Syllabus

CASA Summer School 2017
Contemporary Global Politics
Department of Political Science
Trinity College, Dublin

1 Description
This module offers an overview of contemporary topics in international politics, as well as themes related to Irish politics and society. The international system is a complex and constantly evolving environment. Interactions between states and non-state actors, such as multinational corporations and international non-governmental organizations, produce outcomes that we read about in the news every day. This module offers the student a set of theoretical tools to help understand why these outcomes emerge. Examples of questions that we will cover in this module include: Are wars becoming more infrequent? Do international institutions matter? Why are civil wars so difficult to end? Does foreign aid work? Is a comprehensive climate change agreement possible? Are international courts effective?

2 Objectives
This module aims to build an understanding of the major theoretical approaches and empirical findings in the field of global politics. General topics include international conflict, international political economy, international institutions, global environmental politics, and human rights. Further, the analytic approaches covered in the first half of the module are applied to various salient contemporary political topics in Ireland, Europe, and the Middle East.

3 Outcomes
On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical approaches used to explain variation in global political outcomes.
- Understand the domestic and international political forces that determine the international political economy, effectiveness of development policy, and global environmental cooperation.
- Identify the key determinants of inter- and intra-national conflict as well as international terrorism.
• Learn the structure and impact of different types of international regimes and their effectiveness in constraining state behavior.

• Become acquainted with a range of salient political issues, including the British referendum on EU membership, security crises in Ukraine and the Middle East, as well as the ongoing European economic and migrant crises.

### Class Requirements

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<th>Projects</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>1,500 words, essay topics handed out in class.</td>
<td>Essay 1: June 22</td>
<td>40% of your final grade.</td>
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<td>Essay 2: July 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Class Exam</td>
<td>90-minute exam at the end of the programme.</td>
<td>August 4 9-11am (location TBA)</td>
<td>40% of your final grade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Each student is expected to come prepared to class and to actively participate in class discussions.</td>
<td>All classes and tutorials</td>
<td>20% of your final grade.</td>
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### 4 Module Requirements and Policies

Each session will include a mix of lecture and seminar discussion. Some sessions will include in-class simulations. Students are required to attend each session, complete the readings prior to each meeting, and participate in class.

#### 4.1 Written Assignments (40%)

Students complete two written assignments of approximately 1,500 words on a topic from the following list:

1. “Should foreign aid to the developing world be increased?”

Suggested additional readings:


2. “Information is now more detailed and readily available than ever before. How might this affect the propensity of states to go to war?”

Suggested additional readings:


3. “Under what circumstances is international law effective? Answer drawing on at least two issue areas (trade, laws of war, human rights, the international criminal court, European law), demonstrating knowledge of course readings.”

Suggested additional readings:


Chapter on trade-in-fish disputes between Developing Countries and US / EU.


The first assignment is due on June 22nd, and the second on July 6th. All written assignments must be submitted through http://www.turnitin.com. The class ID is TBD and the password is TBD (case-sensitive).

4.2 In Class Assessment (40%)
A short written examination will be held at the end of the module. Questions will be based on the assigned readings and in-class discussion. Students will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.

4.3 Participation (20%)
Each student is expected to come prepared to class and to actively participate in class discussions.

4.4 Format
The Class will meet for two hours per day for the first three weeks and will then meet each Friday for the following six weeks for one two hour seminar session.

4.5 Absence from Class
Summer programme students are required to attend all lectures, tutorials and field trips as part of the programme. If there is an emergency and you are unable to attend class you must contact Global Relations staff and your lecturer. You may be asked to provide documentation, such as a medical certificate, for your absence.

4.6 Credit and Transcripts
The summer programme in Contemporary Global Politics has been approved for credit by Trinity College Dublin. Students who complete the programme successfully, submitting and passing all assignments and attending all classes, are allocated 10 ECTS credits and will be issued with a Trinity College Dublin transcript.

At the end of the programme your Trinity College Dublin transcript will be sent to the Office of Global Engagement in Brown University.

5 Academic & Professional Ethics
Please do not plagiarize. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter, with serious consequences that can result in receiving no credit for an assignment, a failing grade for the module, and even expulsion from the programme. It is never permissible to turn in any work that contains others’ ideas without proper acknowledgment. It is
your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the College Calendar. If you are paraphrasing, cite the source. If you are quoting, use quotation marks and appropriate citation. Remember that academic integrity is a reflection of one’s character. Lastly, students are required to only submit “new work” in each module, which means work that has not been submitted previously in any other university module. Students who wish to use previously submitted work as part of a new project will need the approval of the lecturer.

6 Syllabus Modification Rights
The instructors reserve the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time. More often than not this will mean adjusting the reading list to keep pace with the course schedule, although I may add reading assignments as well.

7 Readings
This class does not have a textbook. Readings consist of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and articles from journals intended for wider audiences. All readings are available through Trinity College Library.

8 Lecturers

Constantine Boussalis
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Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction & Topics in International Politics
Week 2: Topics in International Security
Week 3: Topics in International Law
Week 4: “Brexit” and its impact on Europe and Ireland
Week 5: The Euro Crisis and its impact on Ireland
Week 6: Media Politics: Climate Change and Foreign Policy
Week 7: Conflict and Post-Conflict in Northern Ireland
Week 8: The ISIS Threat and Middle Eastern Security
Week 9: The Migration Crisis
Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction & Topics in International Politics (Boussalis)

Day 1: Introduction to International Relations Theory


Day 2: Politics of International Trade


Day 3: International Development


Easterly, William. (2006). The white man’s burden: why the West’s efforts to aid the rest have done so much ill and so little good. Penguin. Ch. 5

Day 4: Global Environmental Politics


Week 2. Topics in International Security (Chadefaux)

Day 1: The End of War?


Day 2. Forecasting Conflict


Day 3. Bargaining and Conflict


Day 4. Terrorism


Day 5. Civil Wars


Daniel N Posner. The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi. American Political Science Review, 98(04):529-545, 2004

Week 3. Topics in International Law (Phelan)

Day 1. World Trade Organization


Day 2. Law in War and Armed Conflict


Day 3. International Human Rights Law


Day 4. The International Criminal Court

David Bosco ‘*Rough Justice*’, selections.

Day 5. The European Court of Justice


W Phelan, In Place of Inter-State Retaliation: The European Union’s Rejection of WTO-style Trade Sanctions and Trade Remedies (Oxford University Press, Oxford 2015), selection

Week 4. “Brexit” and its impact on Europe and Ireland

Readings TBA

Week 5. The Euro Crisis and its impact on Ireland


Alison Johnston & Aidan Regan (2014): European Integration and the Incompatibility of Different Varieties of Capitalism. MPIfG discussion paper

Week 6. Media Politics: Climate Change and Foreign Policy


**Week 7. Conflict and Post-Conflict in Northern Ireland**


**Week 8 The ISIS Threat and Middle Eastern Security**


**Week 9 The Migration Crisis**
