



VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES  
FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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## Reading in Political Sciences 2

**Instructor:** Nguyen Minh Bich Van

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All communication for this course should go through email.

### Course Description

- ✓ The course is designed to help students develop critical reading skills and prepare them for the types of texts and reading assignments they are likely to encounter in advanced academic courses.
- ✓ The course is structured around topics and themes that have significant relevance to the students at the personal, professional and societal levels. To this end, the selected readings for the course represent a number of pressing social, economic and political issues whose impact and consequences are felt locally and internationally. The readings are mostly drawn from academic books, journals and high-quality print and online newspapers.

**This course syllabus and assignments are subject to change to keep the students updated with the latest regional and international developments.**

### Required Texts and Materials

A Course Reading Package will be provided to you at the beginning of the course.

### Assignments, Exams, and Grades:

1. Midterm Exam: 20%
2. Presentation: 15%
3. Written Assignments: 15%
4. Final Exam: 50%.

### Course Policies

- Students are required to be on time and remain until the conclusion of class.
  - Students who arrive late within 15 minutes will be marked as 'late' yet still allowed to join the class. Two late's equal one absence.
  - Students who are more than 15 minutes late will not be accepted into class.

- Students who need to leave early should inform the instructor before class. Leaving early without permission also counts as absence for the day.
- **Attendance:** Students with more than two absences without legitimate excuses *will be disqualified from taking the final exam.*
  - Students should notify the instructor of their absence at least one day before class, unless their absence is due to an emergency. Written documents are required for their absence to be excused.
  - One point will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence from class.
- **Participation:** Bonus points will be awarded to students with a good record of class participation.
- **Presentations:**
  - All students shall be members of study teams (3 members maximum), who will work together on a presentation and will all share responsibility for presenting the work in class as a group.
  - Each week a group presentation will be given in class based on the assigned readings for that week. The presentation should be designed to last 15-30 minutes.
  - Each student will be graded on their individual performance during the group presentation, NOT on the collective performance of the whole group.
- **Written Assignments:** Five assignments will be given. These graded assignments will count for 15% of your final grade.
- Students are not allowed to use laptops/mobile phones/tablet computers for any purposes not related to their study. Any violation will result in the students being required to leave the classroom and marked as absent.
- Disruptive behavior that affects classroom instructions and academic performance of both the instructor and other students include laughing and talking inappropriately in class.
  - You will receive a warning and a 1 point deduction from your final grade for your first violation. A second time violation will result in a deduction of 3 points from your grade. For your third violation, you will be expelled from the classroom and the administrative staff will be accordingly notified so they can take your name off the class list.
- Students who are disrespectful to classmates or the instructor will be removed from class permanently.
- Cheating, academic dishonesty and plagiarism are NOT tolerated. Those students who violate these terms will be expelled from the course and receive “zero” for their final grade.
- Email is the preferred channel of communication. However, in urgent cases, instructors can be contacted via phone.

## Course Schedule

WEEK	DATE	CONTENT
<b>WEEK 1</b> <b>Discourse in Political Science</b>	9 Sep	<b>Syllabus Introduction</b> Reading: ➤ Power, language and social relations: doing things with words
	11 Sep	Readings: ➤ Why Study Emotions in International Relations? ➤ How Language has the Power to Influence Global Politics
<b>WEEK 2</b> <b>Constructivism</b>	<b>16 Sep</b>	Readings: ➤ Introducing Constructivism in International Relations Theory
	18 Sep	Reading: ➤ Constructivism and ‘First Encounters’: A Critique ➤ Theory in Action: Constructivism and Bhutan’s National Interests
<b>WEEK 3</b> <b>The Third World, Global South</b>	23 Sep	Reading: ➤ If you shouldn’t call it the Third World, What should you call it?
	25 Sep	Reading: ➤ The Global South as Political Project
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>30 Sep</b>	Midterm Exam

	<b>02 Oct</b>	Midterm Exam
<b>WEEK 5</b> <b>Identity</b>	7 Oct	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is Identity?</li> <li>➤ Can we choose our own identity?</li> </ul>
	9 Oct	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tribal World: Group Identity is All</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 6</b> <b>The unforeseeables</b>	14 Oct	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Foreseeable Unforeseeables</li> <li>➤ The state in the time of Covid 19</li> </ul>
		FINAL TEST