

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: International Law and Organizations

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

3345E 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Laszlo Sarkany

Instructor Email(s): lsarkan@uwo.ca

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:

One of the key focal points of discussions dealing with international law (IL), and international organization (IO) is cooperation in international relations. The aim of this course, therefore, is to help students understand the origins, functions, and forms of IL and IOs, and investigate how these two elements of international relations lead to or enhance cooperation. The discussion will begin with a conceptual and historical surveys of IL and IOs in international relations. The secondary aim of the course will then be to discern how IL and IOs are conceptualized with international relations scholarship. In the latter part of the course, the organizational and legal architecture of such IOs as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the European Union, the African Union, the International Criminal Court, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Emphasis will also be placed on understanding the functioning of such key regional organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC). The course will conclude with discussions dealing with the extent to which IL and IOs are relevant in contemporary international relations.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- Learn about how key international relations theories explain the existence and function of international organizations
- Research and analyze the history, structure and functioning of a number of key international, supranational, and regional organizations
- Reflect on the relevance of international organizations
- Critically evaluate in depth at least two international organizations of their choosing

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Armstrong, David, Theo Farrell, and Helene Lambert. International Law and International Relations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. [Estimated cost: \$53 USD]

Hurd, Ian. International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice. 5th ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Estimated cost: \$44.99 USD]

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	April 2027	10
Short essay	October 28th, 2026	10
Presentation - fall	December 2026	10
Presentation - winter	April 2027	10
Essay proposal	January 20th, 2027	10
Class essay - proposal presentation	February 2027	5
Class essay - rough draft	February 17th, 2027	15
Class essay - final draft	March 24th, 2027	30

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$097.99

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.