**IS 200 – Governance and Conflict (Fall Term 2014)**

Simon Fraser University  
School for International Studies  
Lecture: Tuesdays, 0830-1020, AQ 3153  
Tutorial: Tuesdays, 1030-1120, AQ 5049  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1300-1400, AQ 6207

Teaching Assistant: Name, E-Mail TBA  
Office: AQ 6209  
Office Hours: TBA  
Tutorials: All on Tuesdays  
(D102) 1030 – 1120, AQ 5038  
(D103) 1130 – 1220, AQ 5051  
(D104) 1330 – 1420, AQ 5050  
(D105) 1430 – 1520, RCB 5125

*Please Note: The TA is your first point of contact.*

**Overview**

This course introduces students to the causes and processes of order and disorder in a world where the international and domestic increasingly intersect. More specifically, it is an interdisciplinary overview and critical introduction to key issues of governance and conflict within international studies. Under governance, we explore the political, economic and ethical dimensions of globalization; the role of international institutions and organizations; and the spread of global human-rights standards. For conflict, we consider the dramatic decline of inter-state war in the contemporary international system; complex emergencies; civil wars; and international interventions.

Over the course of the term, we will examine these topics from various disciplinary perspectives, including sociology, anthropology, political science and economics/political-economy. Such an approach is not only consistent with the inter-disciplinary mandate of the School for International Studies; it also provides better knowledge about the complex, multifaceted world in which we live.

**Objectives**

Consistent with the School’s mission as an inter-disciplinary social-science research unit, the course will provide students with multiple tools – drawn from different disciplines – to make better sense of contemporary international studies.

Students will finish with the following knowledge and skills.

- A basic understanding of both governance and conflict within the international system.
- An ability to understand and assess social science research analysing key features of contemporary governance and conflict.
- A critical sense of how inter-disciplinarity works in practice.
Teaching Method

There will be 12 lectures, each lasting 1 hour and 50 minutes. In addition, there will be 11 tutorial sessions of 50 minutes each. The lectures will mainly be a lecturing format, while tutorials will be marked by discussion and debate.

Requirements

There are four requirements.

- **In-Class Midterm Exam (25%)** – This is a 1 hour and 50 minute test, given during lecture on 14 October 2014. It will consist of short answers and one essay question.

- **Critical Review Essay (25%)** – Of the various substantive issues, theories and disciplinary approaches within governance and conflict, students choose one for in-depth exploration. The critical review will be 6-8 pages long, be written in superior English, and will assess the strengths and weaknesses and cutting edge challenges of the chosen topic. It will be due in tutorial on 4 November 2014. Your grade will be based on both the quality of the analysis and the quality of your writing.

  (Additional information on the critical review – how to research it, SFU resources, the Student Learning Commons – will be provided during the first weeks of the semester.)

- **Tutorial Participation (15%)** – Attendance will be taken and active participation is mandatory. ‘Participation’ is defined as regular involvement in tutorial debates and discussions on class readings and other topics.

- **Take-Home Final Exam (35%)** – This essay exam covers the entire course. It will be 8-10 pages in length, and be written in superior English. The exam will be handed out on 25 November 2014, during our last class. It will be due on Wednesday, 3 December 2014, when a hard copy of the exam must be delivered to Ellen Yap in AQ 6210 between 1000 and 1600. Your grade will be based on both the quality of the analysis and the quality of your writing.

Final course grades will be calculated as follows: Midterm (25%), Critical Review Essay (25%); Tutorial Participation (15%); Final Exam (35%).

Reading

The following paperback is available for purchase at the SFU Book Store.


All other required reading will be available via SFU’s Custom Courseware or on reserve at the library.
Reading averages 60 pages per week. However, please be aware that much of this reading is challenging. A course at the 200 level no longer relies solely on textbooks or descriptive overviews. Instead, it makes increasing use of the social-science literature that defines international studies at a more advanced level.

Students are required to have done the reading for any given week prior to lecture and tutorial; if you have not done so, do not bother coming to class.

**Grading**

Grades in the A range are reserved for truly exceptional performance. The latter means you will show a mastery of the relevant course material, and your writing and grammar will be superior (no typos, no awkward constructions, no page-long paragraphs). Grades in the C range will be awarded for average efforts, where engagement with course material is minimal and the writing is sloppy. Grades of D and F are reserved for poor performance – that is, spotty attendance, little or no engagement with assigned readings, and weak writing. Bottom Line: Exceptional performance will be rewarded, while poor performance will be punished.

**Policy on Make-Ups and Late Submissions**

- Midterm Exam – No make-up exam will be offered. The only possible exception is in the case of a well-documented medical or family emergency.
- Critical Review Essay, Take-Home Final Exam – They are due on the days and times indicated above; late essays or exams will not be accepted. The only possible exception is in the case of a well-documented medical or family emergency.

**Prerequisites**

The prerequisite for this course is International Studies 101.

**Academic Integrity**

All students taking courses in International Studies are expected to read and understand the university’s policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T10.02 and T10.03). Forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following.

- Submitting all or a portion of the same work for credit in more than one course.
- Representing another person’s work as your own for course assignments.
- Failure to acknowledge sources of facts, information, analyses, interpretations, and arguments that you incorporate in your work, whether from a source that is written, spoken, or on the internet, and whether or not it is published or unpublished. Appropriate documentation of your sources is necessary when you quote, paraphrase or incorporate information and ideas generated by others.

In addition, all students in IS classes are expected to read the SFU Library lesson on “What is Plagiarism?” and take the interactive tutorial, “Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism.”
Lecture Plan

- **2 September**: Introduction to Course; Governance/Order & Conflict/Disorder; Inter-Disciplinarity – In Theory & Practice

**Part I – Global Governance & International Order**

- **9 September**: Globalization and Governance – Thinking Like a Political Economist, a Political Scientist, An Institutional Theorist, A Sociologist ... Or all of the Above!
- **16 September**: International Institutions and Global Governance – Perspectives from Economics and Sociology
- **23 September**: The Power – or is that Pathologies? – of International Organizations
- **30 September**: International Human Rights and Domestic Change I – Insights from International Law and Political Science
- **7 October**: International Human Rights and Domestic Change II – Insights from Sociology
- **14 October**: Midterm Exam

**Part II – Conflict and International Disorder: From Interstate War to Complex Emergencies and Civil War**

- **21 October**: War in the World Today – From Interstate Conflicts to Complex Emergencies
- **28 October**: Civil War – (Differing!) Insights from Political Economy, Political Science and Sociology
- **4 November**: Collective Mobilization and Violence – Why Rebel?
- **11 November**: No Class (Remembrance Day)
- **18 November**: Conflicts without Borders – The International Dimensions of Civil War and Complex Emergencies
- **25 November**: Complex Emergencies and International Responses – Condemned to Fail?

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**Detailed Syllabus**

**September 2**: Introduction to Course; Governance/Order & Conflict/Disorder; Inter-Disciplinarity – In Theory & Practice

Reading: Orend (2013; Introduction, chs.1, 12, Glossary). [57 pages]

Tutorial Discussion: There are no tutorials the first day of class.

**Part I: Global Governance & International Order**

**September 9**: Globalization and Governance – Thinking Like a Political Economist, a Political Scientist, An Institutional Theorist, A Sociologist ... Or all of the Above!

Reading: Orend (2013; ch.6); Caporaso and Madeira (2012; chs.1-2). [77 pages]
Tutorial Discussion: ‘Globalization has fundamentally changed the contemporary world.’ Discuss.

**September 16: International Institutions and Global Governance – Perspectives from Economics and Sociology**

Reading: Orend (2013; ch.5); Keohane (1984; ch.1); Fligstein (2009; ch.1). [70 pages]


**September 23: The Power – or is that Pathologies? – of International Organizations**

Reading: Barnett and Finnemore (2004; ch.5). [35 pages]

Tutorial Discussion: How did the UN exercise power during the Rwandan conflict and genocide? What specific roles did it play in shaping the outcome we saw – a human and humanitarian tragedy?

**September 30: International Human Rights and Domestic Change I – Insights from International Law and Political Science**

Reading: Orend (2013; ch.9); Simmons (2009; chs.1-2). [81 pages]

Tutorial Discussion: The sheer amount of international law has grown with time. But, how exactly, does this law effect what states do?

**October 7: International Human Rights and Domestic Change II – Insights from Sociology**

Reading: Risse, Ropp and Sikkink (1999; ch.1); Risse, Ropp and Sikkink (2013; ch.8). [57 pages]

Tutorial Discussion: ‘Human rights institutions and treaties are a dime a dozen, but when push comes to shove, they matter not at all. Think of Syria (the right to life), America (capital punishment), Russia (basic political liberties), Guantanamo Bay (torture), and China (thousands upon thousands of executions).’ Discuss.

**October 14: Midterm Exam**

Reading: --

Tutorial Discussion: Critical review essays, from conception to final product.

**Part II: Conflict and International Disorder – From Interstate War to Complex Emergencies and Civil War**

**October 21: War in the World Today – From Interstate Conflicts to Complex Emergencies**
Tutorial Discussion: ‘Interstate wars are a thing of the past. Today, it’s all about complex emergencies and civil wars.’ Discuss.

**October 28: Civil War – (Differing!) Insights from Political Economy, Political Science and Sociology**


Tutorial Discussion: Why do civil wars occur, and why do they often differ so dramatically in the degree and type of violence employed?

**November 4: Collective Mobilization and Violence – Why Rebel?**

Reading: Weinstein (2007; Introduction); Wood (2003; ch.1). [56 pages]

Tutorial Discussion: What motivates rebellion, and why do different disciplines answer this question in different ways? (NB – Critical reviews due in tutorial!)

**November 11: No Class (Remembrance Day)**

**November 18: Conflicts without Borders – The International Dimensions of Civil War and Complex Emergencies**

Reading: Salehyan (2009; Introduction); Checkel (2013). [46 pages]

Tutorial Discussion: ‘Civil wars are rarely pure domestic affairs.’ Discuss.

**November 25: Complex Emergencies and International Responses – Condemned to Fail?**

Reading: Orend (2013; 228-41); Autesserre (2009); Keen (2011; ch.6). [77 pages]

Tutorial Discussion: ‘Interventions by the international community fail because of vested interests, poorly designed programs and institutions, organizational pathologies within IOs, or ignorance of local context and culture.’ Discuss.

**Reading - Bibliography**


