

POLS*3020 International Law and Organizations

Credit Weighting: 0.50**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** IDEV*2400, POLS*2200 **Restrictions:** none
or POLS*2350**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Adam Kochanski**Email:** adam.kochanski@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MCKN 532**GENERAL DETAILS**

The course explores the nature of international law and organizations and critically analyzes theories and evidence about the relationship between international law and state and non-state actors. Part I unpacks the fundamentals of international law. Our discussion will explore the sources of international law and evaluate competing perspectives on international law and politics. Part II examines the key issues and arenas of international law, focusing on (a) economic exchange, and (b) peace and war. Emphasis in this part of the course will not only be on surveying salient topics in international law—ranging from law of the sea to trade to human rights to law of war—but on the international organizations in which these bodies of law are made, contested, and upheld. Part III considers emerging challenges, such as criminal responsibility and environmental protection. To illuminate key concepts, frameworks, and interactions between the state, law, and politics in the international domain, the professor will draw on case law and current events.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The main learning objective of this course is to provide a basic understanding of international law and organizations. Students taking this course will (1) improve their global understanding by acquiring knowledge about the historical and political context in which international law arose, and the different actors, structures, and processes involved in this domain, (2) develop their legal literacy through examination of international case law and decisions, (3) develop their oral and written communication skills, (4) improve their reading comprehension skills and capacity to integrate information, arguments, and analysis succinctly and accurately, (5) develop their teamwork and personal organization and time management skills through group exercises, and (6) be able to identify key academic and policy stakes, preparing them for senior-level seminars in this area.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

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

- 10% - News item posts
- 17.5% - Test 1 (in-class, sit down)
- 17.5% - Test 2 (in-class, sit down)
- 17.5% - Test 3 (in-class, sit down)
- 17.5% - Test 4 (in-class, sit down)
- 20% - Policy brief

REQUIRED READING

The required textbook for this course is:

Johns, L. (2025). *Politics and International Law: Making, Breaking, and Upholding Global Rules* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press. \$62.95 (Paperback). \$55.00 (Ebook).

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