

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **International Relations**

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

2231E 550

Instructor Name(s): Jennifer Mustapha

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

What is "International Relations" (IR) and what sorts of questions do IR scholars ask? What concepts, assumptions and tools do IR scholars use to explain and understand the world? How does IR scholarship influence global affairs and vice versa? What key moments and contemporary issues animate the study of IR? This course explores these questions by surveying contemporary world politics and the various approaches used by scholars and policymakers to make sense of global affairs. Parts 1 and 2 of the course introduce the "sub-discipline" of IR, outlining the various stories that IR scholars tell about the world. Part 3 explores specific issues in IR relating to international organizations and global governance; norms and legal regimes; global trade and development; environmental governance; transnational actors; borders and migration; and ongoing global conflict. In Part 4 we experientially apply our knowledge to critically evaluate contemporary international relations and politics. Ultimately, this course will equip students with the conceptual and practical toolbox required to approach the world within the context of IR scholarship. It provides a strong foundation from which students can go on to explore the always shifting rich terrain of current affairs, international politics, and global governance.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

Demonstrate familiarity with the basic concepts and questions that animate the political science sub-field of International Relations (IR).

Demonstrate a critical understanding of the various approaches, theories and tools that IR scholars- both conventional and critical- use to explain and understand the world

Demonstrate analytical and empirical knowledge of contemporary aspects of and issues in IR.

Demonstrate and convey these competencies with clear, critical, and reflexive communication in a variety of forms and styles.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK- Note that students must use THIS NEW TENTH edition→

J. Baylis, S. Smith and P. Owens (2026) The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations, 10th ed, Oxford University Press

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation (T1 5% + T2 5%)	End of each term	10
Current Affairs Journal (T1)	12/08/2026	15
IN-CLASS Quiz (T1)	11/10/2026	10
IN-CLASS Term Reflection (T1)	12/03/2026	15
Current Affairs Podcast (T2)	TBD	10
Policy Colloquium (T2)	TBD	20
Final Exam	April Exam Period	20%

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$065.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.