

## Brief Course Outline

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

**Course Number and Section:**

POLISCI

2231E 550

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

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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 are the broad, central questions international relations (IR) scholars attempt to answer? How do these scholars go about answering these questions? What concepts, ideas and tools do scholars use to attempt to answer these questions? Finally, what are the alternative theories of IR? How do they fare among the more traditional paradigms of the field? These are some of the central questions which will animate the discussion during the lectures in this course. The first part of the course will focus on introducing the discipline and will further attempt to outline the main paradigms used by IR scholars. During the second part of this course, students will be introduced to such further core topics and themes in international relations as international organizations and institutions, international law, international criminal justice, norms and principles in international relations, international political economy, development, the environment, alternative theories of international relations, transnational actors, migration, and normative international relations. Drawing on the theories discussed during the first term, students will be challenged to critically evaluate the role and relevance of the above-mentioned concepts for a comprehensive understanding of contemporary international relations and politics. The conceptual discussion in this course will be supplemented by relevant cases and examples. Therefore, a continuous attention to the ebbs and flows of international politics will be encouraged on a weekly basis.

### Learning Outcomes:

Explore and critically evaluate theories of international relations.

Understand and evaluate the role of key actors in international relations.

Analyze and understand the utility of alternate theories of international relations.

Appreciate the value of pluralism in thinking about, and in the praxis of international relations.

Learn how to write a book review.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens: The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relation, 8th ed., Oxford University Press.

## Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	April 2025	15
Book review	October 23rd, 2024	15
Midterm exam	December 2024	20
Cladd essay - Winter term	March 15th, 2025	20
Final exam	April 2025	30

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

Wednesday, August 21, 2024