

POLS 440 CURRENT ISSUES IN WORLD POLITICS

Spring 2024

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Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course we will explore the impact of new technologies on world politics across different issues and processes (geopolitics, security, political economy, war, migration, human rights) and investigate the political, ethical, legal dimensions of the challenges they pose. We will investigate questions such as: How do new technologies recast international politics, ethics and laws of war? Could drone warfare be considered more humane? In what ways do new technologies such as AI transform the workings of the global political economy? Are logistics and infrastructures changing the way in which global capitalism operates? How do new technologies reconfigure global politics of gender, race and class? In what ways biometrics redefine politics of borders?

COURSE MATERIAL

Readings consists of articles, book chapters and excerpts from books. They are available in electronic format on the course Moodle page.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Attendance and Participation % 20**

Students are expected to do the assigned readings before coming to class and be ready to actively participate and make meaningful contributions to class discussions.

Class attendance is required. Two or more unjustified absences on class days (4 or more absences in attendances taken) will amount to an F from this course.

- **Mid Term Exam % 35**
- **Final Exam % 45**

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. (Feb 16) Introduction

2. (Feb 23) Technology, Ecology, World Politics

- R. Nixon Excerpts from *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*
- S. Fritsch (2011) “Technology and Global Affairs” *International Studies Perspectives*
- Daggett “World-Viewing as World-Making: Feminist Technoscience, IR and the Aesthetics of the Anthropocene” Singh et al eds *Science, Technology, Arts in IR*

3. (Mar 1) International Security in the 21st century

- N Bisley “Rising Powers and the Return of Geopolitics” in M. Beeson and N. Bisley (Eds.) (2016) *Issues in 21st Century World Politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bergesen “From Geopolitics to Astropolitics”
- Cook “Non-traditional security and world politics” in Beeson and Bisley (Eds.) *Issues in 21st Century World Politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

4. (Mar 8) Migration, Smart Borders, Statecraft

- Charlotte Epstein (2007) “Guilty Bodies, Productive Bodies, Destructive Bodies: Crossing the Biometric Borders” *International Political Sociology*, Volume 1, Issue 2, Pages 149–164
- Nina Perkowski & Vicki Squire (2019) The anti-policy of European anti-smuggling as a site of contestation in the Mediterranean migration ‘crisis’, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 45:12, 2167-2184

5. (Mar 15) Remote Warfare

- Excerpts from *Remote Warfare: Interdisciplinary perspectives*
Watson & McKay “Remote Warfare: A critical introduction”
Shiban & Molyneux “The Human Cost of Remote Warfare in Yemen”
- Chamayou “Manhunt Doctrine”

6. (Mar 22) Unmanning War

- Manjikian (2014) “Becoming Unmanned” *International Feminist Journal of Politics*
- Lin, Abney, Bekey “Ethics, War and Robots” in Sandler Ed. *Ethics and Emerging Technologies*

7. (Mar 29) Cybersecurity

- P. Cornish “Deterrence and the Ethics of Cyber Conflict”
- T Stevens (2018) “Cyberweapons: power and the governance of the invisible” *International Politics*

8. (Apr 5) MIDTERM

9. (Apr 12) SPRING BREAK

10. (Apr 19) Global Capitalism and AI

- G. Youngs “Introduction” in *GPE in the Information Age*
- N. Dyer-Witheyford Excerpt from *Cyber-Proletariat*

11. (Apr 26) Global Logistics, Security of infrastructures

- Colas “Infrastructures of the Global Economy” in D. McCarthy (ed.) (2018) *Technology and World Politics*
- D. Cowen Excerpts from *The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade*

12. (May 3) Technology in the PostColony

- Schouten “Chukudu Politics: The Relevance of Infrastructural Absences for Governmental Power and State Failure in the Post-Colonial world”
- Couldry & Mejias “The Coloniality of Data Relations” in *The Costs of Connection*

13. (May 10) Humanitarian Intervention

- Bellamy, Wheeler “Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics”
- Sandvick et. al. “Humanitarian Technology: A Critical Research Agenda”

14. (May 17) Review and assessment