

**Political Science 2200**  
*International Relations*  
**Instructor: Ian S. Spears**  
*University of Guelph*  
Fall 2019

**Lecture:** Tues., Thurs., 5:30-6:50 pm

**Location:** Thornbrough 1200

**Final Exam:** Wednesday December 11, 2019, 19:00-21:00

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, 9:30-11 am

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**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Introduction:** Welcome to POLS 2200: *International Relations*. This course is an introduction to the most significant traditional and contemporary theoretical approaches to international relations. The course begins with a discussion of three foundational paradigms followed by three alternative approaches. Readings and class discussion will then focus on the application of these paradigms to various issues in world politics, including nationalism, nuclear proliferation, and the environment. While every effort will be made to ensure the material is as accessible and useful as possible, students should be aware of the abstract nature of the course material. Please do refer to this syllabus first when questions arise during the term.

**Textbook and Readings:** Students will be able to purchase a textbook and acquire readings through the on-line course reserve. Unless otherwise indicated, these can be accessed by going through the “Library” link on the University of Guelph home page (under “Quick Links,” click “course reserves” and select POLS 2200). The textbook below will be available in the library on short-term reserve.

Elizabeth G. Matthews and Rhonda L. Callaway, *International Relations Theory: A Primer*  
(New York: Oxford University Press, 2017).

**Assignments and Tests:** Students will be expected to complete one multiple choice midterm, one short essay, and five short quizzes. The test will be based on the readings and lectures; the essay will be based on course readings and additional research. The mid-term test will be written, in class, on **Thursday October 10**. The short essay will be due on **Thursday November 7**. More information will be provided on the short paper early in the term. Students will also complete five short quizzes on the course readings on days designated in the syllabus as “**Q-Days**.” A final exam covering all the course materials will be written on **Wednesday, December 11, 2019**.

**Q-Days:** During the course, students will be expected to complete five in-class quizzes for a total of five marks. These are short tests worth one mark each and consisting of two to four questions. In each case, the quizzes are based on the readings and/or lecture discussion, and are meant to encourage students to come to, and to be prepared for, class. Students who are not present in class to write the test will receive a grade of zero for that week. There is one make-up quiz on the final day of the course in the event that a quiz was missed during the term.

There is a demanding reading list: Students will be expected to *know the names of authors and their arguments* and to articulate them clearly. For their term papers, students will be expected to show an understanding of key concepts and to be able to express themselves in discussion that is well organized, coherent, and follows accepted rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. *Do not underestimate the quality of work that will be expected or the time necessary to write a good essay.*

**Course Grading:** Student grades will be assessed according to the following formula:

Midterm:	25 per cent
Quizzes (5 “Q-days”)	5 per cent
Short Essay:	30 per cent
<u>Final exam:</u>	<u>40 per cent</u>
	100% total