Dr. Sarah Shoker  
Kenneth Taylor Hall 505  
shokers@mcmaster.ca  
Office Hours: 9:30pm to 10:00pm after class, or by appointment

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30pm to 9:30pm  
Room: ETB 238

**Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the ecosystem that sustains global politics. Students will finish the course with a greater ability to identify the important actors in global politics, the factors that lead to transnational cooperation, and how the international system has evolved to respond to globalizing pressures. Some issues that will be explored include: the transformation of citizenship and identity in the era of globalization, the evolution of warfare across territorial borders, how civil society groups exert pressure on international actors, and how states respond to political challenges that transcend their borders.

**Course Modification Statement**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

**Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

**Additional Notes**

E-mails will be answered within 48 hours. If the student does not hear from the Professor by the end of this time, then please re-send the e-mail. I will not respond to e-mails that are sent the evening before a paper or exam is due. Please plan accordingly.

In this course, students are expected to participate and contribute to weekly discussions. The success of this course depends on you and your peers. For a good, short summary on effective debating techniques, please see “How to Criticize with Kindness: Philosopher Daniel Dennett on the Four Steps to Arguing Intelligently,” which can be found at https://www.brainpickings.org/2014/03/28/daniel-dennett-rapport-rules-criticism/.
Discrimination based on any category identified by the Ontario Human Rights Code will not be tolerated and can result in dismissal from the class.

**Textbook and Course Materials**
All course materials are available online at no cost. We will be using the following textbook: Kavalaski, Emilian, ed. 2015. *Encounters with World Affairs: An introduction to International Relations*. London: Routledge. The textbook is available for free through the McMaster Library.

**Course Evaluation**

20% Short Assignment (Due May 15th)
30% Major Paper (Due June 7th)
30% Final Exam (take home, due June 19th)
20% Participation

**Short Assignment 20%**

Find a speech, interview, memo, or press release. Your chosen document must fulfill the following criteria: The statements in the document should be made by a representative from government, a political party, NGO, IO, or TNC. The statement must be on the topic of an issue pertinent to global affairs. E.g. a press release about current NAFTA negotiations.

Details: 1. *Briefly* contextualize the document you have selected. Why is the event the subject of debate? 2. Highlight the major arguments in the document. 3. *Explain* which theoretical framework best describes these arguments. 4. Explain if you agree with the position in the document.

Your assignment should be double-spaced and no longer than 3 pages—I will stop grading at the end of the 3rd page. Any assignment less than 1.5 pages will not earn a passing grade (50%). The purpose of this assignment is to help you identify the way organizational representatives use theory to interpret the global events around them. The assignment should also illustrate how political science is not simply about describing the world, but analyzing and explaining *why and how* political events occur. Finally, this assignment teaches concise and brief writing.

*Remember to attach the original document to the assignment or your assignment will not be graded.*

**Participation 20%**

Participation is an important part of the learning experience. Students are expected to come to class with a question prepared. This question can be about the weekly readings or about a current event that is related to the assigned readings for the week. A student may volunteer a question or, if there are no volunteers, the Professor will select a student from the class list. Students can gain participation points by making comments, asking follow-up questions, and/or relating the discussion back to course themes. Students may also gain participation points by participating in the ongoing “course glossary.” Students are expected to be respectful to their colleagues, to practice ‘good faith’ debating practices, and to avoid derailing the conversation.
**30% Research Paper**

Much time in this course has been spent on understanding the factors that lead to political violence. For the purpose of this essay, political violence can be understood as state-to-state conflict, civil war or revolution, or state vs. non-state violence. Implicit to this assignment is the position that violent conflict is a *problem*, and we need to understand what factors led to this problem in order to provide a solution. **Please note that the term paper must go beyond describing the event. You must provide analysis.**

Details: 1. Provide a brief explanation of the event. 2. Argue. What factors led to this event? Who/What are the actors that are most important to understand this event. 3. Which theory is best for understanding this particular problem?

The term paper should be 10 pages double-spaced. Please note that all papers require a thesis statement (an argument.) A research essay is about using peer-reviewed evidence to argue for a position. Please submit the topic—the event you plan on describing along with a few lines about your major argument—to the professor by May 18th.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will be penalized with a deduction of one letter grade per day, including weekends (e.g. A to an A-). All assignments should be submitted as a hard copy by the end of class unless an alternative arrangement has been made with the instructor.

**Week 1: Introduction to Global Politics**

**May 1:** Who and What Matters in Global Politics? (Introduction and Discussion)

**May 3:** Chapter 2: Theories of World Affairs, by Mark Chou and Avery Dorothy Howard Poole.

**Week 2: States, Civil Societies, and Individuals in Global Politics**

**May 8:** Chapter 7: Transnational Actors in World Politics, by Brian King in *Encounters with world Affairs*.


**May 10:** NO CLASS

**Week 3: States, Civil Societies and Individuals in Global Politics**

**May 15:** Chapter 17: Global Governance by Sandra Popiden. **SHORT ASSIGNMENT DUE.**

**May 18:** Chapter 6: Individuals in International Politics, by David Walton.


**Week 4: Security, Nuclear Proliferation, and Terrorism**


Week 5: Political Economy and Global Inequality

May 29 Chapter 9: The International Economy of World Politics, by Greg Anderson.

May 31 Chapter 11: Global Inequality, by Eunyoung Ha and Julia Hyeyong Kim.

Week 6: Climate Change and Global Politics

June 5: Chapter 8: Nature as an Actor in International Politics, by Stephen Hobden.


Week 7: Borders, Citizenship, and Identity

June 12: Chapter 15: Borders, Immigration and State Transformation, by Alex Balch.


June 14: Chapter 13: Identity Politics on the World Stage, by David Muchlinski and David Siroky.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.
For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.