

## **POLS 3620: International Relations (Fall 2018)**

### **Bahgat Korany (Section 2)**

#### **Contact Info:**

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**Class Location:** Sunday's &

Wednesday's 11:30 – 12:45 - C145

**Office Hours:** Sunday & Wednesday

10.15–11:15 or by appointment

Research Centers building: 2010/12

*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 or foundational course** , this one 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 sharp fluctuation in the international price of oil , IMF dictat.... 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 (when possible); 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 rather than rote learning or *Zafez mesh fahem* – حافظ مش فاهم. It encourages students to be pro-active and is based on critical reading, on average 35-45 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. according to AUC rules ,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 class 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 90% 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, 2017 (International seventh or latest Edition). All readings will be available on reserve in the AUC Library

**\*\*A Note About Reaction Papers: A Maximum of 1,000Words. The RP is due before the class readings. For Sunday's Class the RP is due on the Friday BEFORE by 12:00 Noon and for Wednesday's Class the RP is due on the Monday BEFORE by 12:00 Noon. NO LATE PAPERS ARE CORRECTED/ACCEPTED.**

## **B-The Outline**

Hopefully you have read **CAREFULLY** the general syllabus distributed in the 1<sup>st</sup> class ,Sept . 5<sup>th</sup> .Here is the **PRELIMINARY OUTLINE** of the class lecturing/activities until the end of the semester

### **1- Wednesday Sept.5 :**

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 ?

### **WEEK I**

#### **2- Sunday Sept. 9:**

***The specifics of IR in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century***

Reading: BSO: **Introduction PP. 1-13 and Chapter 1: 14-29**  
(Source will later be mentioned only when it is not our **BSO textbook**)

3- Wednesday Sept. 12

***Edging into the contemporary era and impact of globalization***

**Chapter 2: 30-42, Chapter 3 :43-57 and Chapter 4: 57-70**

## **WEEK II**

4- Sunday Sept. 16

**How do our world views/ conceptual lenses get colored? Presenting IR Schools:**

**a) *Realism*: Chapter 6: 85-97**

**b) *Liberalism*: Chapter 7: 98-108**

5- Wednesday Sept. 19:

**Class Talk – Profs. William Quandt and Shibley Telhami: a qualitative and quantitative analysis of Trump’s foreign policy in the ME.**

## **WEEK III**

6- Sunday Sept 23:

**c) *Marxism*: Chapter 8: 109-122,**

**d) *Social Constructivism*: Chapter 9: 123-135,**

7- Wednesday Sept. 26:

**e) *Feminism*: Chapter 11: 149-163**

**f) *Post-Colonialism*: Chapter 10: 136-148, Chapter 11: 149-163**

## WEEK IV

8- Sunday Sept. 30:

***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. )**

9- Wednesday Oct. 3:

**Preparing for your first mid-term**

## WEEK V

10- Sunday Oct. 7

**FIRST MID-TERM**

11- Wednesday Oct. 10:

**How/Which IR schools help us most in decoding what happened?**

**Realism Triumphant?**

**Chapter12: 164-177, Chapter14: 192- 204,**

## WEEK VI

12-Sunday Oct.14:

**Or is it Liberalism?**

**Chapters15: 205-218 Chapter16: 219-232 Chapter17: 233-246,**

13-Wednesday Oct. 17:

**More on Liberalism**

**Chapter17: 233-246, Chapter 25:348-362**

**WEEK VII**

14-Sunday Oct. 21:

**Can we really forget about Marxism?**

**Chapter 13: 178-191**

**Chapter 22: 307-318**

15-Wednesday Oct. 24:

**How helpful/complementary is Social  
Constructivism?**

**a) Chapter 19: 261-274**

**b) Chapter 25: 348-362**

**c) Korany :Western Stereotypes of the Arabs : the Five Bs  
(Ahram Strategic File 2002 – on reserve)**

**WEEK VIII**

16-Sunday Oct. 28:

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

**a) Chapter 27: 376-388 ; Chapter 20: 275-291 Chapter 21: 292-306**

17-Wednesday Oct. 31:

**More on Post-Colonialism**

**a) Korany Arab Human Development in the 21st Century (2014): 139-165(on reserve)**

**b) Chapter 24:334-347**

**WEEK IX**

18-Sunday Nov. 4:

**The Other New-Comer: Feminism**

**Ch.17:269-84; Ch.31 :480-513**

19- Wednesday Nov. 7:

**Revision/Discussion**

**WEEK X**

20 Sunday Nov. 11:

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

**Some Challenges of the Contemporary World**

19-Wednesday Nov. 14:

***Emerging world order and its challenges***

**a) Chapter 18: 247-260 (Regionalism and its particularities)**

**b) Chapter 5: 71-84 (Rising Powers)**

## WEEK XI

20-Sunday Nov. 18:

- c)Chapter 26: 363-375 (Nuclear Proliferation)**
- d)Chapter 28: 389-403 (Terrorism)**
- e) Chapter 23: 318-333 (Environmental Issues)**

21-Wednesday Nov. 21:

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

**Korany : “The State of the Arab State” , Mediterranean Yearbook 2015(on reserve)**

## WEEK XII

22- Sunday Nov. 25:

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

23-Wednesday Nov. 28:

***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.2019: PP79-101(on reserve)**

## WEEK XII

24- Sunday Dec. 2:

## **Students Practicing IR :Simulation**

Wednesday Dec. 5:

**Continuation of the IR Practice/simulation**

### **WEEK XIV**

25- Sunday Dec. 9:

**Continuation of the IR Practice/simulation**

26-Wednesday Dec. 12:

**General Revision/Answering your questions**

### **WEEK XV**

27-Sunday Dec. 16:

**THIRD (COMPREHENSIVE) MID-TERM**

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

## **A-General Analyses**

1. Anderson, Sheldon et al. International Studies: an Interdisciplinary Approach to Global Issues. Boulder, Col West View Press, 2014.
2. Argounès, Fabrice : Théories de la puissance . Paris : CNRS Éditions , 2018
3. Battistella, Dario: Theories de Relations Internationales. Paris, Le Presses de Science Po, 2012 (4th edition).
4. Boniface,Pascal &Vedrine,Hubert :Atlas du Monde Global : 100 Cartes pour Comprendre unMonde chaotique. Paris , A.Colin/Fayard ,2015
5. Carlsnaes, Walter et al. (eds.): Handbook of IR. London: Sage 2012 (2nd edition).
6. Cooper, Andrew et al. (eds.): The Oxford Handbook of Modern Diplomacy. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2013 & 2015.
7. Evans, Graham & Newnham, Jeffrey. The Penguin Dictionary of IR. London: Penguin 1997.
8. Hobson, John : The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics. Western International Relations Theory 1760-2010. Cambridge University Press 2012.
9. Korany, Bahgat: Analyse de Relations Internationales Approches, concepts et données. Montreal & Paris Gaëtan-Morin, 1987.
10. Pettiford, Lloyd et al. (eds.) A New A-Z of IR Theory. London & New York: I.B. Tauris, 2015.
11. Reus-Smit, Christian & Snidel, Duncan (eds.): The Oxford Handbook of IR. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

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

12. Buzan, Barry & Lawson, George. The Global Transformation, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
13. Colas, Alejandro: International Civil Society, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2002
14. Fawcett, Louise International Relations of the Middle East, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016 (4th edition).
15. Halliday, Fred: Revolution and World Politics: The Rise and Fall of the Sixth Great Power, Durham: Duke University Press, 1999.
16. Mandaville , Peter : Global Political Islam. London and New York, Routledge ,2010
17. Paul, T.V. et al (eds.) Status in World Politics, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
18. Ramsbotham, Oliver et al. (eds): Contemporary Conflict- Resolution, Cambridge: Polity, 2011 & 2014 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition).
19. Thakur, Ramesh et al. (eds.): International Commissions and The Power of Ideas. New York & Paris: United Nations University Press, 2005.

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

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

## **D- Policy on Academic Integrity**

### **"ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Students are expected to commit to the principles of academic integrity.

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another persons' work as one's own, using Internet or other sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

Plagiarism for assignments and/or reports may result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or the report in question. Cheating during an examination may result in a zero grade for this examination. Further action, according to university regulations, would also be implemented.

You should be aware that all written work might be submitted to "Turnitin.com", the detection prevention software. By signing this syllabus, you will acknowledge that you have understood that any detected plagiarism will have to be reported.

The University's statement on academic integrity, from which the above statement is drawn, is available at <http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/integrity/Pages/default.aspx>