

POLS 3520 Course Syllabus

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POLS 3520 Canadian Foreign and Defence Policy

Syllabus

Contacting your instructor

For information on contacting your instructor as well as other important information from your instructor see the Instructor Letter in your course website.

Course description

The Undergraduate Calendar of The University of Manitoba describes POLS 3520 as follows:

An examination of Canadian foreign and defence policy, with attention to contemporary events and issues. The course is designed to examine both foreign and defence policies as interdependent issues for Canadian interests. The course will assess the evolution and changing priorities of Canadian foreign and defence issues, with particular attention to Canada's relations with the United States, Europe, Asia and the Third World. Students may not hold credit for POLS 3520 (019.352) and POLS 3561 (019.356). Prerequisite: a grade of "C" or better in POLS 2040 (or 019.204) or POLS 2041 (019.204) or written consent of instructor or department head.

This study concentrates upon the historical evolution of Canadian Foreign and Defence Policy (CFDP) since 1945, its domestic determinants, the significance of, Canada's relations with the United States, and Canadian policy as it has evolved in key issue areas on the international political agenda. It concludes with an assessment of the respective foreign policies of the Mulroney and Chrétien governments. Although the Manual does not cover contemporary events and issues, such as the impact of September 11th, 2001, the war on Iraq and the softwood lumber dispute with the United States, it provides you with the analytical tools and historical information to understand and explain these events and issues. In facilitating this understanding, the final assignment charges you to examine one of these contemporary issues.

With the exception of contemporary material concerning CFDP, the material covered in this course is equivalent in all respects to the on-campus course and is comparable in level of difficulty. The absence of contemporary material, always problematic for a course such as this, is addressed by the provision of a basic reading list of up-to-date material. Not only will these readings facilitate your work for your final assignment, they are vital for your preparation for the final examination. Please take note that the Final Examination may well require you to address a contemporary topic.

Otherwise, the main difference is that the content that you would acquire in a classroom setting is now translated into print form in these course materials. This course has been designed to allow you to interact with other students and the instructor, and to have access to some relevant audio-visual resources and sources of information. Even so, you are expected to work on your own and to develop the necessary self-discipline and problem-solving skills required to succeed. At the same time, you have the distinct advantage of having greater independence and flexibility in organizing your own study schedule. Learning through independent study can be very effective, provided that you have the interest and are prepared to make the commitment of time and energy.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- apply a set of analytical tools for understanding the creation, development and implementation of any nation's foreign and defence policy;
- identify the dominant concepts, ideas, interests, values, and principles which have guided CFDP since 1945;
- describe the dominant domestic and international issues and events related to foreign and defence policy

considerations, and Canada's reactions to them;

- discuss more effectively Canada's past, present, and future place and role in the world;
- evaluate past, present and future CFDP issues, events, decisions and actions; and
- analyse and propose alternative solutions to complex foreign and defence policy problems.

Course materials

There is no single textbook that is suitable for a course on Canada's post-1945 external relations. Therefore, this course will draw on several other book chapters and journal articles. These course materials will cover material that is essential to a comprehensive (historical and thematic) treatment of Canada's foreign policy. You are encouraged to consult your local library's holding on Canada's external affairs.

Required Texts

The following required materials are available for purchase from the [University of Manitoba Bookstore](#). Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

- Readings Package: *POLS 3520 - Canadian Foreign and Defence Policy*. Compiled by Dr. O. Peter St. John, available for purchase from the University of Manitoba Bookstore.
- Bratt, Duane and Christopher J. Kukucha, eds. *Readings in Canadian Foreign Policy: Classic Debates and New Ideas*. 2nd ed. Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Nossal, Kim Richard, Stéphane Roussel and Stéphane Paquin. *International Policy and Politics in Canada*. 1st ed. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada, 2011.

The books below are out of print, but they can be obtained from the University of Manitoba library or through interlibrary loan:

- Nossal, Kim Richard. *The Politics of Canadian Foreign Policy*. 3d ed. Scarborough, ON: Prentice Hall, 1997. As this is an earlier version of the 2011 *International Policy and Politics in Canada* (referred to above), you may adopt either one as your textbook.
- Granatstein, J. L., ed. *Canadian Foreign Policy: Historical Readings*. 2d ed. North York, ON: General Publishers, 1998.

Optional Materials

Among the numerous valuable sources on CFDP that are suggested in the Units, you should look closely at the annual publication of the *Canada Among Nations* series by McGill-Queen's University Press. You will find this source particularly valuable for your final assignment on contemporary issues and events.

With regard to defence policy in particular, you will find Douglas Bland and Sean M. Malonet. *Campaigns for International Security: Canada's Defence Policy at the Turn of the Century*. Kingston: McGill-Queen's Press, 2004, very valuable as well.

Course overview

This following brief description covers the various units of study:

Unit 1 Foreign Policy in General

An introduction to some of the concepts, issues, and methods involved in the study of foreign policy in general, along with several models or frameworks for the analysis of foreign policy.

Unit 2 Historical Overview of Canadian Foreign Policy

The salient features of post-1945 foreign policy within the contexts of the leaderships of Louis St. Laurent, John Diefenbaker, Lester Pearson, Pierre Trudeau, and Brian Mulroney.

Unit 3 Internationalism and Canadian Political Culture

The major domestic determinants of Canadian internationalism, including the general parameters of Canadian foreign policy.

Unit 4 The Security Dimension

The major security preoccupations of Canada since the start of the Cold War, with reference to the relevant political regimes and new conceptions of national security.

Unit 5 Continental Interdependence: Security, Economic, Environmental, and Cultural Considerations

Canadian-U.S. disagreements on continental security; American penetration of the Canadian economy; Canada's environmental and cultural anxieties; Canada's range of political instruments and diplomatic styles.

Unit 6 Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

The recognition by the international community of Canada's role in peacekeeping and peacemaking, along with some major cases of Canada's participation in U.N.-sponsored activities in this area.

Unit 7 Disarmament and Arms Control

How Canada's interests and values were reflected in the country's policies in this area, both under U.N. auspices and elsewhere, to enhance the possibilities of a more stable international environment.

Unit 8 Canada and the United Nations: Human Rights and Environmental Issues

Canada's commitment to the protection of human rights in the world and the interests and values served by this commitment; environmental concerns of the international community and methods of handling them.

Unit 9 Canada's Aid to the Developing World

The major arguments underlying the duty to give economic aid to developing countries; the major mechanisms involved in Canada's programs; the validity of criticisms advanced against Canada's motives and record in this area.

Unit 10 The Evolution of the International System, 1984-1998

The new Cold War, 1980-1985; the New World Order, 1990-1998; interventions in civil conflicts; peacekeeping, peace enforcement, and peacemaking.

Unit 11 The Mulroney Foreign Policy, 1984-1993

Mulroney's vision of foreign policy; Canada-U.S. relations and free trade; the United Nations; peacekeeping and peacemaking; global diplomacy and the search for neighbourhood; Mulroney and Trudeau contrasted.

Unit 12 The Chrétien Foreign Policy, 1993-1998

Chrétien's vision of foreign policy; international trade; human rights; the 1995 Canada-Spain fish war; bureaucratic politics; peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, and peace building; establishing a neighbourhood; hemisphere of the Americas.

Unit 13 Overview of CFDP

A review of the dominant ideas and concepts that have governed CFDP with some possible directions for the future.

Unit Organization

In general, each unit of this course is organized according to these topics:

Learning objectives: a complex statement of what you are expected to accomplish or be able to demonstrate upon completion of the unit.

Activities: itemized instructions about the recommended sequence of tasks relating to the instructional content in the course materials, assigned readings in the required textbook and supplementary readings, and self-test questions.

Instructional content: a systematic presentation of the topic under consideration. Frequent references are made to passages in the required textbook and supplementary readings, and other relevant source material.

Self-test questions: these are designed to assist your comprehension of the material covered in the unit, to sharpen

your thinking about the course material, and to help prepare for the final examination. These are for your own use only and are not to be submitted. Most of the answers can be found by carefully reviewing the instructional content in the course materials and referring to the assigned text and supplementary readings.

References and further reading: the published works cited in the instructional content of the unit.

Evaluation and grading

General Guidelines

To meet the course requirements you must complete the following:

- Two essay assignments outlined in a following section, each of which is worth 15 percent of your total grade. On the requirements you are expected to meet in each essay, see the Essay Guide.
- Two Discussion Forums, each of which is worth 10 percent of your total grade. The guidelines for your participation in each discussion forum are set out in the Discussion Forum Guide.
- One Policy Brief on a specific policy issue, worth 15 percent of your total grade. Information on the criteria to be followed in the formulation of your Policy Brief is laid down in the Policy Brief Guide.
- A final examination covering the entire year's work, worth 35 percent of your total grade. The final exam will be scheduled by the University as indicated in the Student Handbook.

Essay Assignments

The assignments for the course are found on your course website.

Assignment Due Dates

Assignment	September-April	January-July
1 - 1 st Discussion Forum	October 4	February 15
2 – 1 st Essay	November 2	March 15
3 – 2 nd Discussion Forum	December 3	April 12
4 - 2 nd Essay	February 5	May 10
5 – Policy Brief	March 15	June 14

General Guidelines for Assignment and Exam Preparation

A word of caution about the assignments and the final examination

Some students find that they do very well on the assignments, but they do not do nearly as well on the final examination. While your grades on the assignments will give you some idea of how well you are mastering the material, they may not indicate how well you will do on the examination, because the examination is written under very different circumstances. Because the assignments are open book, they do not require the amount of memorization that a closed-book examination requires nor are they limited to a specific time period. Some students have told us that, based on the high marks they received on the assignments, they were overconfident and underestimated the time and effort needed to prepare for the final examination.

Please keep all this in mind as you prepare for the examination. You are advised to use each Unit's self-test questions to practice for the examination by setting a time limit and not having any books available. Pay careful attention to the description of the type of questions that will be on your final examination. Preparing for multiple choice questions involves a different type of studying than preparing for essay questions. Do not underestimate the stress involved in writing a time-limited examination.

Distribution of marks

Evaluation	Percentage
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Two essay assignments x 15%	30%
Two Discussion Forums x 10%	20%
One Policy Brief	15%
Final examination	35%
Total	100%

Grading scale

Letter grade	Percentage grade	Description
A +	90-100	Exceptional
A	80-89	Excellent
B +	75-79	Very Good
B	70-74	Good
C+	65-69	Satisfactory
C	60-64	Adequate
D	50-59	Marginal
F	less than 50	Failure

Please note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Note: If the assignment due date falls during the Mid-term Break in February, it will be due on the Monday following the Mid-term Break. If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, contact your instructor well in advance of the due date, for we cannot guarantee that the instructor will accept late assignments.

Examination

The final exam will be conducted at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus or at an alternate location off-campus. **All students must declare an exam location.** The Registrar 's Office is responsible for scheduling the final exam. Once finalized, the exam date and time information will be posted on the University of Manitoba Exam site.

Review the guidelines on assignment due dates in the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. Note: These policies are also located in your Distance and Online Education Student Handbook or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

Distance and Online Education (DE) Student Resources

In your course website there are links for the following:

- Contact Distance and Online Education Staff
- Distance and Online Student Handbook
- Distance and Online Education Website

Acknowledgements

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