Leadership” (July 16, 2010, www.allAfrica.com)
< <http://allafrica.com/stories/201007190867.html?viewall=1>>

< <http://allafrica.com/stories/201007190867.html?page=2>>

Week Four

February 3, 2012 *Critical Theories of International Relations II—Constructivism and Alternative Approaches*

Knight and Keating “Chapter Two” (Pages 44-72)

DISCUSSION: Thayer and Ibryamova—Chapter 1: “Anarchy vs. Order” (Pages 4-24)

Part Two: Security Issues in Global Politics

Week Five

February 10, 2012 *Debating War, Global Change, and Security: the role of the UN*

Knight and Keating “Chapter Four” (Pages 96- 107)

“Chapter Five” (Pages 108-136)

“Chapter Seven” (Pages 158-195)

DISCUSSION: Thayer and Ibryamova— Chapter 4, “American Primacy vs. American Retrenchment” (pages 62-74) & Chapter 10, “The danger of Nuclear Weapons Vs. The Necessity of Nuclear Weapons” (146-164)

Week Six

February 17, 2012

Mid-term Break. No Classes

Week Seven

February 24, 2012 *Security in a Globalising World: Human Security and humanitarian intervention*

Knight and Keating “Chapter Six” (Pages Pages 138-157)

“Chapter Five” (Pages 108-136)

Asli U Bali & Ziad Abu-Rish “The drawbacks of Intervention in Libya”
<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/opinion/2011/03/201132093458329910.html>

Nick Grono: “Briefing-Darfur: The International Community’s Failure to protect” *African Affairs* 105(421) (pages 621-631) the text is available at:

<http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/files/ICG%20Darfur%20and%20Failure%20to%20Protect.pdf>

DISCUSSION: Thayer and Ibryamova—“Chapter 18, “Support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) vs. Opposition to the ICC” (pages 252-261) & Chapter 19, “Humanitarian Intervention vs. Respect for State Boundaries” (pages 262-294)

Critical Review is due!!

Week Eight

March 2, 2012 *Security in a Globalising Word: Terrorism and Organised Crime*

Knight and Keating “Chapter 12 (Pages 274-300)

“Chapter Thirteen” (Pages 301-325)

DISCUSSION: Thayer and Ibryamova—Chapter 8, “The United States is Winning the War on Terror Vs. The United States is losing the War on Terror” (pages 130-139)

J.Ndumbe Anyu & Samuel Moki. (2009). Africa: The Piracy Hot Spot and Its Implications for Global Security. *Mediterranean Quarterly* 20 (3) 96-121 (See electronic files)

Part Three: Globalisation, International Political Economy and International Development

Week Nine

March 9, 2012 *Globalisation and Resistance to Globalisation*

Knight and Keating “Chapter 8” (Pages 198-219)
“Chapter 10” (Pages 237-253)
“Chapter 11 (Pages 254-273)

DISCUSSION: **Thayer and Ibryamova**—Chapter 6, “End of History vs. Clash of Civilisations” (Pages 92-121) & Chapter 5, “Globalisation vs. Backlash” (Pages 75-89)

Week Ten

March 16, 2012 *Global Economy: Trade, Finance, and Multinational Corporations*

Kinght and Keating “Chapter 9” (pages 219-239)

Carrie Ross, (2010) “In the Hot House: Will Canada’s WTO Challenge Slaughter U.S. COOL Regulation” *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, 36(1) 299-336 (See electronic files)

John M. Herrman, (2011) “Global Financial Crisis: Impact on International Trade and Matters Potentially Coming before the United States Court of International Trade”, *Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law*, 19(2) 601-618 (See electronic files)

DISCUSSION: **William Greider,** “The End of Free-Trade Globalisation” *The Nation* November 22, 2010

Week Eleven

March 23, 2012 *Regionalism in the Global Economy*

Amand deMestral, (2011) “NAFTA: The Unfulfilled Promise of the FTA” *European Law Journal* 17(5) 649-666 (See electronic files)

Pantelis Sklias, (2010) “Globalism versus Regionalism? The International Political Economy of Regional Cooperation in the Third World” *European Journal of Social Science*, 14(3) 489-495 (See electronic files)

DISCUSSION: Thayer and Ibryamova—chapter 17, “Turkey and the European Union: Exclusion vs. Membership” (243-251)

Research Paper is due!!

Week Twelve

March 30, 2012 ***Development, Poverty and Inequality in the Global South***

Pamela Blackmon, (2008) “Rethinking Poverty through the Eyes of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank” *International Studies Review* 10 (2), 179-202 (See electronic files)

Martin Ravallion,(2003) “ The Debate on Globalisation, Poverty and Inequality: Why Measurement Matters. *International Affairs* 79(4) 739-753 (See electronic files)

Johannes Tsheola (2010) “Global ‘openness’ and trade regionalism of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development” *South African Geographical Journal*, 92(1) 45-62 (See electronic files)

Machiko Nissanke & Erik Thorbecke (2011) “Globalisation, Poverty, and Inequality in Latin America: Findings from Case Studies” *World Development* 38(6) 797-802 (See electronic files)

DISCUSSION: Thayer and Ibryamova—chapter 15, “Alleviating Poverty through Aid vs. Alleviating Poverty through Free Trade” (pages 214-223)

Week Thirteen

April 6, 2012

GOOD FRIDAY No Classes

Week Fourteen

April 13, 2012 ***Global Environmental Politics and Global Governance***

Knight and Keating “Chapter 14” (Pages 228-249)
“Chapter 15” (Pages 350-372)

Roger Howard (2009) “The Politics of Climate Change” *Futurist* 43(6) 24-27 (See electronic files)

Pantelis Sklias, (2010) “India’s Position at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference: Towards a New Era in the Political Economy of International Relations? *Research Journal of International Studies* 15, 4-11 (See electronic files)

DISCUSSION: Thayer and Ibryamova—chapter 20, “Developed vs. Developing Countries and the Challenge of Climate Change” (295-319)

Last Day of Classes, Term Review

Examination TBA (The University will schedule the actual day and time for the exam April 18-28, 2012)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- The University of the Fraser Valley is committed to providing an environment that fosters the fair treatment of all members of the university community. The basis for interaction among all members of the university is mutual respect, co-operation and understanding.
- UFV is in the process of establishing an Early Alert System to support student success. This system will enable instructors to identify students who may require additional support to enhance their success, and to refer at-risk students to ensure they receive timely and targeted support.
- Test and assignment grades may be appealed. See the university policy manual for appeal process. The grading process will start anew. It is possible that the revised grade will be lower than the original; the second grade will be final.
- Any changes to your status in the course after final withdraw dates must be made through the Office of Student Services. If you need to withdraw from a course and don't want a “W” grade on your transcript, you need to do it before the UFV assigned deadline (check the current UFV calendar for the exact date each term). If you withdraw after that date, a “W” will appear on your transcript. If you don't withdraw formally, you will be assigned an NC (no credit) grade.

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism occurs when paragraphs, phrases, sentences or ideas within your work are taken from another source without referencing or citing the author. Make sure you reference or cite work by someone else! The UFV is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. UFV's policy regarding Student Conduct and Plagiarism can be viewed at www.ufv.ca/studentaffairs.htm. Please avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence.

Specialised support & disability services: Please be aware that academic and personal support is available from various units at UFV including Aboriginal Access Services, Disability Services,

and Student Services. Information can be found on the web. Students with disabilities or special needs that might interfere with their performance should contact me at the beginning of the course. Every effort will be made assist such students, but in all cases prior arrangements must be made to ensure that any special needs can be met in a timely fashion and in such a way that the rest of the class is not put at an unfair disadvantage.

COURSE POLICIES

Expectations & classroom policies

- Your work will be marked and returned to you in a timely fashion.
- I will make time to answer questions in class about upcoming assignments or exams or other concerns throughout the term. Please ensure that you bring any concerns to my attention in a timely fashion. Please also make good use of my office hours.
- I will welcome a discussion about your performance in the course throughout the term.
- If you are unsure of how to document your work or if you have any questions about the lectures, readings, and issues discussed in class please let me know. I will do my best to respond promptly to your concerns.
- Assignments are due in class. Please take note of the policy on late assignments below.
- Please note that attending lectures and doing the readings are essential aspects of the course. I will be using power point during the lectures. These are outlines and not adequate for study or research purposes. You do not need to copy down every word on these slides.
- Please be advised that I will not discuss the course or your performance in the course with your parents or any other advocates.
- You are expected to participate fully in the class discussions. Please respect the views of others. You may disagree with someone and this should be done by showing respect and situating your comments within the context of the discussion and in an acceptable academic manner. Derogatory comments/remarks or swearing will not be tolerated.
- In the 'spirit' of ensuring that we have successful and fruitful class discussions, please be prepared to **TALK**.
- I may call you to answer questions or contribute to the discussions. Sharing your ideas is very important.
- It is a violation of the privacy of other students, and of me, to record lectures and discussions without express permission and prior consent. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave the class.
- You may come and go as you need to, but do not disturb the class. It does disturb and distracts the class to be persistently late.
- Laptops (and other electronic devices) are permitted, but should be used only for note-taking, not net-cruising or card-playing or answering your e-mail or text-messaging or any other non-academic purpose. You will be asked to leave the class if you persist in using the laptop inappropriately, or in using any other device, such as a telephone, inappropriately.

Absences & late policies

- Attendance is required in this class and you will be counted absent if you leave before the class is completed.
- Your attendance and participation in class discussions will contribute towards your final grade (*see page 3*). As you are ultimately responsible for your own learning, if you are absent from class on a given day, you are still responsible for any material covered as well as any handouts, assignments discussed, videos presented, guest lecturers, etc.
- **Late assignments:** It is your responsibility to inform me as soon as it becomes clear that your work will be late. If you do not communicate in advance, and your reason for being late does not also explain this lack of communication, then you should be prepared to be penalized two grades for the first day and one grade per day that your work was late. Essay extensions will be granted only in cases of illness or personal tragedy and not because of academic or employment conflicts or workload. All extensions will require a note from a doctor or another authority that can vouch for your circumstances. Extensions will **NOT** be given in the event of computer problems or software incompatibility.
- Assignments submitted 7 days after the due deadline will not be marked, unless an extension has been granted in writing by the instructor.
- Students will be excused from exams only in the instance of illness or a grave family emergency. In such cases, make up exams will be scheduled, as long as a doctor's note is provided. Absences from exams will not be permitted for any other reason, including work conflicts or travel plans.
- You must be available to write the final exam in the allotted slot at the end of term. Do not make any other commitments until the university has announced the final exam schedule. Conflicts with other exams must be brought to my attention by the last class.