

Grande Prairie Regional College
Political Studies 2610 (3 credits)
Introduction to International Relations I
Security, War and Peace
University Transfer**
September - December 2007

Instructor: Tom Enders, PhD
Office: C303
Telephone: 539-2996
e-mail: tenders@gprc.ab.ca

Room: B302
Time: WF 1 - 2:20 p.m.

Office hours: TBA

College Calendar Course Description:

This is an introduction to the study of international relations with a focus on armed conflict, the pursuit of peace and related military matters. Topics may include the causes of war, the Cold War, arms control, post-Cold War military challenges, terrorism, international organizations, international law, international responses to domestic armed conflicts and the direction of Canadian defence policy.

Note: Students with credit in PO2600 will not also receive credit for PO2610.

[There is no prerequisite.]

Course Description 2007:

This course is an introduction to the study of international relations and global political issues. It introduces themes and theories that can be applied to a broad range of issues and developments. Patterns of continuity and change, and convergence and divergence or fragmentation, will be observed.

The nature and causes of war, ethnic and communal conflict, and terrorism will be explored. The roles of international law and international institutions in providing peace and security will also be examined.

The wisdom and morality of the foreign policy of the Bush administration, and future directions for Canada in the world are among other topics to be addressed.

Nonmilitary aspects of international relations are explored in PO2620; these include free trade and world trade rules, economic disparities, population movements, the environment and the political significance of the communications revolution.

Course objectives:

- to introduce you to competing theories and approaches to help you to understand international relations and global politics
- to provide a greater understanding of specific issues and challenges the world faces today by applying the concepts and theories of International Relations analysts
- to consider in an informed way what can and should be done to address global political issues
- to encourage careful, balanced, systematic critical thinking about theoretical perspectives as well as current issues
- to prepare you for further study of International Relations at the post-secondary level if you should choose to pursue such study.

****University transfer information:**

To obtain transfer credit to the University of Alberta you must complete successfully both PO2610 and PO2620. Transfer credit can then be obtained for POLS260, a full-year 6-credit course.

You can obtain 3 credits from other institutions (including the Universities of Calgary and Lethbridge) for completing this course by itself.

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation	10%
First test	15%
Midterm exam	25%
Term paper	25%
Final exam	25%

You are expected to reference sources fully and properly for your term paper. An instructor's handout will provide assistance. See College Calendar, pp. 44-45, for information on the range of penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

You are expected to write the final exam on the date scheduled by the College. Take this into account when making any December travel plans.

Students who miss an excessive number of classes may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in the Calendar on p. 40.

Marks will be given in percentage figures before conversion to a letter grade.

Conversion table:

A+ 90-100	B+ 76-79	C+ 67-69	D+ 55-59
A 85- 89	B 73-75	C 64-66	D 50-54
A- 80- 84	B- 70-72	C- 60-63	F 0-49

Required reading material:

1. Allen Sens & Peter Stoett, Global Politics: Origins, Currents, Directions, 3rd edition. Toronto, Ontario: Nelson, 2005.
2. Keith Shimko, International Relations: Perspectives and Controversies, 2nd edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008.
3. Blackboard Course postings.
4. Internet and database articles.

Topics

I. **Introduction and Overview.** The subject matter of international relations. Reasons to study IR.

II. **Theoretical approaches.** Realism, liberal internationalism and other theories.

III. **Overview of World History.** Continuities and changes.

IV. Decision-making in the Nuclear Age: The Cold War. Causes of the Cold War. Why it ended. Lessons to be learned. IR and decision-making.

V. Power Politics and Balance of Power Theory.

VI. Causes of War.

VII. War, Human Nature and Gender. Is war a product of human nature? Would the world be a more peaceful place if women held more positions of power?

VIII. War and Democracy. Democratic Peace Theory. Are democracies much more peaceful than non-democracies?

IX. International Institutions and International Law. The United Nations. International Law: is it “real” law? The International Criminal Court.

X. International Security after the Cold War: Communal or Ethnic, Religious and Factional Conflict. Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Palestine & Israel. Samuel Huntington and the Clash of Civilizations.

XI. International Security after the Cold War: Terrorism. Causes and responses.

XII. International Security after the Cold War: Threats to the United States and the West. Rogue States, Proliferation of Weapons, Iraq and the Bush Doctrine. Nuclear weapons.

XIII. Conflict Management: Sanctions, Arms Control, Ballistic Missile Defence, Humanitarian Intervention, Peacekeeping and Peacemaking.

XIV. Assessing Canadian Defence and Foreign Policy: Present and Future Directions. What should define them? Should Canadian governments work to spread “Canadian values”? Should Canadian governments take a continentalist or multilateral approach?