

## Course Name and Number

Department of Political Science POL SCI 3203F FW22: **International Crises**

## Hours

New lecture material is posted on OWL every Friday.

## Location of Lecture and Exams (see your Calendar on Owl for the location)

Weekly lecture materials are hidden on OWL until Friday, and after that, they can be viewed anytime before the Mid-term Exam or before the Final Exam. The Mid-term exam is currently scheduled (with the Dean's permission) to be written from your home office (*not* on the university campus). The two Quizzes and/or Exams are *not* proctored using Western technology (*i.e.* Proctortrack is *not* used) and the Final Exam is scheduled by the University (location, date and time To Be Confirmed [TBC]. The Mid-term Exam is generally scheduled to take place approximately one week before or after the Reading Break (*not* during the Reading Break). The make-up exams are generally scheduled after the regular exams and they are also online. Students must have documented reasons and permission from their Academic Counsellor [not the Professor] in order to miss the Quizzes and/or regularly-scheduled Exams. See all the regulations below.

This in-person synchronous course is taught by a single instructor who could become ill, therefore In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the term that necessitates the course delivery move away from in-person interaction with the instructor on a weekly basis, the affected course content will be delivered entirely online by the instructor and/or other instructors, either synchronously (*i.e.*, at the time indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g. posted on OWL as a pre-recorded video for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor(s) in consultation with the University Dean's Office.

## Prerequisite(s) and Antirequisite(s):

This elective is open to all students across Western's campus but it is preferable that they have taken Political Science courses before. This course is generally full with over 100+ students and a waiting list. There are essay writing requirements and expectations that you can write in good English without using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and you are *not* permitted to use ChatGPT. If you are an English Second Language (ESL) student, you are highly encouraged to take this course, even if you have no background in politics or in Canadian history.

## Instructor Information

**Instructor:** [Associate Professor Erika Simpson](#)

**E-mail:** [simpson@uwo.ca](mailto:simpson@uwo.ca)

**Office Hours:** **Mondays during fall and winter term [except statutory holidays]:** 9:00 am EST-11:00 am EST using Zoom and break-out rooms.

Due to the Professor's busy schedule, **no Zoom office hours can be scheduled outside of this two-hour time slot on Monday mornings, under**

**any circumstances.** Zoom is recorded and by taking this course you consent to being recorded by the instructor and/or TA at the Zoom link on the OWL site.

Zoom link: see your Owl site once you register for the class

Meeting ID: To Be Announced (TBA)

Passcode: see the link on your Zoom link once you register for the class

### **Course Syllabus:**

This interdisciplinary International Security course unpacks the history, theory, and practice of global security with emphasis on Cold War and post-Cold War crises. Students will be introduced to the main historical actors and problems that have shaped international security as well as hear from different experts and diplomats active and retired. Students will develop diplomatic skills based on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, a current UN crisis, and a possible future military crisis in the South China Sea.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe some key figures, events and trends in international security
- Identify and engage with different types of political theories in international security;
- Analyze and evaluate international issues and place them in their historical context
- Connect present-day problems to historical events and place them in a broader context

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

**Important:** The dates and topics of the following chart may change depending on schedules, illnesses, and other unforeseen events. The information below is included for illustrative purposes only, and may be updated on the class website, available on OWL, as the term unfolds.

**2 Quizzes (10% EACH): Due: See your Calendar on OWL**

**Quiz #1 covers Lessons 1-6**

**Quiz #2 covers Lessons 7-12**

2 multiple-choice quizzes can be retaken three times with the highest mark recorded. Quiz #1 opens for taking 5-7 days before the Mid-Term Exam. Quiz #2 opens for taking 5-7 days before the Final Exam and/or on the Final Day of class before the Final Exam. Quiz #1 records your highest mark. Quiz #2 records your highest mark. You can take each Quiz up to three times. If you study with friends, protect your work by not sharing or emailing your notes or assignments. You can help friends by discussing your ideas together and comparing your notes from lectures, but all your individual work to write the exams and quizzes must be completed on your own without help from AI, Google and/or ChatGBT. You can find help with studying by taking advantage of the many resources available on campus. In particular you are urged to visit the [Learning Development and Success](#) website.

Each quiz poses 40 questions that you should be able to answer in 1 hour but which you can take and retake up to three times over five

days = 10% for Quiz #1 before Mid-Term Exam begins. Owl will record your highest mark.

Quiz #2 poses 40 questions that you should be able to answer in 1 hour but which you can take and retake up to three times over five days = Quiz #2 is also worth 10% and you must take it before the Final Exam begins. You cannot write Quiz #1 after the Mid-Term Exam begins. You cannot retake Quiz #2 after the Final Exam begins. You must write Quiz #1 and Quiz #2 to **help prepare** you for the two Exams worth 30% each. **Total quizzes: 10% each = 20%**

**2 Exams (25% EACH): Due: See your Calendar on OWL**

**Mid-Term Exam covers Lessons 1-6**

**Final Exam covers Lessons 7-12**

The Mid-term Exam poses 80 multiple choice questions and you should be able to answer 80 questions in 2 hours. You can take the Mid-Term Exam once during a window of 8.5 hours. OWL records whether you took longer or shorter than 2 hours. Owl records how long you took to write the exam. Students registered with Accessible Education can take the exam once during a window of 10.5 hours. This means they can take the exam for 2 hours longer. The Mid-Term exam with 80 questions is worth 30% (for more regulations, see Exams below)

The non-cumulative Final December exam also poses 80 multiple choice questions and is structured similarly with linear questions. This means you cannot return and check your answers. Owl generates random answers and poses random questions. The professor uses AI to generate more similar questions and screenshots the questions so you cannot easily use search engines. In all cases, the professor's lecture and the Powerpoint slides are the 'right' answer, even if Google and/or your search engine generates a different 'right' answers. If you listen to the lectures, you should be able to answer 80 questions in 2 hours. However, Owl can be 'shaky' and process questions and your answers slowly, therefore you can take the Final Exam once during a window of 8.5 hours between 12:00 PM and 8:30 PM EST. If you are registered with Accessible Education, and you have properly carried out all the paperwork and administration, on time, before the exam begins, you can take the Mid-term and/or Final Exam once during a window of 10.5 hours between 11:00 AM and 9:30 PM EST. Students cannot miss the Mid-term and/or Final Exam and still pass the course. Both exams are compulsory. There are 3 Make-up Exams and you must consult with your Academic Counselor in your Faculty in order to obtain their permission and the professor's position to take the first available Make-up Exam. Generally the Make-up Exam takes place 24 hours later (make-up #1); 72 hours later (make-up #2); and 2 weeks later (make-up #3). For more information on the Make-up Exams, see all the Regulations below.

**Total 2 exams: 30% each 30% X 2 = 60%**

**1 Short Essay: (20%) Due: See your Calendar on OWL**

The TA(s)/Marker(s) will not hold office hours. The Essay Question asks you to research whatever current (not historical) International Crisis interests you using a problem-solving approach. Essay Tips (and More Essay Tips) are covered in lectures. **Maximum 2500 words including/not including endnotes/footnotes and including/not including the Bibliography/Works Cited for a maximum total of 3000 words = 20%. Please note that we count the maximum number of words as 3000 words because OWL counts endnotes/footnotes and/or Bibliograph/Works Cited so you can submit a maximum of 3000 words.** Essays are marked over the December holiday by different markers

at the graduate level in Political Science and they are returned using OWL. The instructor Prof. Simpson reviews the marking over the December holidays and teaches graduate students how to mark essays using templates/rubrics. **Students that use paid editors, AI or ChatGBT or any other technical help and/or software in order to write and compose their essays will be referred to the Dean's office and on advice from the Associate Dean may fail the course. All essays must be submitted to Turnitin (see all the Regulations below).**

**More Short Essay Regulations:** Students cannot miss submitting their own written Short Essay and still pass the course, as this is listed as an essay-compulsory course (E). As the essay is worth less than 30% of your final mark, you may *not* sign any kind of Self-Reported Absence (SRA) form and submit it 24 hours late without penalty, in particular **because SRAs are excluded during the December exam period**. Those that submit the paper 24 hours or less late will incur a penalty of -25%. Those that submit it more than 25 hours late will incur a penalty of -50% unless they have official Academic Accommodation from their Counsellor. If an essay is more than 3000 words long, students will incur a penalty of -0.1% per word therefore 250 extra words is -25%; 500 extra words is -50% and 1000 extra words is -100% on the final mark of the essay. If students do have official Academic Accommodation from their Counsellor, then the essay deadline is negotiated with your Counsellor, not the professor due to confidentiality and privacy reasons. Please do not send professors and/or marker(s) any confidential private information related to the reasons for your late essay. Please note the instructors and marker(s) are usually amenable to receive your late essay over the holidays; however, the marker(s) at the graduate level in Political Science end their contracts on December 31, therefore you will be solely marked by the Professor, beginning January 1, and the Professor could be a stricter adjudicator than the marker(s). Please note the Professor reads all the essays in conjunction with the marker(s) except after December 31 when the Professor reads your essay without marking assistance.

### **Participation: (10%)**

Attendance in Simulations and Roleplays will be taken 12 times during the term. Students that attend 10 Simulations and Roleplays will receive 10 participation marks and score 100% on participation. Students will *not* earn participation points for attending during regular lectures and for regular contributions to in-class discussions because there are too many students in class to be fair to everyone; moreover, it takes too much in-class time to record attendance and in-class contributions. The instructor cannot record the Q & A during in-class nor can the instructor record the discussions for personal confidentiality reasons.

What if you miss a Simulation as there are 10 Simulations? What if you are too shy to speak during all the Roleplays? You will have 12 opportunities to record attendance during the term. Attendance is recorded by obtaining your signature/student number/name and checking your student ID card during the Simulation or Roleplay. Attendance is *not* recorded by measuring the quality and frequency of your participation in the experiential learning activities. For example, if you miss the UN Simulation (and miss 2 possible attendance points), then you can make up for the missed participation mark by attending the last class in December. If you also miss the last class in December, then you cannot make up for missed attendance marks by reweighting your participation mark and/or completing other extra assignments. You will simply have to accept your Participation mark is lower than you expected to earn.

### **Can you earn more participation marks by speaking up more during Roleplays and Simulations? (10%)**

The exams do not test you on the “individualized” information for a specific person or role and the quizzes do not ask you about the individualized roleplaying material for any of the simulations. You can earn plenty of participation marks by attending the roleplays and simulations, specifically:

**Lesson 1: The Diplomatic Handshaking & Bows exercise** – 1 participation point for attending the class and participating in this exercise. [If you join the class late and miss Lesson 1, you can earn a missing participation point by attending in future (e.g. you could attend both Cuban missile crisis simulations for 2 points). See more information below. **Due: See your Calendar on OWL** of [Lesson 1\\_ Diplomatic Handshaking & Bows \(attendance #1\)](#)

**Lesson 3: The Cuban Missile Crisis Simulation** – you can attend 1 participation point for attending in your ‘role’ during this simulation. No matter how long your spoken contribution lasts, you will be awarded 1 participation point for somehow contributing in your role’s behalf. Speaking publicly may require some advance preparation for your particular role, especially if you are randomly assigned a prominent role, like President John Kennedy or Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. The roles are randomly and alphabetically assigned by last name and there is no choice of role. You should be able to earn 1 point during this simulation simply by attending but most students feel compelled to speak up at least once or twice. Students are expected to read the individualized materials for your role and to speak up a few times; therefore the class is divided into two Groups: Group A meets at 10:30 and Group B meets at 11:30. You can attend both roleplays, as we need more roleplayers and you may need more points – in that case, you will earn an extra point that you can use in the event that you miss another Role or Simulation later in the term. **See your Calendar on Owl for the exact date and location** of [Lesson 3\\_ The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis \(Groups A & B- attendance #2\)](#)

**Lesson 4: Debriefing the Cuban Missile Crisis** – 1 participation point for participating in the debriefing in front of the class or as part of the audience. **See your Calendar on Owl for the exact date and location** of [Lesson 4 Debriefing CMC\\_ Realism vs. Liberalism \(Groups A/B - attendance #3\)](#)

**Lesson 5: The current UN crisis simulation** so just as in the Cuban missile crisis simulation and debriefing, **you will earn 2 participation points for attending in your role. You will be randomly assigned a country to represent, like China** - and even if you are Vanuatu, the UN’s smallest country - you will have an opportunity to earn 2 participation points and to speak up. Unlike in previous years, if you sign a resolution, you will not earn 3 participation points – do not hurriedly sign resolutions you have not read to earn participation points as you will earn a maximum of 2 participation points for attendance. If you are late by one hour, you will earn 1 participation point, not 2 points. Attendance is taken before the coffee break (1 point) and after 11:30 AM (1 point) = 2 points. See your Calendar on Owl for the exact date and location of [Lesson 5\\_ UN Simulation \(attendance #4 \(hour #1\) and #5 \(hour #2\)](#)

**Lesson 7: The Anthrax Group Simulation.** Just as in the CMC and UN simulations, you will earn 1 participation point for attending. See your Calendar on Owl for the exact date and location of [Lesson 7\\_ The Anthrax Group Simulation \(attendance #6\)](#)

**Lesson 9: The South China Sea Crisis** so just as in the previous Roleplays and Simulations, **you will earn 1 participation point for attending hour #1 and/or 1 participation point for attending hour #2.** No matter how long your spoken contribution lasts, you can earn up to two participation points for contributing. Although you may have engaged in advance preparation for your particular role, especially if you are assigned a prominent role, like Kim Jong Un or a less prominent role, like Tariq Rauf from the IAEA, you will earn one participation point for attending in your role. If you missed simulations up to today’s simulation, you should plan to attend hour #1 and hour #2 to earn 2 points.

**Lesson 11: Climate Crisis in Arctic Simulation.** Today's crisis is a good opportunity to earn 1-2 points by attending hour #1 and hour #2 (and by taking on two different roles). See your Calendar on Owl for the exact date and location of [Lesson 11\\_ Climate Crisis in Arctic Simulation \(attendance #9 and #10\)](#). Remember you cannot make up for missing Simulations and Roleplays as they cannot be replicated; therefore this week and next week are important to scoring 100% on participation. Do not email the professor asking to make up for missed Simulations as you can earn 1-4 points over the next 2 weeks.

**Lesson 12: Global Jeopardy Game and/or Prospects for Peace with guest #4 Roche and or guest #5 Pang** See your Calendar on Owl for the exact date and location of [Lesson 12\\_ Global Jeopardy Game or Prospects for Peace with guest #4 Roche and/or #5 Pang \(attendance #11 and #12\)](#)

- **Certificate of 100% Participation** Do not email the instructor if you must miss a lecture, roleplay and/or simulation as it does not matter why you missed – and this information is your own confidential information, not to be shared with the instructor.

Once you earn a maximum of 10 points = 10% of your final mark, you will receive a notice on Owl from the professor congratulating you on 100% participation **and you do not need to attend any more simulations**. Most students, nevertheless, continue to attend the in-class activities and contribute to simulations and dialogues **because they want to learn more and do better on the exams**. The professor's overarching goal, each term, is for each registered student to learn to participate in all sorts of activities including helping to set up simulations. **If you are shy or extroverted, you could show up early and help the professor set up a simulation with other students. The professor's explicit goal is that the entire class will earn 100% on Participation so be sure to encourage other students to attend class in person. The professor's implicit goal is for you to make lifelong friends** therefore the classroom is open for one hour before and after the class ends in order to set up and take-down the Simulations.

## 8. Course Materials

- No materials are required for the course, including no textbooks, course readers, manuals, laboratory or safety materials, and no specific electronic devices. All the instructor's slides and audio lectures are posted on OWL. You are responsible for viewing the PowerPoint Slides and listening to the audio.
- All the instructor's slides, audio lectures, and multiple-choice questions are copyrighted by the instructor and remain the property of the instructor, not the University of Western Ontario. Professor Simpson updates statistics, numbers, maps and charts each term.
- The instructor's bank of multiple-choice questions changes from year-to-year so obtaining previous years' correct answers on various multiple-choice questions means that studying last year's correct answers won't necessarily help you 'ace' the course. The instructor covers different issues depending on breaking news and uses different randomized questions and answers.
- If you have taken one or more of the instructor's other 3 classes, you will notice overlap on the Slides and information that is covered each year—however, it is your responsibility to study the Slides that are covered in your current class, and not previous years' Slides for other classes.

## 9. Methods of Evaluation: **Overview of Course Content**

**Important:** The dates and topics of the following chart may change depending on schedules, illnesses, and other unforeseen events, like snow days. The chart below is included for illustrative purposes only and may be updated on the Lesson website available on OWL as the term unfolds.

### Overview of Course Content

Lesson 1\_ Course Overview How to Meet & Greet @ Diplomatic Receptions

[Lesson 1\\_ Diplomatic Handshaking & Bows \(attendance #1\)](#)

Lesson 1\_ Whirlwind tour of IR theory\_ Realism, Liberalism, Neo-Realism, Liberal-Internationalism

Lesson 1\_ Whirlwind tour of IR theory\_ Theoretical Isms\_ Marxism, Capitalism, Feminism, Post-modernism

Lesson 2\_ Balances of Power, World Wars I & II

Lesson 2\_ Collective Defence & Atomic Decision-making

Lesson 2\_ Nuke Map\_ Nuclear Weapons Today

Lesson 2\_ Cuban Missile Crisis (CMC) Preparation

Lesson 3\_ Deterrence & containment\_ explaining the Cold War (online)

Lesson 3\_ The Fall of the Diefenbaker Government (online)

[Lesson 3\\_ The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis \(Groups A & B- attendance #2\)](#)

[Lesson 4 Debriefing CMC\\_ Realism vs. Liberalism \(Groups A/B - attendance #3\)](#)

Lesson 4\_ Nuclear Deterrence & Arms Control after the Cold War

Lesson 4\_ Nuclear Modernization, the NPR and Deterrence with guest #1 Roberts

Lesson 4\_ Nuclear Disarmament & the TPNW (Ban) Treaty with guest #2 Meyer

Lesson 5\_ Introduction to the United Nations

Lesson 5\_ UN Ambassador\_ A Primer to Learn about the UN

[Lesson 5\\_ UN Simulation \(attendance #4\)](#)

[Lesson 5\\_ UN Simulation \(attendance #5\)](#)

Lesson 6\_ UN Peacekeeping\_ Legacies & Traditions

Lesson 6\_ A UN Emergency Peace Force as Band-aid?

Lesson 6\_ Lessons of Afghanistan with guest #3 O'Connor

Lesson 6\_ How to Write Exams & Info on Quiz #1 on Lessons 1-6  
Quiz and EXAM

Lesson 7\_ Terrorism before Sept. 2001

Lesson 7\_ Terrorism After 9/11

Lesson 7\_ How to Prevent Suicide Terrorism

Lesson 7\_ The Anthrax Group Simulation (attendance #6)

Lesson 8\_ NATO's Commitments 1949-1999

Lesson 8\_ NATO after the Cold War (2000-2022)

Lesson 8\_ NATO's New Cold War\_ Georgia, Syria, Ukraine

Lesson 8\_ Supplementary Lectures (e.g. How to Write Essays)

Lesson 9\_ China & the Nine-Dash Line

Lesson 9\_ South China Sea Crisis (attendance #7)

Lesson 9\_ South China Sea Crisis (attendance #8)

Lesson 9\_ Debriefing South China Sea Crisis

Lesson 10\_ Transnational threats\_ Disease

Lesson 10\_ Transnational threats\_ Cyberwarfare

Lesson 10\_ What Can We Expect in the Future? More Cyber Attacks (e.g. Ukraine)

Lesson 10\_ What More Can We Expect in the Future? Drones

Lesson 11\_ Climate Change, the Arctic & Global Warming

Lesson 11\_ Climate Crisis in Arctic Simulation (attendance #9)

Lesson 11\_ Climate Crisis in Arctic Simulation (attendance #10)

Lesson 11 Arctic Simulation Debriefing

Lesson 12\_ What Can We Expect in the Future? Prospects for Peace with guest #4 Roche

Lesson 12\_ Global Jeopardy Game or Prospects for Peace with guest #5 Pang (attendance #11)

Lesson 12\_ Global Jeopardy Game (attendance #12)

Lesson 12\_ Information on Quiz #2 & Final Exam on Classes 7-12

Quiz #2 and Final Exam



Short Essay Due Date and Topic: See the last two pages of this course outline) Due: **See your Calendar on OWL**

- The TAs/Markers will *not* hold office hours nor will they consult with you by email and/or Zoom. The Essay Question asks you to research whatever current (not historical) International Crisis interests you using a problem-solving approach. Essay Tips (and More Essay Tips) are covered in lectures. **Max. 2000 words including or not including endnotes or footnotes and including/not including the Bibliography for a maximum total of 3000 words = 20%**
- The University Registrar's Marks will be released during the first or second week of January. Please do not email the instructor asking for your Essay and/or Final Mark until mid-January. If you need a reference letter, please see the Reference Letter Policy below.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

### 10. \*EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE

**The Mid-term and Final Exams: Regulations, what to study, and advice on taking notes**

If you need to miss class, you do *not* need to report your absence through any online absence declaration system available and you do not need to inform the instructor and/or teaching assistant. No additional documentation is necessary. But you will be examined on the material (slides, audio, etc.) that you missed and the quiz and exams will test you on the material you missed.

If you are ill (e.g. from Covid) and you miss more than one week of lectures, you definitely should speak to your Academic Counsellor about how to obtain notes from fellow students in the class and how to catch up – but as a policy, the instructor cannot change the quiz or exam to suit any student's prolonged or short absences, no matter how long they are absent from classes.

You may not miss the mid-term or final exam and/or the make-up exams or you will automatically fail the course.

Notably, there is no “make-up for the make-up exam” but if it is scheduled, in exceptional circumstances, it is an entirely written exam and in-person. “A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given\*\*). **This condition must be outlined clearly in the course syllabus.** *\*\*the interpretation of “due warning” would be a personal email prior to reaching the specified threshold of absences*
- On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.”

#### Mid-Term Exam:

The Mid-term Exam is a 2-hour multiple choice exam with 80 compulsory questions. There are no bonus questions nor bonus marks. It tests you on the information covered on the Slides delivered in Classes 1-6. It does not test you on the *Engage More Readings*. Generally it is scheduled in October about one week before or after the Reading break.

#### Final Exam:

The Final Exam is constructed exactly similarly to the Mid-Term Exam so it is a 2-hour multiple choice exam with 80 compulsory exam questions ranging from 'very easy' to 'very challenging' and 'very difficult'. Like the mid-term exam, the final exam is non-cumulative so it tests you on the information covered in Classes 7-12. As soon as the professor knows when the final exam is scheduled, the final exam date schedule will be posted on OWL. You must have documented reasons with Academic Counselling to write the make-up exams.

**The mid-term and final exams are constructed exactly similarly:**

Exam questions are composed by the Professor; multiple-choice questions are NOT marked by university-approved multiple-choice computer-marking systems (e.g. 'Scanitron', 'Proctorio', 'Proctortrack' etc.) Special and/or makeup exams may be different in content, structure and format than the regularly scheduled exam. Specific exam formats will be announced and explained by the Professor but the exams will be multiple choice in most cases. If you miss the mid-term or final exams, for any reason, you may must write a multiple-choice exam combined with an essay-type of exam and your answers may be essay-style, not multiple choice. For example, if you miss the second make-up for the mid-term exam, the third-make-up exam will consist of essay-style (not multiple choice) questions. (This is because the professor's large exam bank will never be large enough to pose enough multiple-choice questions for so many different make-up exams).

**Errors?** Prof. Simpson programs the computer in the class's favour if she makes errors. If you see an error, email the professor separately at [simpson@uwo.ca](mailto:simpson@uwo.ca)

**11. EMERGENCIES AND EMERGENCIES RELATED TO THE EXAMS AND QUIZZES:**

You must use email and/or Zoom, not telephone messages or voice mail in this class. Do not under any circumstances leave any voice mail message(s) or texts for any instructors on their cell or landline(s). All communications must be by Zoom or through Western's email. We do not read emails from non-Western accounts. The subject heading must say the Class Number and the nature of your question, like this: POL SCI 3203F I CANNOT FIND THE EXAM ROOM. If the answer is *not* brief, then we will ask you to meet with other students during Zoom office hours in a separate break-out room (e.g. a room devoted to narrowing down your essay questions).

- Professor Simpson never reviews the correct answers with students because if she reviews the correct answers with students, she cannot use variations of these multiple questions in future years and she depletes her exam bank. Professor Simpson checks all the exams for consistency but if you think it is necessary, after emailing the professor, the professor **may possibly** send you your **incorrect** answers on the answer sheet by sending you screenshots after obtaining advice from the Dean/Undergrad Chair.
- **Cheating?** Professor Simpson will not give you or email you your own copy of the mid-term question sheet as you could distribute it to all the students. Some students will be writing one of the make-up exams or another exam in future years. You may not receive a copy of the mid-term or final exam question sheets by email or online. If you request to view your exam in an off-campus location or you have moved away from London, then you may not receive your question sheet by email. You may not ask to view any question sheet accompanied by an off-campus proctor unless you have received written permission from the Dean of your faculty to do so. If you live in another city, you may not receive a copy of the exam through a registered university-endorsed proctor.
- **Appeals?** The third and fourth make-ups for the mid-term and final exam will take place approximately 4 weeks after the final marks are submitted. At that time, you may email the professor and ask to view a copy of your question sheet in Professor Simpson's Zoom office (on a shared screen). You may not use a camera or take photos of your question sheet.

## How should I study for the exams?

- It is highly recommended when preparing for the exams that you consider forming small study groups so that you can share notes and discuss the lecture material but since this is an online course, the professor assumes you will not be meeting with other students to form small study groups. There is nothing wrong with a collective effort in terms of studying for all your classes. After all, that is what the virtual classroom is about—all of us working together for fun and learning. You could study online with help from other students but the professor assumes you are studying alone and the professor cannot help you form study groups or share student's email addresses.
- The two-hour, multiple-choice exams test you on the lecture material, including all the posted slides [**not** the Engage More Readings]. The mid-term exam tests you on classes 1-6, and the final exam tests you on classes 7-12 including the sample questions posed during Lesson 12 in the 'Global Jeopardy game'. You can answer sample multiple choice questions in the Lessons section pertaining to each hour.
- While I appreciate many students want to reinforce the lecture material by writing handwritten or typewritten notes, you do not need to take extra handwritten or typed notes unless this is your preferred learning style. Why get writer's cramp? All the slides are posted and the professor deletes those slides we did not cover so you do not need to study them.
- In the event that OWL collapses or is unavailable for an entire Lesson, we will cancel the Lesson and the relevant slides for that day will be removed from OWL so you do not need to study them.

## 12. Non-medical and medical accommodation

A clear indication of how non-medical absences from midterms, tutorials, laboratory experiments, or late essays or assignments, will be dealt with must be provided. The course outline must direct the student to the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness available here: Medical Illness

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

In addition, instructors must state how they will be dealing with accommodation for medical illness of work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, and whether or not medical documentation for such accommodation will be required. If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

**Even if you have non-medical or medical accommodation, the multiple-choice questions posed to you on the mid-term or final exams cannot be changed to suit you. If you miss studying the lecture materials and slides for any reason (documented or not) you are responsible. Therefore you must meet with your Academic Counsellor to deal with accommodation for medical or non-medical absences worth more or less than 10% of the course grade.**

## 13. Will I know my mid-term exam marks before the drop-date and/or before I write the final exam?

- The professor will update your marks before the final exam so you know all your marks - except the final exam mark - when you begin the final exam.

#### **14. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices and Artificial Intelligence including Search Engines:**

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations. **Students that use paid editors, AI or ChatGBT or any other technical help and/or software in order to write and compose their essays will be referred to the Dean's office and on advice from the Associate Dean may fail the course. All essays must be submitted to Turnitin (see all the Regulations above and below).**

#### **15. Statement on Academic Offences**

The statement: "Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

#### **16. When and How to study for the non-cumulative multiple-choice exams**

The Mid-term exam in Oct. and the Final Exam in Dec will test you on the lecture material including all the posted slides, the recorded audio lectures and/or the materials that are linked to the course slides. The exams are **non-cumulative** so you will not be tested in the Final Exam on the information you learned before the mid-term. The exams will **not** test you on what you or other students write online nor on what you or other students say in class discussion. You will only be tested on what the professor says, not on what your colleagues assert.

##### **Should I take notes on the lecture slides?**

You should always download or print the slides and take notes on the slides. While you view the Slides, your task is to think about and question the materials, not to be a medieval scribe. While the Professor appreciates many students want to reinforce the lecture material by taking many handwritten or typewritten notes, you do not need to take many handwritten or typed notes because all the Slides are posted on OWL. It is preferable that you think about the slides' content and participate in the Lessons Tool rather than take copious notes.

##### **Should I study the timelines and other dates?**

If a detailed timeline or map is included on the Slides or linked using an URL, you should assume it is testable material. In rare cases, the detailed picture, timeline or map is not testable material and in that very rare case, it is clearly marked on the Slide that it is NOT ON THE EXAM. You are expected to memorize many dates and numbers. Often students find it useful to maintain a separate list of dates and numbers to study a few days before the Mid-term or Final Exams.

##### **Can I arrange to write an exam early?**

As soon as the final exams are scheduled, the exam schedule will be posted on OWL. You cannot make plans to write the exam early.

##### **Will software be used to detect cheating?**

Since computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be given, **software will be used to check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating therefore:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

**Does the make-up exam pose different multiple-choice questions? For example, do you accept multiple choice questions written by students in the class and pose these questions in the make-up exam?**

The Professor often changes the Powerpoint slides and writes new multiple-choice questions so if you would like to email possible questions for the Exam Bank, your suggestions are welcome but doing so will not increase your marks. The Quizzes are changed as the week progresses depending on if any problems or concerns are found.

### 17. Required Readings and Engage More Readings

To summarize, the two exams test you on everything you learned from the slides and the spoken lectures, not on the *Engage More Readings*. There is no textbook and the *Engage More Readings* are *not* Required Readings. The *Engage More Readings* are used by you to stimulate your interest in learning more about particular issues.

### 18. Regulations concerning course re-evaluation, absences and the evaluation of international students

- You are **not** allowed to re-write any exams or assignments, once they have been handed-in for marking, unless due to exceptional circumstances as assessed by the Dean's office.
- If you submit the "wrong answer" to an exam or assignment (but you think it is the right answer for a variety of reasons), you are **not** normally entitled to submit the "right version" or get credit for being "right" somehow. You must speak to your Academic Counsellor - as your mark will be worth more than 10% - and they will decide, although they may consult with the Professor, who will together with your academic counsellor, decide upon the fairest option.
- In the event that you miss many classes or all of them, you may not have your mark 'reweighted' to cover your absences unless you have written permission from your Academic Counsellor in your Faculty. You must see your Academic Counsellor, not the Professor in order to make different arrangements regarding course re-evaluation and absences.
- If you are an international student, your exams and your contributions to the Lessons Tool will be graded according to Canadian University standards. Attending class is not sufficient to pass the course, and no attendance marks are taken or recorded.

#### What are the regulations concerning non-medical and medical absences?

- Please see the student services for their updated Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and Student Medical Certificate. If you have medical illness or other documentation, you **must** take it to the Dean's Office or an Academic Counsellor in your Faculty, who will then confirm whether you can possibly be granted accommodation. Any medical absence must **be** documented as instructed by Student Services, Dean's Office or your Academic Counsellor. Academic Counseling will advise the Professor about accommodation and the final decisions about due dates, re-weighting and/or transfer weighting will be made in consultation with you and your Academic Counsellor, not with the Professor. Do not meet with the professor to discuss the reasons for accommodation for medical or non-medical grounds.

### **Can I use electronics like my cell phone during the exams?**

No electronic devices are permitted to be used during any exam including cellphones, personal computers, and/or electronic dictionaries. If you take pictures of your computer screen during any quiz or test, this is an academic offence and will be dealt with by the Dean's Office, not the Professor.

### **What is Scanitron? What is Proctorio? What is Proctortrack? Are they always used?**

Exam questions are composed by the Professors; multiple-choice questions are marked by university-approved multiple-choice computer-marking system (e.g. 'Scanitron' 'Proctorio', 'Turnitin' 'Proctortrack' etc.). Special exams may be different in content, structure and format than the regularly scheduled exam. Specific exam formats will be announced and explained by the Professor but the exams will be multiple choice in most cases. If you miss the mid-term or final exams, for any reason, you may have to write a multiple choice combined with an essay-type of exam and your answers may be essay-style, not multiple choice. For example, if you miss the second make-up for the mid-term exam, the third-make-up exam will consist of essay-style (not multiple choice) questions. This is because the professor's large exam bank will never be large enough to pose enough multiple choice questions for so many different make-up exams.

### **19. Questions about the course outline, class material and/or about my Mid-Term or Final Exam Grade**

- The professor and assistants (e.g. teaching assistants and/or graduate students) will read email messages *only* if they are from a Western email account and **their subject lines include the course number** and a clear statement of purpose. For example, POLSCI 3203F I have a question about the quiz. Where a question cannot be answered with a brief reply email, you will receive an email that indicates that you should attend the office hours on Zoom. The professor and assistants will take up generic questions on a drop-in basis. You will wait in a Zoom waiting room. The instructor keeps track of the generic questions of interest to all students and issues a Frequently Asked Questions handout using Powerpoint slides to all students during the term.
- If you have a confidential concern that is *not* related to your medical and/or personal situation, you can make an appointment to see the professor during Zoom office hours in a break-out room with nobody else present. This is more difficult and time-consuming for us to arrange and the professor's policy is that she will not give you career or course advice. She will not counsel you on other courses you can take to compete in International Relations nor will she give you any advice on an individual-level. Lecture slides, handouts, short videos, and other resources with such career and essay writing advice is regularly posted as Supplementary Slides to the Owl website. These materials belong to the instructor, not the university, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts each material, and they are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any of the Supplementary materials without the explicit written permission of the instructor.
- Appeals to change an exam (or essay) grade must be received during that term of instruction (*i.e.* the Course Lecturer does not handle appeals after the term ends).

### **What happens if there are other changes to the Official Course Outline?**

- Due to certain circumstances and/or situations, changes to course outlines and other course documents are necessary. In such cases, you will be informed through all available channels of communication as soon as possible.
- The dates and topics of the lectures, simulations and exams may be changed depending on schedules, illnesses, and other

unforeseen events. The dates in this course outline are included for illustrative purposes only and may be updated on the class website as the term unfolds. **In that case, the dates on the OWL website hold true, not the dates in this Syllabus.**

- Mask Policy: University policy may require that instructors and students wear non-medical face masks in all common-use indoor spaces on campus, including in classroom. For the University's complete [Health & Safety](#) mask policy, see <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/health-safety/index.html>
- Vaccination Policy: Western has developed [protocols](#) regarding any member of the University community who comes onto campus which are explained here <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/health-safety/index.html#before> Students with questions can contact the Student Health Care clini at 519-661-3030.

## 20. Statement on Reference Letters

- If you need a reference, please email your other professors individually for more information. Professor Simpson's firm policy is **not** to write references for law school and/or graduate school based on your standing in a second-year class because such a reference – compared to a 3<sup>rd</sup>-year or 4<sup>th</sup>-year reference is *not* useful – and would do you a **diservice**, not a service.
- If you take more than three courses from Professor Simpson, she may consider acting as your referee for jobs and for professional programs like internships – but keep in mind that obtaining a reference from a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year instructor is preferable. **She will consider whether to write you a reference for graduate studies/law school if you have taken or are taking three classes under her direct supervision because this means you have fewer other possible referees; however, keep in mind that a reference letter from a professor who taught you many second-year courses is not as desirable as a reference letter from a professor who taught you a fourth-year course. Professor Simpson does not write reference letters for students who are seeking positions with businesses, companies and/or internships due to the number of students she has. You could ask a TA in another class, but not this class.**

## 21. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS A CAREER CHOICE

### What other classes can I take if I become more interested in the general topic?

For more information about the other classes Professor Simpson teaches and the field of IR, see the faculty and personal websites available through the [Department of Political Science](#). At this time, Professor Simpson teaches four courses including **POLSCI 2135A 650; 2191B 650; 2141A/B 650 and 3203F 650**. Professor Simpson does *not* teach any specialized Reading Courses nor supervise Undergraduate Theses. Professor Simpson supervises Graduate Students (including MA and PhD students) in International Relations. To learn more information about Professor Simpson:

- Erika Simpson (PhD and MA, University of Toronto) is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Western University, London, Canada and the President of the Canadian Peace Research Association (CPRA).
- Her research interests are in international security and foreign and defence policy, particularly Afghanistan, arms control, disarmament, IR theory, NATO, nuclear proliferation, nuclear waste, peacekeeping and the UN.
- She is the author of *NATO and the Bomb* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001) and her articles have appeared in leading journals including the *Brown Journal of World Politics; International Journal; In Victus Pax: Journal of Peace Education and Social Justice;*

*Peace Magazine; Peace Research; Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice; and Policy Options.*

- She is a national syndicated columnist for the *Postmedia Network*, Canada's largest digital and newspaper chain, and a frequent commentator for *The Hill Times: Canada's Foreign Policy Magazine*, as well as Canada's *CTV Television News*, Asia's *Urdu News* and Russia's *Sputnik News*.
- She serves as a Director on the Board of the Canadian Pugwash Group; an associate editor for *Peace Review*; a Senior Advisor for the Rideau Institute; an invited Consultant for the Nuclear Abolition Forum; and a Peer Reviewer for the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health.
- Formerly she was an Alton Jones Fellow; a Barton Fellow; a Liu Institute Visiting Fellow; a NATO Research Fellow; and the Vice-Chair and Treasurer of Pugwash Canada.
- In 2015 the Voice of Women–Canada awarded her a Lifetime Achievement Award for her writing on peace-related issues. At the University of Western Ontario, she teaches 2135A; 3203F; 2191B; 2141B and MA and PhD graduate students. She is a Canadian citizen and a long-time resident of London, Ontario formerly from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (email: [simpson@uwo.ca](mailto:simpson@uwo.ca)).



## 22. Short Essay Question:

### WHAT QUESTIONS ARE REQUIRED? WHAT IS THE REQUIRED FORMAT FOR THE SHORT ESSAY?

- For this short essay, you should review 2-3 scholarly papers that discuss **one** current International Crisis that is of concern to you. For instance, you may be concerned about whether the war in the Gaza Strip poses a threat to peace and security in the Middle East. Or you may be interested in the international implications of clandestine prisons and the secret torture of high-profile terrorist suspects...You must choose a topic that interests **you**.
- You *not* need to obtain permission from the instructor (or TA) to pursue the topic that interests you but you could meet with the prof during Zoom office hours to discuss how to narrow down or broaden your research focus. To ensure privacy, if someone is in the Zoom office, you will be in the waiting room until admitted to a break-out room. We will admit people in order from the waiting room and you are likely to meet with the instructor and many other students at the same time. It is *not* necessary to discuss your essay topic with the instructor during office hours. Most students do not do so and meeting with the instructor to discuss your essay topic will not increase your grade. The instructor will not remember your name nor keep notes, but the instructor records the office hours using Zoom in all circumstances. By participating in the Zoom office hours, you are consenting to being recorded.

You should overview and assess some recent literature – published after 2018 - concerning this issue. **What do the authors argue? Which facts and empirical data do you think are most helpful, and why? Which experts in your opinion provide a good synopsis of the crisis? Which papers redefine the problem or offer new and original solutions?** You should assess 2-3 journal articles, refereed papers or book chapters for their content level, relevance, and appropriateness. **They must have been published AFTER January 1, 2018 (NOT EARLIER).**

In your essay, you must answer each of the following questions **in the same order they are presented below** and **using the same numbers and sub-headings as below**. Rather than write a typical essay, you need to answer each question below in the order that it is posed. How much space (*e.g.* how many words) you accord to each section is up to you.

#### I. PROBLEM DEFINITION

In this section, you can answer questions like this: In your assessment, what is the problem pertaining to this aspect of International Security? What is the nature and extent of this international crisis? What are other experts and analysts saying pertaining to this problem? Why is it a crisis today? Try to define the problem by narrowing it down as much as possible.

#### II. POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

In this section, write about what might happen if little or nothing is done to alleviate the present situation? In your opinion and the opinion of other international experts, what might be the consequences for the world (and possibly Canada) if this crisis gets worse? In your opinion and the opinion of other international experts, what might be the consequences for the world if this crisis is not solved?

### III. PROBABLE CAUSES

In this section, ask yourself and consult experts about what are the roots of this problem? What short- and long-term factors caused this situation? According to the recent literature, what international, domestic and individual-level factors may have brought about this international crisis?

### IV. POLICY OPTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In your estimate and the estimate of others, what options and alternatives do we have? What might be the costs and benefits associated with making the policy changes that you and other experts recommend? If you cannot find concrete empirical information about potential costs and benefits, consider the implications of the recommendations instead.

#### 22. Short Essay Regulations with No Special Exemptions.

**IMPORTANT: you are responsible for reading this and your essay must abide by all these regulations:**

**Presentation:** Your essay must be no longer than **approximately 2500 words** and a **maximum of 3000 words including the footnotes/endnotes and Bibliography/Works Cited**. The marker and professor will check the word count. If the essay itself is approximately 200 words over 2000 words, this is entirely acceptable and will not affect your final mark. But if it is more than 250 words over the 3000-word count, you will be docked marks. For example, if it is 1000 words too long, you will be docked 0.1% a word = -100%. In short, you must strive to write a 'short' essay, not a long essay. Opinion pieces (op eds) in newspapers are 700-800 words. You are writing approximately the equivalent of 4 op eds on one crisis that concerns you. You must follow the 4-part structure explained above.

The Bibliography/Works Cited may include scholarly articles that were written by legitimate authors or representatives of research organizations published after 2018. But most of the scholarly articles that you ultimately choose to focus upon must have been published (or 'forthcoming') between 2018-2023.

A maximum of 3000 words including/not including the notes/footnotes and including/not including the bibliography/works cited means that each section (see the Roman Numbers 1-IV above) could be 500 words. But you do not have to abide by such strict rules for each section. Often Sections III-IV are long, and Section I is only one paragraph or 2 sentences long. Additional analysis beyond 3000 words will be neither read nor marked by the TA who is generally a PhD candidate in a different general field, not IR, like Local Government, Urban Governance, Political Philosophy. Think of the marker as a person who writes very well but does not know anything about your topic. **Do not think of the marker as Professor Simpson who knows a lot about your topic! If you do so, you could get brain freeze and writer's block.** You are writing for the informed general reader, not for the specialist so avoid jargon and try to write clearly and simply with simple sentences and fewer footnotes/endnotes than you think might be necessary. Professor Simpson reads the marker's comments and scan-reads your paper for consistency. She also checks your overall marks and she reads the A+ and D/F essays carefully.

In terms of how to avoid plagiarism, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with materials. For example, please ensure that you

identify all quotations, references, and other people's ideas in the notes/footnotes (see all the regulations on Plagiarism above) and that you submit a title page with your name and a comprehensive bibliography/works in the same document with your main text. Do not submit two documents – submit only one document with all the information on one document. **It definitely cannot be a PDF copy or RTF file. The instructor and the TA must be able to “track changes” and mark up your essay using MS Word.**

**You may use any style guide you wish (e.g. Chicago, MLA, APA or Medical styles).** Most students in Western's Department of Political Science will tend to use Chicago style. However, you may use APA or Medical styles instead. You are expected to consult a stylebook and you will likely be docked significant marks if you do not follow a style. For example, if you make up your own style or you use the older D.B. Weldon short guide (which is a mix of two styles), you will lose marks. You must consistently construct your footnotes and/or endnotes and your Bibliography and/or Works Cited, otherwise you will be docked -10 to -25% on the final mark. The markers are paid to pay a lot of attention to your style and your bibliography/references so they learn how to properly edit. They will dock marks if your style is made-up off the top of your head and inconsistent. Do not lose marks because your style is inconsistent and fabricated from nowhere.

**The final copy must be submitted to Turnitin and OWL's dropbox by the 11:50 pm EST (Eastern Standard Time in London, Ontario) deadline.** It must be submitted as a MS Word document. **It definitely cannot be a PDF copy or RTF file. The instructor and the TA must be able to “track changes” and mark up your essay using MS Word.** Please do not submit a PDF and then write us that you plan to submit the Word version, late, as you will be docked all the regular marks for being late.

### **Short Essay: Late Penalties and Self-Reported Absence (SRA) regulations**

As the essay is worth less than 30% of your final mark, do *not* assume you can sign your own Self-Reported Absence (SRA) form and submit it 24 hours late without penalty **because SRAs are excluded during the December exam period.** Those that submit it 24 hours or less later, will incur a penalty of 25% and those that submit it more than 25 hours late will incur a penalty of -50% unless they have official Academic Accommodation from their Counsellor. If students have official Academic Accommodation from their Counsellor, the essay deadline is negotiated with your Counsellor, not the professor due to confidentiality and privacy reasons. To repeat, the Professor and marker(s) are happy to receive your late essay over the holidays and will strive to mark it but keep in mind different markers at the graduate level in Political Science end their contracts on December 31<sup>st</sup> therefore you will be marked solely by the Professor beginning January 1.

**Deterring Plagiarism:** If there is no copy on Turnitin - or the copy on Turnitin is different from the copy you submitted, then you will receive a final mark of 0% in the class. The Turnitin link is on the official Lesson website.

**For more university and departmental regulations that apply to this course and for more on the Late penalty or non-submission of paper:** **See the APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE in the folder in this section of the Syllabus. You are responsible for reading and abiding by the APPENDIX, but we do not cover the information during classtime.**