

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Introduction to International Relations

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

2231E - 550

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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 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:

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

By the end of the course, 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

By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate analytical and empirical knowledge of contemporary aspects of and issues in IR.

By the end of the course, 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- John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens: The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations, NINTH EDITION, Oxford University Press
- Other course materials are available through the UWO library and/or links on OWL.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation T1	Ongoing	10
Participation T2	Ongoing	10
Current Affairs Journal T1	11/22/2023	10
Semester Reflection Essay T1	12/06/2023	15
Mid Year Exam T1	Dec Exam Period	15
Current Affairs Podcast T2	03/06/2024	10
Experiential Jigsaw T2	TBA	15
Final Exam T2	April Exam Period	15

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