

POLS*1500 World Politics

Credit Weighting: 0.50**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** none**Restrictions:** none**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Adam Kochanski**Email:** adam.kochanski@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MCKN 532**GENERAL DETAILS**

NOTE: This course is taught asynchronously in a hybrid format. The in-person section is coded POLS*1500*01 and the hybrid section is POLS*1500*02. The class will be taught at one time but the hybrid/POLS*1500*02 students will be joining via Zoom only.

This lecture-based course explores the fundamental dynamics of world politics, focusing on the main actors involved in global governance and the most pressing transnational issues and challenges facing humanity. Following upon the introductory session, the remainder of the course is organized into three main sections. Part I situates the study of world politics in historical context. Students will learn about the rise of modern international order, explore key developments of the twentieth century and take stock of rising powers and the emerging global order. Part II shifts to the actors, structures and processes involved in contemporary global governance. Our analysis will cover the United Nations and other international organizations (IOs), international law and courts, regionalism and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Part III considers some of today's most complex transnational dilemmas, including climate change, forced migration, terrorism, global health, development, nuclear proliferation, human rights and/or humanitarian intervention. To animate key concepts, frameworks and dimensions, the professor will routinely draw on current events in class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The main learning objective of this course is to provide a basic understanding of world politics. Students taking this course will (1) improve their global understanding by acquiring new knowledge about the history of contemporary international society, and the different actors, structures and processes involved in global governance, (2) improve their reading comprehension skills and ability to distill information, arguments and analysis succinctly and accurately, (3) hone their critical thinking skills and capacity to recognize potential biases both in the course material and the world around them and (4) acquire insights on a range of contemporary issues and challenges facing world politics, preparing them for further study of these and other topics in the field of international relations.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Components of the Final Grade (please note that these are tentative and subject to change):

10% - Discussion posts

30% - Mid-term exam #1 (in-class, sit down)

30% - Mid-term exam #2 (in-class, sit down)

30% - Mid-term exam #3 (in-class, sit down) or Final Exam (in person, sit down)

REQUIRED READING

The required textbook for this course is:

Baylis, J., Smith, S., & Owens, P. (Eds.). (2026). *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (10th ed.). Oxford University Press. \$79.99 (Paperback). \$39.99 (Ebook).

Any additional readings not in the textbook will be available for download through CourseLink.