

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **International Relations**

**Course Number and Section:**

POLISCI

2231E 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Jennifer Mustapha

**Instructor Email(s):** jmustap@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:

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- both conventional and critical- tell about the world. Part 3 explores specific issues in IR relating to international organizations and governance systems; norms, principles 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 and draw on the approaches and tools discussed during the first term to critically evaluate their role and relevance for a comprehensive understanding of contemporary international relations and politics. Ultimately, this course will equip students with the conceptual 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:

Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the basic concepts and questions that animate the political science sub-field of International Relations (IR).

Students will be able to 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

Students will be able to demonstrate analytical and empirical knowledge of contemporary aspects of and issues in IR.

Students will be able to demonstrate and convey these competencies with clear, critical, and reflexive communication in a variety of forms and styles.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

TEXTBOOK: (9th EDITION IS REQUIRED)

J. Baylis, S. Smith and P. Owens (2023) The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations, 9th ed, Oxford University Press.

Cost: \$80.60 for the hardcopy and \$50.00 for the e-book at the Western bookstore;  
A used copy is OK, but it MUST be the 9th EDITION

Other course materials will be made available through the UWO library and/or links on OWL

**Methods Of Evaluation:**

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation Term 1	12/04/2025	10
Current Affairs Journal Term 1	11/20/2025	10
Term 1 Reflection Essay	12/04/2025	15
Mid Year Exam	DEC EXAM PERIOD	15
Participation Term 2	04/09/2026	10
Current Affairs Podcast Term 2	03/12/2026	10
Policy Colloquium Term 2	FINAL REPORT DUE 04/09/2026	15
Final Exam	APR EXAM PERIOD	15

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

Wednesday, August 6, 2025