



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
**School of Arts & Science**  
**Department of Social Sciences**

**PSC-224-001**  
**International Conflict**  
**Winter 2020**  
**Wednesdays 5:30-8:20, January 8 – April 8**  
**Young 317**

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

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The course description is available on the web @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/psc.html>

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

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### **1. Instructor Information**

- (a) Instructor:** Roberta Jenkins
- (b) Office hours:** Wednesdays from 3:15 – 5: 15 AM (or via appointment)
- (c) Office Location:** Young 302, Lansdowne Campus
- (d) Office Phone:** 250-370-3658
- (e) E-mail:** [JenkinsR@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:JenkinsR@camosun.bc.ca)

\*Please note that the phone number listed will only be answered during office hours. Email is the most reliable way to contact the instructor. Please do NOT email through D2L, as these are sent to a separate account which I do not check regularly. Rather, please use the email address listed above. Emails will be answered within 24 hours on week days. Email will not be answered on weekends.

### **2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

This course examines the sources and nature of major contemporary international and national conflicts, including collective security vs. great power politics, regional conflicts, conflicts resulting from failed states, and the international response to terrorism. The role of international law and organizations in the realm of conflict resolution is also examined.

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Outline major theories on the origins of international conflict and approaches to conflict resolution.
2. Describe the origins and underlying causes of major contemporary international conflicts.
3. Identify potential key issues and players in international conflict situations.
4. Critically evaluate the success and failure of international institutions and international law in the face of diverse forms of international conflict.

### 3. Required Materials

Textbook (available in the campus bookstore):

Chenoweth, Erica, and Pauline L. Moore. *The Politics of Terror*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Supplementary readings, news items and videos will be posted on D2L as they become relevant. There will be supplementary content for each week of study, though length and complexity will vary. Items which are required will be posted at least two weeks prior to the relevant class. These are materials that may be included on exams. Other materials are recommended to get the most out of class, but will not be included on exams except insofar as they become part of in-class discussions.

### 4. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Marks will be determined on the basis of the following work:

Class Engagement: 20%	In-class activities throughout term
Quizzes: 15%	February 12, March 18
Paired Presentation: 20%	Dates assigned January 15
Annotated Bibliography: 10%	March 4
Major Essay: 15%	April 1
Research Presentation: 5%	April 8
Final Exam: 15%	TBA April 14-18

#### 1. Class Engagement: 20%

This class will be run in a seminar style, focusing on active engagement of all students alongside the instructor. Learning will be achieved through a combination of leader-directed explanations and a variety of in-class discussions and activities designed to encourage team work and critical analysis of class materials. For this reason, attendance at each class is critical for success.

Students, alone and in groups, will complete weekly activities which may include thematic discussions, visual summaries, short essays or multi-media presentations related to case-studies, videos or supplementary readings provided throughout the term. Some of these activities will be graded, others will not. All assignments will help to clarify specific intended learning outcomes of the course in the real world, while activating different learning profiles. Clear expectations and evaluation criteria (when relevant) will be provided along with working time **in class** for each activity. Any graded work that is incomplete at the end of class time may be finished as homework, due at the beginning of the following week's class. Any assignments not handed in by the deadline will be assessed a 50% penalty at the start of the following week's class (ie. 1-week late). No late assignments will be accepted beyond 1 week.

Students must also complete a brief self-evaluation at the end of each class. This will take approximately 5 minutes only, and will be kept by the instructor for redistribution each class. This evaluation paper is a reflective tool, to give individuals an opportunity to think about areas in which they have excelled or which need attention for that specific class, and to give the instructor feedback on what aspects of the class are working well or need to be revised. Additionally, it is an opportunity to have an informal conversation with the instructor, as comments will be reviewed each class and responded to as needed. Thoughtful completion of this evaluation will count towards the class engagement grade, regardless of how students choose to evaluate themselves.

2. **Quizzes:** 15% (7.5% per quiz)

There will be two substantive quizzes during the semester. These will take place on **February 12** and **March 18** at the start of class time. Questions will include any materials covered in class, relevant sections of the class textbook, and required supplementary content which has NOT been included on a previous quiz.

3. **Group Presentation:** 20%

Working in pairs, students will prepare a maximum 20 minute presentation analyzing a specific international conflict using the theoretical approach discussed in class the week prior to their presentation. A different team will present to the class each week. Dates/theories will be assigned on January 15. Appropriate citations must be included for all images and information. Analysis should be thoughtful and concise. Both team members must have a significant, identifiable role in the presentation (preferably, but not necessarily, a speaking role). Presentations may take any form desired by the students (simple oral, powerpoint/prezi or other slide generator, video, documentary or other), but must work as a unified and coherent whole (not a collection of 2 independent works showcased one after another). Any presentations longer than 20 minutes will be penalized at 5% per additional minute. A detailed breakdown of assignment expectations will be available on D2L under the assignments section.

4. **Essay:** 30% (Proposal/Annotated Bibliography: 10%, Completed Essay: 15%, Research Presentation: 5%)

Each student will be asked to compose an independent research essay of approximately 2500 words by **April 1, 2020**. This essay will be worth 15% of your final grade. A brief presentation on your research experience will be given to the class on **April 8, 2020**, worth 5% of your final grade. Prior to completion of the essay, there is a preliminary research stage to help students craft their final argument that will be marked independently of the final work. This annotated bibliography is due **March 4, 2020**, and is worth 10% of your final grade. A brief description of each stage follows; complete descriptions of each stage of this assignment are available on D2L.

**Annotated Bibliography:**

The first stage is to create a research proposal identifying your planned topic, how you plan to address it in your essay, and relevant research in the form of an annotated bibliography. This is worth 10%, and is due on **March 4, 2020**. An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, documents or other artefacts related to your thesis that are each followed with a short paragraph that describes and evaluates their content (the 'annotation'). The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited (Aug 15, 2019, <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliograph>). Feedback will be provided on the annotated bibliography to help students produce a high quality final essay.

**Major Essay:**

The final essay is due **April 1, 2020**. It must be approximately 2500 words, double spaced, in a standard 12-point font with regular margins. Any recognized citation style may be used, as long as it is used consistently throughout the essay. Any plagiarism will be assessed a grade of 0 and no rewrites will be permitted.

**Research Presentation:**

Each student must provide a 5-minute presentation to the class about their essay on **April 8, 2020**. This presentation will be worth 5% of your essay score. Explanations should include: your topic, what you were trying to determine, how you approached your research, a point(s) of interest regarding the process of undertaking research for the paper, and what you concluded. You will have

to time your presentation carefully in order that everyone can complete this assignment. You will be graded on content (all points above addressed), timing, and speaking (good clarity and volume). Late work at any stage will be penalized 10% per day.

#### 5. **Final Exam:** 15%

A final exam will consist of one part multiple choice and one part short essay. Students will have 3 hours to compose their answers. Questions will draw from themes covered since the beginning of the semester. The final will occur during the exam period, date to be announced, between April 14-18.

#### 5. **Grading System**

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Competency Based Grading System

#### 6. **College Supports, Services and Policies**



##### **Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support**

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

##### **College Services**

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

##### **College Policies**

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

A. **GRADING SYSTEMS** <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

1. **Standard Grading System (GPA)**

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

2. **Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)**

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

B. **Temporary Grades**

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

## 7. Course Content and Schedule

### ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE:

Week 1: January 8	Introductions, Assignments Overview, Self-Evaluation Theoretical Foundations of International Relations: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Marxism
Week 2: January 15	Evolving Foundations of International Relations: Conflict and Cooperation (Prisoners Dilemma, Ethical Questions, Just War Doctrine) <b><i>Choose dates and themes for paired presentations</i></b>
Week 3: January 22	Ch. 2 – Strategic Approach Movie: The Battle of Algiers(?)
Week 4: January 29	Ch. 3. – Organizational Approach
Week 5: February 5	Ch. 4 – Psychological Approach
Week 6: February 12	International Law and Organizations <b><i>Quiz #1</i></b>
Week 7: February 26	Ch. 5 – Ideological Approach
Week 8: March 4	Ch. 6 – Structural Approach <b><i>Annotated Bibliography due at the start of class</i></b>
Week 9: March 11	Ch. 7 – Critical Approaches
Week 9: March 18	Ch. 11 – State Sponsorship of Terror/ The War on Terror <b><i>Quiz #2</i></b>
Week 10: March 25	Ch. 12 – Gender and Terrorism (Women and War)
Week 11: April 1	Water, Oil, Food, Weather – ‘New’ Challenges to Global Security <b><i>Major Essay Due at the start of class</i></b>
Week 12: April 8	An End to Conflict? Theories of Interdependence <b><i>Research Presentations</i></b>
Week 13: TBA	<b><i>Final Exam, date and location TBA, April 14 - 18</i></b>