

**A:** Division: Academic  
**B:** Department: Arts & Humanities

**Date:** May 17, 1995

**New Course:**

**Revision of Course Information Form:** X

**Dated:** March 1978

**C:** POLI 203                      **D:** CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES                      **E:** 3

**Subject & Course No.**                      **Descriptive Title**                      **Semester Credit**

**F: Calendar Description:**

This course examines conflict and collaboration in the international system and includes an analysis of some of the current issues in the areas of security, north-south relations, the global economy and the environment. The role of international organizations and international law in the field of conflict resolution are also examined.

**Summary of Revisions:**  
 (Enter date & section)  
 Eg. Section C,E,F

1995.05.17:  
 Section C, D, F, H, K, M, N,  
 O, P, Q, R

**G: Type of Instruction: Hours per Week/per Semester**

Lecture	2	Hrs.
Laboratory		Hrs.
Seminar	2	Hrs.
Clinical Experience		Hrs.
Field Experience		Hrs.
Practicum		Hrs.
Shop		Hrs.
Studio		Hrs.
Student Directed Learning		Hrs.
Other		Hrs.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>HOURS</b>

**H: Course Prerequisites:**

POLI 103 or Permission of Instructor

**I: Course Corequisites:**

None

**J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:**

None

**K: Maximum Class Size:**

35

**L: College Credit Transfer**                      X

**College Credit Non-transfer**

**M: Transfer Credit:**

**Requested:**


**Granted:** X

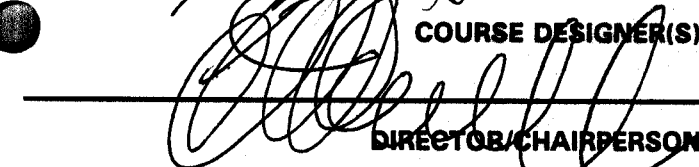
**Specify Course Equivalents or Unassigned Credit as Appropriate:**

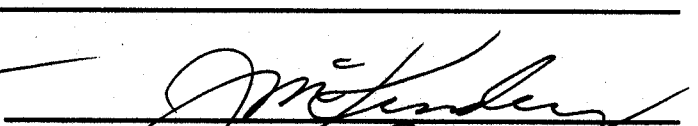
U.B.C. With POLI 103 = Poli 260 (3)  
 & Poli (3)

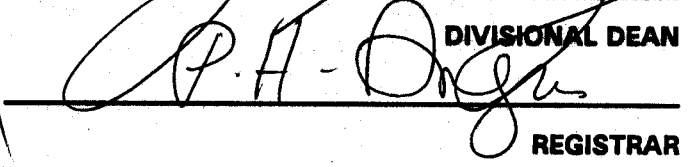
S.F.U. POLI 203 = Pol (3)

U. Vic. POLI 203 = Poli 100 lev (1.5)

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**COURSE DESIGNER(S)**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**DIRECTOR/CHAIRPERSON**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**DIVISIONAL DEAN**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**REGISTRAR**

## **N: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students (Use Bibliographic Form):**

Texts and readings will be selected from the following:

Charlton, M. and Riddell-Dixon, E. International Relations in the Post-Cold War Era. Scarborough: Nelson Canada, 1993.

Jackson, Robert. Global Issues, 95/96. Guildford: The Dushkin Publishing Group, Inc. 1995.

Nye, Joseph. Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History. New York: Harper Collins, 1993

Ziegler, D.W. War and Peace and International Politics. Toronto: Little, Brown & Company Ltd., 1994

---

Complete Form with Entries Under the Following Headings:

O: Course Objectives; P: Course Content; Q: Method of Instruction;

R: Course Evaluation

### **O. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Students will become familiar with the nature of conflict and collaboration in the contemporary international system, various theories on the causes of conflict between and within states and different approaches to conflict resolution.
- 2) Students will apply their understanding of the causes of conflict and collaboration to an analysis of some of the contemporary issues in the international system.
- 3) Students will be prepared for further study of international politics, and in the field of peace and conflict studies.

### **P. COURSE CONTENT**

#### **Unit One: International Conflict**

- 1.1 Introduction to conflict in world politics--concepts of politics; approaches to the study of conflict and conflict resolution; conflict, crisis, competition; the contemporary state system: sovereignty and the security dilemma.

**Unit Two: Managing, Resolving and Preventing Conflict**

- 2.1 Realism--nation-states; balance of power; alliance systems; deterrence and the balance of terror
- 2.2 Idealism--non-state actors; collective security: from the League of Nations to the U.N.; world government; arms control and disarmament
- 2.3 International law--dispute settlement
- 2.4 International organizations--the U.N. dispute settlement; regional organizations

**Unit Three: Forms of International Collaboration and Cooperation**

- 3.1 International regimes: the seas; trade; development; security
- 3.2 Integration and interdependence--the E.U.; Canada-U.S. relations; free trade agreements

**Unit Four: Problems and Prospects for Conflict and Cooperation**

- 4.1 The post-cold war world--multipolar or unipolar; "The New World Order"; democracy and human rights
- 4.2 Security issues--the Soviet successor states; conventional arms trade; nuclear proliferation; chemical and biological weapons; the Middle East
- 4.3 North-South issues--international development: foreign aid, trade and debt; population migration
- 4.4 Interdependence and dependence--the global economy: protectionism, free trade competitiveness; the environment--the limits to growth: industrialization, poverty, carrying capacity; quality of life; sovereignty; redefining security

**Q. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

Presentation of the course will involve the use of formal lectures, structured group work by students, and in-class discussion of assigned material. Additional readings may be assigned for each unit of the course, and placed on reserve in the library. Where appropriate, audio-visual materials will be used.

**R. COURSE EVALUATION**

Evaluations of a student's performance will be based on a combination of written examinations, a formal research paper, a seminar presentation, and participation. All evaluation elements assigned must be completed by the student.

Midterm Exam	20%
Seminar Presentation	20%
Research Essay	30%
Participation	10%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

\*Participation grades for students will be based on a combination of criteria, which will include a selection of the following:

- Short in-class tests;
- Attendance, participation;
- Short research papers;
- Book review;
- Formal debate;
- Instructor evaluation of individual student progress and research skills;
- Oral examination;
- Additional assignments.