

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **International Law and Organization**

**Course Number and Section:**

POLISCI

3345E 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Laszlo Sarkany

**Instructor Email(s):** lsarkan@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL 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:

- 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
- Present and lead class discussions on international organizations in each term.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Armstrong, David, Theo Farrell, and Helene Lambert. International Law and International Relations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. [Estimated cost: \$57.95]

Hurd, Ian. International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice. 5th ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Estimated cost: \$51.95]

Recommended:

Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman and Patrizia Albanese. Making Sense in the Social Sciences: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing, Fifth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2012. [Estimated cost: \$45.99]

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
In-class participation	04/09/2026	10
Short essay	10/21/2025	10
Presentation - Fall	12/09/2025	10
Presentation - Winter term	04/09/2026	10
Class essay - proposal	11/18/2025	10
Class essay proposal presentation	01/20/2026	10
Class essay - rough draft with bibliography	03/03/2026	15
Class essay - final draft	03/31/2026	25

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

Monday, August 18, 2025