

## Politics and International Relations (CASP)

**Dr. David M. Fowler, University of Cambridge.**

This course melds contemporary issues in International Politics with an exploration of historical themes in politics and international history since 1945. Topics dealt with include: Globalisation; International Terrorism; the origins, development and end of the Cold War: Superpower Relations since 1945 (USA, USSR, China); the birth and subsequent history of the United Nations-has it outlived its usefulness? Radicalisation.

### **Week One:**

**Globalisation:** political, economic, cultural aspects; Americanisation/McDonaldisation. Is Globalisation merely another term for American Imperialism and American consumer capitalism? We engage with this widely used, and widely abused, concept and examine the evidence in discussions and presentations.

### **Week Two:**

**International Terrorism:** survey of the history of terrorism from a transnational movement to a global movement: the birth and development of Al Qaeda; Intelligence Communities and International Terrorism: How Effective? (we examine the US and British Intelligence Services and Counter-Terrorism in detail).

### **Week Three:**

**Cold War and Superpower Relations, 1945-Present-**origins and development of the Cold War; Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962; Détente; 'Second Cold War'-Reagan and the 'Evil Empire': Gorbachev and Soviet Reforms: 'People Power' and the End of the Cold War, 1989-1991.

### **Week Four:**

**United Nations, Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention.**

Radicalisation: From Sixties Student Radicalism to 21<sup>st</sup> century Islamic Radicalism.

### **Suggested pre-summer reading**

#### **\*Recommended for purchase**

\*The Globalisation of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations ed. John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (OUP, 2013, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition)

*World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, Charles W. Kegley. (This is thorough, very well informed and engaging). [But it is an encyclopaedia in many ways so a resource – not a book to buy in the hope you will read it all through!](#)

*Strategy in the Contemporary World: An Introduction to Strategic Studies*, ed. [John Baylis](#), [James J. Wirtz](#), [Eliot A. Cohen](#), [Colin S. Gray](#). (A well-structured and insightful survey by professionals). [Very readable but a bit specialist so do not buy this unless you are dedicated to the subject!](#)

*\*International Relations: A Very Short Introduction*, Paul Wilkinson. (A small and manageable compass. Large works on this subject can be indigestible [as shown above!](#)). [By all means purchase this.](#)

*Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order*, Robert Kagan. (Small, brilliant and wide-ranging analysis). [Short and dynamic. Worth reading on the 'plane over here!](#)

*International Relations: The Basics*, Peter Sutch & Juanita Elias. [A comfortable entree to the subject. Right to buy it!](#)

*International Relations Since 1945*, [John W. Young and John Kent](#). Massive in scale and breadth but readable and interesting. [Another vast resource, a book, as they say, to show your children: maybe not one to carry in your luggage!](#)

If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk>

or

[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)