

# **POLS 3620: International Relations (Fall 2016)**

**Bahgat Korany**

**Office hours:**

Sunday–Wednesday 11:30–12:30

or by appointment

Research Centers building: 2010/12

**Class Location:** C129

*This document about POLS 3620 is actually **three in one** .*

*A-The 1<sup>st</sup> part is an overview of your **syllabus** ,i.e, the course's general objectives , its structure, your rights and obligations , and how the 100% grade is divided into four main components. For instance , there is no term paper in this course. It is important to read this syllabus carefully to make sure whether this is the class you want and you can fit in or it is better for you to look for another course. It is indeed crucial to make this basic decision as early as possible to avoid wasting your time and energy . This 1<sup>st</sup> part is thus explained clearly to help you make your decision, and especially to avoid traps .Some of these common traps that could endanger your success in this course are : e.g.piling up your RPs to the end of the semester when you are under pressure; more than 3-week undocumented absences that could entail your exclusion from the class; issues of academic (dis)integrity that could exclude you from AUC. The 1<sup>st</sup> class will answer any questions to help you avoid these risks. You have also office hours where you can raise any issues. Though as a **basic course** , this one it is bound to be demanding , all efforts are exerted by the instructor and his TAs to help you have a smooth sailing and even get an A when you work for it .*

B- The 2<sup>nd</sup> part is a division of the material to be covered across the semester into specific classes , i.e .**the detailed outline**. It is your detailed map of the semester . Most of the readings are from the course's textbook , and additional materials are indicated . All readings are put on reserve in the library and/or copy center.This outline also specifies the possibility of other components such as an occasional and relevant film , an exercise in applying what you have learned through a simulation and also **the dates of your 3 mid-terms**.

C-Since this course is basic for your formation in the IR field , this 3<sup>rd</sup> part –the succinct and general **bibliography** – is for those who want to go further , either at present or in the future .In other words, this short list is not part of the mandatory reading at present ,but a guide to the state of the IR field through some basic literature .

## **A-Syllabus**

### **I- OBJECTIVES**

The “global” continues to affect the daily life of many : e.g an international refugee crisis ; the continuation in the decline of the price of oil.... These come to add to a crisis-laden global order with such phenomena as Greece’s financial crisis/ potential bankruptcy and of course Brexit . Though “domestic” or intra-state armed conflicts are plaguing the life of many people in Afghanistan, Yemen or Syria , no direct inter-state war declaration is taking place at present. Traditionally , inter-state war and its preparations have been dubbed as the “high politics” in an “anarchical” international system of self-help | Socio-economic issues are ,by contrast , conceived as “low politics”.

Though seemingly secondary, as the accepted term of “low politics” shows, non-state actors such as Da'ash or economic phenomena such as Greece's problems or Brexit could entail many calamities: for example, rise of international terrorism, Greece's bankruptcy and the plague of the “F. state” syndrome within the very gates of Europe itself; the decline of both the Euro-zone and even the EU---usually perceived as THE model of successful regional integration. The Greek example or Brexit shows that we do not need an inter-state war or even a serious political conflict among enemies to have a major threat to international order. So-called “low politics” can be such a threat.

**What else do we learn from the occurrence and evolution of these crises or other contemporary international events?**

This question summarizes the aim of this course: how to decode the world of world politics that is invading our very daily life? How to render the complexity of the “global” intelligible without falling into the trap of over-simplicity for the young student starting in this IR field? On a rather personal note, I have been focusing my IR teaching – here and abroad – on the graduate level. I realize, however, that basic IR-formation starts much earlier, really at the undergraduate level such as POLS 3620. Consequently, to help all of you acquire the required IR basis, I am here with two qualified TAs and a very appropriate (British) textbook. I think of all of us, primarily the students, as forming a team working together, smoothly and consistently, toward a common objective: develop your toolkit to decode IR and the problems of international (dis)order, i.e. the basic challenges and possible mode of global governance .

## II- STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURE

To attain this objective, the basic components of POLS 3620 are three:

- A) Interactive lecturing and RPs (reaction papers);
- B) debates, simulation, films; and
- C) Three mid-terms. Yes, there is no final term paper in this

class. In other words, the 100% grade is distributed as follows:

- 1- Participation (including 3 RPs): 25%
- 2- Three mid-terms, each 25% (the last one is comprehensive)

The pedagogical approach adopted is interactive and aims to develop the student's analytical capacity. It encourages students to be pro-active and is based on critical reading, on average 30-40 pages per class, **BEFORE** we meet on Sundays and Wednesdays. In other words, the class discussions aim to clarify ambiguous/problematic aspects of the text, answer questions and push the topic forward. In no way should our class meetings focus on a summary of the readings already done in advance. This will be a waste of time and energy.

Since regular attendance is taken for granted (e.g. 3 weeks of unjustified absences could entail exclusion from the class), participation grade is based on your effective input in the class and the 3 RPs (submitted on time). To help you improve your analytical capacity, you will have a written feedback on your RPs as well as your mid-terms.

### III- **BASIC GUIDELINES**

To be an effective member of this team and contribute to its success, please follow these guidelines:

- 1- Do your assigned readings regularly and well **before each class**, highlighting points you do not understand or agree with and bring them to the class to share with the rest of the team. Don't be shy!
- 2- Have your own pro-active approach in the class itself. **Show how you can push the topic further. When you disagree, have your EVIDENCE ready for back-up.**
- 3- **Avoid traps.** The most common are:
  - a) Late arrival/early departure without a valid excuse
  - b) While enthusiasm in discussion is encouraged, this has to be done politely .Impoliteness in addressing anybody is not tolerated
  - c) Zero tolerance is also for any violation of academic integrity, e.g. signing attendance sheet for somebody else, plagiarism...Such violations could entail sending the file to AUC Integrity Committee, with the possibility of failure or semester suspension
  - d) In case of emergency, talk to the professor as soon as possible with the relevant document in support (e.g. AUC clinic document in case of medical emergency)

If you feel unable or do not want to respect these guidelines (once they are accepted in the first class meeting), you have the option of signing in for this course next semester with another professor.

Though we will have some extra-readings depending on the class discussions, about 85% of the readings are from the main textbook: John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (BSO), The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations. Oxford and New York: OUP, 2014 (International Sixth or latest Edition). All readings will be available on reserve in the AUC Library

## **B-The Outline**

**Here is finally a PRELIMINARY OUTLINE of the class lecturing/activities until the end of the semester**

### **WEEK I**

1- Sunday Sept.4 :

Distributing the class' basic document.Introducing the field.What is IR ;why is it important even in daily life ; and how can POLS 3620 possibly help ?

2- Wednesday Sept. 7:

The specifics of IR in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century  
Reading: BSO: PP. 1-13 (Source will later be mentioned only when it is not our BSO textbook)

### **WEEK II**

3- Sunday Sept.11- Wednesday Sept.14 : **Eid El-Adha Holidays**

### **WEEK III**

4- Sunday Sept. 18

Edging into the contemporary era and impact of globalization

Chapter 1: 14-29 and Chapter 4: 61-75

5- Wednesday Sept. 21

How do our world views/ conceptual lenses get colored?

Presenting IR Schools:

a) *Realism*: Chapter 6: 91-103

b) *Liberalism*: Chapter 7: 104-115

#### **WEEK IV**

6- Sunday Sept. 25:

c) *Marxism*: Chapter 8: 116-129

7- Wednesday Sept 28: A film?/Revision

#### **WEEK V**

8- Sunday Oct. 2:

Two last IR main schools

d) *Social constructivism*: Chapter 9: 130-43

e) *Post-Colonialism*: Chapter 10: 144-156

9- Wednesday Oct. 5:

a) Synthesis/assessment of IR Principal Schools : do IR" from below" or "Peoples' IR" exist?

Readings

Korany (2008) : Human Security : conference presentation at the 2008-summit of the Arab Woman Organization , Arab League, Abu Dhabi.

Korany (2015) A critical look at how we prepare our IR students: acceptance speech of the International Studies Association Award, New Orleans, USA.

(both on reserve. )

b) Preparing for your first mid-term

## **WEEK VI**

10- Sunday Oct. 9

### **FIRST MID-TERM**

11- Wednesday Oct. 12:

How/Which IR schools help us most in decoding what happened? A journey through history and main IR issues

Chapters 3&4: 33-60

## **WEEK VII**

12-Sunday Oct.16:

Realism Triumphant?

Chapters 12&13: 176-202

13-Wednesday Oct. 19:

Or is it Liberalism?

Chapters: 203-232

## **WEEK VIII**

14-Sunday Oct. 23:

Can we really forget about Marxism?

Chapter 11: 161-175

Chapter 21: 317-329

15-Wednesday Oct. 26:

A reflection pause?

## **WEEK IX**

16-Sunday Oct. 30:

How helpful/complementary is Social Constructivism?

a)Chapter 18: 264-278

- b)Chapter 24: 361-375
- c)Korany :Western Stereotypes of the Arabs : the Five Bs  
( Ahram Strategic File 2002 – on reserve)

17-Wednesday Nov. 2:

And the contribution from the new-comer: Post-Colonialism?

- a)Chapter 20: 299-316
- b)Korany Arab Human Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
(2014): 139-165

#### **WEEK X**

18-Sunday Nov. 6:

Film/Simulation

19-Wednesday Nov. 9:

Revision/Discussion

#### **WEEK XI**

20- Sunday Nov. 13:

### **S E C O N D M I D - T E R M**

21-Wednesday Nov. 16:

Emerging world order and its challenges

- a) Chapter 17: 248-63 (Regionalism and its particularities)
- b)Chapter 5: 76-90 (Rising Powers)

#### **WEEK XII**

22-Sunday Nov. 20:

- c)Chapter 19: 279-294 (Transnational Actors)

23-Wednesday Nov. 23:

e) Chapter 25: 376-390 (Nuclear Proliferation)

### **WEEK XIII**

24- Sunday Nov. 27:

e)Chapter 26: 391-405 (Terrorism in the era of globalization)

25-Wednesday Nov. 30:

f) Chapter 22: 330-344 (Environmental Issues)

### **WEEK XIV**

26- Sunday Dec. 4:

g)Chapter 16: 233-247 (The UN/ international governance institutions)

27-Wednesday Dec. 7:

Though some foundational IR phenomena look the same ,but are they really the same ?

a)Korany (2015): The State of the Arab State

b) Chapter 1: 1-41 Orford, Anne. 2011. International Authority and the Responsibility to Protect. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **WEEK XV**

28- Sunday Dec. 11:

Attempting an IR synthesis and Concretely : Getting some basic concepts connected in an application to the ME:

Korany :The ME Since the End of The Cold War .Oxford U.P.2016: PP79-101

c)Simulation

29-Wednesday Dec. 14:

Continuation of the simulation

**WEEK XVI**

30-Sunday Dec. 18:

**THIRD (COMPREHENSIVE) MID-TERM**

## **C-Overview of the literature: A succinct Bibliography**

### **A-GeneralAnalyses**

1. Anderson, Sheldon et al. International Studies: an Interdisciplinary Approach to Global Issues. Boulder, Col West View Press, 2008.
2. Battistella, Dario: Theories de Relations Internationales. Paris, Le Presses de Science Po, 2012 (4th edition).
3. Boniface,Pascal &Vedrine,Hubert :Atlas du Monde Global : 100 Cartes pour Comprendre unMonde chaotique. Paris , A.Colin/Fayard ,2015
4. Carlsnaes, Walter et al. (eds.): Handbook of IR. London: Sage 2012 (2nd edition).
5. Cooper, Andrew et al. (eds.): The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2013 & 2015.
6. Evans, Graham & Newnham, Jeffrey. The Penguin Dictionary of IR. London: Penguin 1997.
7. Hobson, John The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics. Western International Relations Theory 1760-2010. Cambridge University Press 2012.
8. Korany, Bahgat: Analyse de Relations Internationales Approches, concepts et données. Montreal & Paris Gaëtan-Morin, 1987.
9. Pettiford, Lloyd et al. (eds.) A New A-Z of IR Theory. London & New York: I.B. Tauris, 2015.
10. Reus-Smit, Christian & Snidel, Duncan (eds.): The Oxford Handbook of IR. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

### **B-Some Main Contemporary Issues**

11. Buzan, Barry & Lawson, George. The Global Transformation, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
12. Colas, Alejandro: International Civil Society, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2002

13. Fawcett, Louise International Relations of the Middle East, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016 (4th edition).
14. Halliday, Fred: Revolution and World Politics: The Rise and Fall of the Sixth Great Power, Durham: Duke University Press, 1999.
15. Mandaville, Peter : Global Political Islam. London and New York, Routledge ,2007
16. Paul, T.V. et al (eds.) Status in World Politics, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
17. Ramsbotham, Oliver et al. (eds): Contemporary Conflict Resolution, Cambridge: Polity, 2011 & 2014 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition).
18. Thakur, Ramesh et al. (eds.): International Commissions and The Power of Ideas. New York & Paris: United Nations University Press, 2005.

### **C-Suggested Basic Periodicals**

19. Foreign Affairs
20. Arab Strategic Yearbook
21. International Affairs
22. El-Moustaqbal El-Arabi
23. El Siassa al Dawliyya
24. International Security
25. International Studies Quarterly
26. Third World Quarterly
27. World Politics