

Political Science POL SCI 2191A 650 LEC FW26: Special Topics in Political Science ("Global Diplomacy and Peace")

Course Title:	POL SCI 2141A 650 LEC FW26: Global Violence and Injustice
Instructor:	Associate Professor Erika Simpson, PhD
Office Hours:	Mondays (except Statutory Holidays): 9:00-11:00 AM EDT/EST (by appointment only)
Office Location:	Join Zoom Meeting https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/91251403151
Email:	simpson@uwo.ca
Telephone:	519-661-2111 extension 85156

Instructor

Erika Simpson, PhD, MA – Associate Professor of International Relations, Western University, Canada
Dr. Erika Simpson is a leading scholar in international security and foreign and defence policy, with research spanning Afghanistan, arms control, disarmament, IR theory, NATO, nuclear proliferation, nuclear waste, peacekeeping, and the United Nations.

She is the author of *NATO and the Bomb* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001) and has published widely in prestigious academic journals. In addition, she is a national columnist for the *Hill Times*, bringing expert analysis on global security issues to a broader audience.

The Course Instructor actively contributes to the peace and disarmament community as a Director on the Boards of the Canadian Pugwash Group and the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, among other leadership roles. Her dedication has been recognized with Lifetime Achievement Awards from Voice of Women–Canada (2015) and the Canadian Peace Research Association (2025). An alumna of the University of Saskatchewan, the Course Instructor continues to share her expertise through news outlets, public lectures, and academic mentorship.

For more information, visit the Department of Political Science: [About Us](#) | [Faculty Profile](#)

Instructor Information

Contact

Instructor Information:

Associate Professor Erika Simpson

E-mail: simpson@uwo.ca

Office: SSC Room 7331

Office Hours:

Online by zoom on Mondays during fall and winter and spring terms [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 the two-hour time slot on Monday mornings, under any circumstances. Only UWO account users are able to access the Zoom link on your OWL.

Zoom is recorded:

By attending the professor's office hours, you consent to being recorded by the instructor at the link under your Zoom Tool on the OWL website. There is no Teaching Assistant or Secondary Instructor that holds Zoom office hours and they will not request to meet with you by Zoom and in person.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Emergencies, Emails from non-Western accounts:

If you have questions about the course outline, class material, or Mid-Term Test, Final Exam grades, email the Professor: simpson@uwo.ca

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are occasionally answered through announcements. FAQs are archived under the Lessons Tool for all students. Due to the high number of students in the course, the Professor does not host live Zoom meetings where students can ask questions. The Professor does not hold collective or individual meetings with students to discuss incorrect responses on Quizzes or Exams. Generic questions are not addressed on a drop-in basis during Zoom office hours.

Emergencies:

You must use email and Zoom, not telephone messages or voice mail in all my classes. Do not under any circumstances leave any voice mail message(s) or texts on my cell or landline(s). All our communications must be through Western's email or by Zoom (recorded).

Emails from non-Western Accounts:

We do not read emails from non-Western accounts. We do not read texts during an exam-related emergency.

The professor will read emails only from Western email accounts. Subject lines should include the course number and a clear statement of purpose (for example, "POLSCI 2141B question about the Test"). If the question requires more than a brief reply, the Course Instructor may answer your query or you may be directed to attend the Professor's Zoom office hours.

Your email's subject heading must say the Class Number and the nature of your question, like this: "POL SCI 2141A OWL Link to Exam does not open for me." If the answer is *not* brief, then we will ask you to email a TA or meet the professor during Zoom office hours.

For confidential concerns unrelated to medical or personal situations, you should make an appointment to see your Academic Counselor (not the course instructor). Individual career and graduate student advice is not provided and the Professor is not trained as a medical health professional to help you.

Prerequisites

None

This elective has **no prerequisites or antirequisites** and welcomes students from all campuses. With

winter and spring term enrollments of approximately 1,000 students per course and waiting lists, the course structure and reading expectations align with other 2100-level cross-campus courses taught by the Course Instructor.

Course Syllabus

Department of Political Science POL SCI 2191A 650: Special Topics in Political Science (“Global Diplomacy and Peace”)

Using lectures including experts and diplomats, this course helps you understand diplomacy and peace in International Relations (IR). The lectures survey traditional instruments of diplomacy including alliances, nuclear threats as well as NATO and peacekeeping. We focus on how to prevent terrorism, war in Europe, international diseases and on learning lessons from game theory for cooperation. Experts explore diverse options to enhance global governance including the UN’s Sustainable Development goals and UN peacekeeping operations while diplomats help explore future challenges for humankind including population explosions, nuclear proliferation, growth pressures and refugee movements.

Each week’s required readings and lectures will be released as soon as possible. Students are expected to review the assigned materials during that week before the next set of lectures is released. Lessons are accessible on OWL at your convenience in preparation for the Mid-term Test and Final Exam.

Attendance is not recorded, and there are no participation marks. Written answers to questions are not required. However, all lectures—including guest lectures—and all required readings will be tested. Please note that OWL records detailed analytics, including the amount of time spent on each lecture and the duration of each Quiz and exam attempt. This information may be reviewed to detect irregularities, and any evidence of academic dishonesty will be investigated under the University’s Academic Integrity policy and may result in formal sanctions, including referral to the Dean’s office. (Please see the final section of this Course Syllabus for more information on OWL tracking and the external Library Tool).

This Course Outline constitutes a contract between the instructor and the students enrolled in the course. Changes are normally not made after the Course Outline is reviewed online (usually during the first class) and no later than the third lesson (prior to the official drop date).

Due dates are listed in this Course Outline and posted on the Calendar Tool in OWL as soon as they are confirmed. Students are responsible for consulting the OWL Calendar regularly for updates.

If a date must be changed, the instructor will provide at least two weeks’ notice whenever possible on the OWL calendar. In exceptional cases, shorter notice may be required.

Welcome

Welcome to this online Political Science course. This course is designed for students who want to better understand international relations, global politics, and the political forces shaping Canada and the world.

Unless otherwise stated in the official course listing, no previous background in Political Science, International Relations, or Canadian history is required.

Through required readings, recorded lectures, PowerPoint slides, and presentations from guest experts and diplomats, you will examine important political theories, historical developments, and contemporary policy debates. Because this is a blended mainly asynchronous course, you may review the weekly materials at times that fit your schedule, but you are expected to keep up with the lessons and regularly check OWL for course information and deadlines. **Please be aware that according to new Departmental regulations, the Final Exam is synchronous and in-person.**

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to identify significant actors, institutions, events, and developments in international relations. They should also be able to explain how major political theories and concepts are used to understand conflict, diplomacy, cooperation, security, and global governance. Students will practise analysing international issues within their historical and political contexts. They will examine connections between contemporary challenges and earlier events, compare competing interpretations, and assess the strengths and limitations of different policy responses. The specific issues considered will vary by Simpson's 2100-level courses and may include Canadian foreign policy, war and peace, international organizations, nuclear weapons, human rights, migration, terrorism, environmental security, emerging technologies, free trade, water insecurity, peacekeeping, warfare, drones, etc.

Students should leave the course better prepared to evaluate political claims, interpret evidence, and form informed conclusions based on the lectures, required readings, and contributions from guest experts and diplomats.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize various key figures, events, and trends in recent international relations history.
- Engage with various political theories in the realm of international relations.
- Analyse various international issues, situating them within their historical context.
- Establish various connections between contemporary problems, historical events, and their global context.

Learning Objectives Lecture Slides:

While reviewing the PowerPoint Slides and listening to the audio lectures, including the guest lectures, your main focus should be on contemplating and questioning the material, not on extensive note-taking like a medieval scribe. Although the course instructor understands that some students prefer reinforcing lecture material with many handwritten or typewritten notes, it is unnecessary due to all the Slides and audio being posted on OWL as YouTube links, MP4 files and PowerPoint slides.

You are encouraged to engage with the content of the slides and required readings, and think about them, rather than taking copious notes. Many students find reviewing by studying the Slides without audio to be effective. However most if not all the guest speakers refrain from using PowerPoint Slides. It is common practice in government, among non-governmental organizations and in the working world, to refrain from using slides – and to rely on the spoken word. Rarely, guest speaker use Slides so you must take notes or rely on YouTube or your own generated transcripts in order to study the guest speakers.

How to Study and Complete the Course

This course follows a regular weekly structure and is delivered asynchronously through OWL. Each lesson may include required readings, recorded audio lectures, PowerPoint slides, videos, and presentations from guest experts or diplomats. Course materials will be released on OWL, and students are expected to review each lesson before moving on to the next one. Although you may complete the weekly material at times that suit your schedule, it is important to keep up with the course and check OWL regularly for announcements, deadlines, and updates.

Attendance is not recorded, and there are no participation marks. However, all required lectures, guest lectures, readings, slides, maps, images, and other assigned materials may be included on Quizzes, Tests, and Examinations. Students are responsible for completing all required course content, even when they are unable to review it during the week in which it is released.

Students should focus on understanding the main arguments, theories, events, examples, and connections presented throughout the course rather than simply copying every word from the slides. Taking notes may be helpful, especially during guest lectures that do not include PowerPoint slides, but the goal should be to think critically about the material and connect historical developments with contemporary political issues.

Lecture and Exam Location Details

This course is delivered entirely online through asynchronous instruction. Pre-recorded PowerPoint lectures with the Professor's audio are provided in YouTube, mp4, and pptx formats, allowing you to access materials at your convenience. However, **Final Exam Visuals:** All maps, pictures, and other course-related images reproduced on the final exam will be presented in black and white only. The use of black-and-white images will not constitute grounds for an appeal of an exam question or grade.

Exam Attire and Smart Devices: Baseball hats are not permitted during examinations. All smart glasses, camera-equipped glasses, or any other electronic eyewear capable of recording or accessing information are prohibited during exams, whether or not the device is actively in use.

The Final Exam must be taken in person during the Official Final Exam period, scheduled by Exam Central. Two Quizzes and a Midterm Test will be written online from your home office. Quizzes are one hour in length and must be completed within a 72-hour and no-late-penalty 2-day grace period. This means within a 5-day window. The 2-hour Mid-term Test must be completed during an 8-hour window. The Final Exam must be completed during a 2-hour window. If you have pre-registered on time with Accessible Education and received official accommodation to take your Midterm Test or Final Exam with a proctor for a longer prescribed time, you will be given longer time. Do not write the Professor asking to take an in-person accommodated Midterm Test or Final Exam – you are responsible for applying to do this, on time.

Important requirement: The 2-hour Mid-term must be written in a window of time between 12:00 PM and 8:00 PM (EST/EDT). A stable Wi-Fi connection is required for the full 2-hour exam. Students are

responsible for ensuring their internet and technical setup are reliable. Technical issues during the exam will not be grounds for extensions or rescheduling. Students in different time zones, or those traveling or working full- or part-time, can still complete the course as long as they meet this requirement. But they must take the 2-hour Final Exam in person during the official Final Exam period on campus.

This is a **sample of the type of three email reminders you will receive at your Western email address to take the online Midterm Test:**

- **Dates:** Opens (DATE) at 12:00 PM NOON EST/EDT and closes (DATE) at 8:00 PM EST/EDT.
- **Duration:** 1 hour for 40 questions. **(Registered with Accessible Education time, then your time has been adjusted according to your accommodation)**
- **Attempts:** Up to 3 attempts for the quiz. OWL records your highest mark for the quiz, not the midterm test.

Important Rules

- Do not navigate away, use external devices, Google, or ChatGPT—this is a scholastic offence.
- If you delay and encounter issues, you must provide the Student Absence Portal with **documentation covering the entire 8-hour time period.** You are not allowed to use your **one Special Consideration Request (SPRA)** per term because the Midterm Test is designated exempt.

Processing & Grades

- OWL may take until 2:00 AM to process submissions. You will receive a confirmation email. You will receive three email reminders to take each Quiz, Midterm Test, and Final Exam.

Additional Synchronous Activities are not possible:

Given the course's asynchronous nature and a considerable number of students, Simulations or Roleplaying Exercises are not included. Synchronous activities in these areas may be available through registration in my other courses in future years (e.g. POL SCI 3203F: *International Crises* in 2028).

Technical Issues and Proctoring

Because there are **no TAs or proctors** for the online Quizzes and Mid-term Test, the Professor will be monitoring the online testing periods and **may not be able to respond immediately to emails.** For technical issues, please contact **Western Technology Services (WTS)** by submitting a ticket:

<https://westernu.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/2>

WTS Support Hours

- Monday–Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

You must be available to write the in-person proctored Final Exam during the Final Exam period including to the very last day of the Final Exam period. The Final Exam is proctored on the University Campus, by many proctors, and not by the Course Instructor.

Exam Visuals

All maps, photographs, diagrams, and other course-related visual materials reproduced in the final examination will be presented in **black and white.** The presentation of visual materials in black and white will not constitute grounds for an appeal of an examination question or a student's grade.

Exam Attire and Electronic Devices

Baseball hats are not permitted during examinations. In addition, AI-enabled smart glasses, camera-equipped glasses, and any other form of electronic eyewear capable of recording, storing, transmitting, or accessing information are **strictly prohibited** during examinations, regardless of whether the device is actively in use.

Washroom Breaks

All time spent outside the examination room during a washroom break must be recorded by the proctor on the examination report submitted to the Registrar's Office. The report must identify the student by **Student ID number, not by name**, and must record the time at which the student leaves the examination room and the time at which the student returns.

Students registered with **Accessible Education** will automatically receive their approved extra time for the online Quizzes. They will **not automatically receive their approved extra time for the online Midterm Test and the in-person Final Exam**. Students must apply to take the Midterm Test and the Final Exam asking for their approved extra time through the Accessible Education website.

Self-Reported Absences (SRA) and Special Consideration forms cannot be used to delay the Midterm Test or Final Exam. A Make-Up Mid-term Test or Final Exam will be granted only with legitimate documentation through the SAP. The make-up Mid-term Tests are scheduled on the Owl Calendar but you must have official permission from the SAP to take any makeups including any Quiz, Mid-term Test or Final Exam.

Course Materials

Required Textbooks, Readings and Course Materials:

This course has no required/recommended educational materials to purchase.

All the Required Readings, the instructor's PowerPoint Slides and the "Engage More Readings" are accessible during the term on WESTERN'S ONLINE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM referred to as Owl.

Copyright for all instructor's slides and lectures, including Guest Speaker lectures:

Copyright belongs to the instructor and not the University of Western Ontario. Reusing lecture material for other purposes is prohibited, even with written permission from Professor Erika Simpson or Accessible Education.

All required, supplementary, and optional PowerPoint Slides and lecture materials are the property of the instructor. Required Readings or "Engage More Readings" are sourced from online platforms such as Google Scholar, Scholarship@Western, and videos. They are collectively made available through Western's library, and you can access them individually through the OWL portal and Library tool.

Supplementary materials:

Supplementary materials, including lecture slides, handouts, videos, and career/essay writing advice, are regularly posted on OWL as Supplementary Lessons. These materials belong to the instructor and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share without explicit written permission.

Course Access, Language, and Prerequisites

English as a Second Language (ESL) and International Students

ESL and international students are encouraged to enroll, regardless of prior experience in politics or Canadian history. There are no English writing requirements. The course follows standardized expectations for an online Canadian university class. Grades are assigned according to Canadian university standards. Attendance alone and opening lectures for study do not guarantee passing. OWL tracks time spent on each lecture, Quiz, and Exam, which may be used to identify irregularities or potential academic misconduct. For more information on Owl tracking, see the final section of this course outline because this policy is evolving as technology is evolving.

English Language and YouTube Captions

All lectures, including the Professor's audio and PowerPoint slides, are in English and supplemented by expert guest speakers. Quizzes, Midterm Tests, and Final Exams will assess this content. YouTube captions are available in multiple languages but may contain errors. Students are responsible for any mistakes in captions. While videos may be translated, all quizzes and exams must be completed in English, as Western University is an English-speaking institution.

Lecture Backups

Lectures are also available on VoiceThread and as MP4 videos. If a link is broken in OWL, email the Professor immediately at simpson@uwo.ca.

Methods of Evaluation

Date(s) and Time(s) Offered: Course Instructor's 2100-level courses:

2141A Online Course, Distance Studies (fall term), September 2026-December 2026.

2191A Online Course, Distance Studies (fall term), September 2026 – December 2026.

2135B Online Course, Distance Studies (winter term), January 2027 – April 2027.

All due dates are posted on the OWL Calendar and listed in the Course Syllabus. Please check the OWL Calendar regularly for updates. The Final Version of the Course Syllabus and the Final Dates will be posted on OWL by the third lesson (before the official drop date).

Important Dates and Events

Date	Event
September 9, 2026	Classes Begin
September 10, 2026	Lesson 1 - Shopping for Classes Week
September 14, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
September 16, 2026	Lesson 2
September 17, 2026	Last Day to Add or Drop
September 21, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
September 23, 2026	Lesson 3
September 28, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
September 29, 2026	Lesson 4
September 30, 2026	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 5, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
October 7, 2026	Lesson 5
October 10, 2026	Reading Week Begins
October 12, 2026	Thanksgiving
October 19, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
October 21, 2026	Lesson 6
October 26, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
October 28, 2026	Lesson 7
October 28, 2026, 12:00 PM-November 2, 2026, 11:50 AM	Quiz #1
November 2, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
November 2, 2026, 12:00 PM-8:00 PM	Midterm Test
November 4, 2026	Lesson 8
November 9, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
November 11, 2026	Lesson 9
November 11, 2026, 12:00 PM-8:00 PM	Makeup Quiz #1
November 16, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
November 16, 2026, 12:00 PM-8:00 PM	Makeup Midterm Exam

November 18, 2026	Lesson 10
November 23, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence
November 25, 2026	Lesson 11
November 30, 2026	Office Hours and Course Correspondence (end)
December 2, 2026	Lesson 12
December 2, 2026, 12:00 PM- December 7, 2026	Quiz #2
December 9, 2026	Fall/Winter Term Classes End
December 10, 2026	Study Day
December 11-22, 2026	In-Person Final Examination Scheduling
December 11, 2026	Important: Students Must Be Available Through Exam Period
December 22, 2026, 12:00 AM-9:00 PM	Exam Period Ends
January 4, 2027	Classes Begin

Grade Weight Percentages

Quiz 1: 10%

Quiz 2: 10%

Mid-Term Test: 40%

Final Examination: 40%

Exact timetables and schedules of assignments with exact course deadlines will be announced through the OWL Calendar. They may not appear exactly as in this Course Outline (for example, due to power failures, internet collapse, exam rescheduling, etc.). You are responsible for frequently checking your OWL Calendar and your UWO email address for updates.

The Mid-term Test, a 2-hour multiple-choice Test with 80 questions, focuses on information covered in Required Readings, Slides, and Audio Lectures from Classes 1-6. No bonus questions or marks are included, and it includes content from the Required Readings available through the D. B. Weldon Library portal on the Owl website.

The Final Exam mirrors the Mid-term, featuring a 2-hour multiple-choice format with 80 questions of varying difficulty. Non-cumulative, it assesses information from Classes 7-12. But it is **in-person**.

The Department has *recently adopted* a policy requiring this course to have an **in-person Final Examination**. **If you have concerns about the impact of this on your travel, housing, employment, or other commitments for attending the Mid-term Test (or make-up Mid-term Test) or the Final Examination (or make-up Final Exam), the examination schedule and any requests for accommodation**

or changes are governed by University policies and Exam Central procedures rather than by the course instructor, and you will need to speak to your Faculty's Academic Counselling office.

The scheduling of all Final Examinations is the responsibility of Exam Central, which assigns examination dates and times across the University to minimize scheduling conflicts. As a result, the in-person Final examination may be scheduled at any point during the official examination period, including the Final day of the official exam period. **The Course Instructors do not determine the examination date or time and they are not authorized to schedule the examination outside the date assigned by Exam Central.** Once the official examination schedule has been released, it cannot be changed by the instructor. For example, students may not write the Final Exam 'early' for any reason, including plane flights.

Students must therefore ensure that they remain available for the entire examination period when making travel, accommodation, employment, or other personal arrangements.

The Final Exam Date will be updated on the Course Calendar as soon as the official examination timetable is released.

Fully Online Courses Instruction and learning happen entirely online using learning technologies. Fully online courses may include synchronous components (for example, live online lectures and discussions) and asynchronous components (for example, recorded lectures, discussion boards, online activities, etc.). Synchronous components occur within times designated in the timetable. Assessments are online unless designated as in person at the point that students register for the course. **This is the official notice that the Final Exam is synchronous and must be taken in-person during the official Exam Period.**

The Quizzes are online. The online Quizzes are not in person and the Quizzes do not use Proctortrack, Proctorio, or other online proctoring software.

Non-Cumulative Quizzes and Exams:

The Quizzes, Tests and Exams are not cumulative, meaning the Final Exam does not include material covered before the Mid-term. Assessment is based solely on information presented by the professor and guest speakers, not on colleagues, search engines like Google, other websites, or external sources. The focus is strictly on course content and not external opinions or materials.

Exam Bank and Review Policy

The exam banks for each online assessment contain thousands of questions, which are randomly assigned to students. Students may request a review of their incorrect answers only **six weeks** after the completion of the Makeup #2 Quiz, Makeup #2 Mid-term Test, and Makeup #2 Final Exam.

To review answers, students must contact the Professor to schedule an **in-person** meeting in the Professor's office at a mutually agreed-upon time. Only incorrect answers will be discussed. Correct answers are not subject to review.

Strict Academic Integrity Rules:

- It is a scholastic offence to take screenshots or photographs during any Exam or Quiz.

- It is a scholastic offence to take screenshots or photographs during the review meeting.

Any breach of these rules will be treated as a serious academic offence and reported to the Dean's office in accordance with University policy.

[Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions](#)

- [Undergraduate Procedures](#)

[Scholastic Offences](#)

- [Undergraduate Procedures](#)

[Senate Review Board Appeals](#)

- [Procedures](#)

Proctor track is not used:

Proctor track is not utilized for Quizzes, Tests and Final Exams due to widespread student privacy concerns. The Dean's office handles all cheating-offence allegations. Students engaging in activities like sharing correct answers or taking screenshots may face consequences, such as referral to the **Dean's Office**. They may have to take in-person exam rewrites with proctors, or face potential expulsion. Decisions on such matters are made by the Dean's Office, not by the Course Instructor.

Search Engines (e.g. Google, CHATGBT, etc.):

It is important to recognize that the Department of Political Science and the Course Instructor emphasize maintaining the integrity of the course's learning experience. Incorrect answers often result from Google searches and ChatGPT inaccuracies. These responses may appear sensible to those who did not attend the lectures, but they are incorrect as they were not covered in the lecture material.

Quiz #1 and the Mid-term Test assess Lessons 1-6, typically scheduled after the Fall or Spring Study Breaks. Quiz #2 and the Final Exam cover Lessons 7-12, scheduled during the Official Exam Period.

Quizzes (10% EACH):

Quiz #1 covers Lessons 1-6 and Quiz #2 covers Lessons 7-12

Total Quizzes: 10% each = 20%

You can retake each of the two multiple-choice Quizzes up to three times, and only your highest score will be noted. Quiz #1 becomes accessible about 5 days before the Mid-Term Test, while Quiz #2 opens around 5 days before the final day of classes. The highest scores from Quiz #1 and Quiz #2 are separately recorded, offering a rapid learning opportunity for score improvement.

Midterm Test and Final Exam (40% EACH):

The two-hour Mid-term Test covers Lessons 1-6 and the in-person Final Exam #2 covers Lessons 7-12

Total: 40% each = 80%

The Mid-Term Test consists of 80 multiple-choice questions to be completed within 2 hours, contributing 40% to your final grade. It covers Lessons 1-6 exclusively. Similarly, the non-cumulative Final Exam

features 80 multiple-choice questions within a 2-hour timeframe, also accounting for 40% of your final grade. This exam focuses on Lessons 7-12 only.

To pass this course, students must complete all Quizzes and the Mid-term test and Final Exams, and achieve the minimum course grade to pass, as per university regulations. Failure to meet these requirements will result in an automatic failure in the course.

The mid-term is not proctored, but it must be completed independently. Students may not use notes, PowerPoint slides, additional browser windows, electronic devices, artificial intelligence tools, search engines, or assistance from another person during the examination.

The date and completion window for the mid-term will be posted in the OWL Calendar. Students are responsible for having a reliable internet connection and a suitable device before beginning. Once the examination has started, students must follow the instructions provided on OWL and submit it within the permitted two-hour period.

In-person Final Exam:

Students must bring their Western student identification card and a pen or pencil to the Final Examination. Books, notes, phones, smartwatches, computers, artificial intelligence tools, and other electronic devices are not permitted. Students must bring their Western student identification card and a pen or pencil to the Final Examination. Books, notes, phones, smartwatches, computers, artificial intelligence tools, and other electronic devices are not permitted. Please note the following examination requirements, which are also communicated in the examination instructions:

- **Exam Visuals:** All maps, photographs, diagrams, and other course-related visual materials appearing on the final examination will be presented in **black and white**. The use of black-and-white images will not constitute grounds for an appeal of an examination question or grade.
- **Exam Attire and Electronic Eyewear:** **Baseball hats are not permitted during examinations.** AI-enabled smart glasses, camera-equipped glasses, and all other electronic eyewear capable of recording, storing, transmitting, or accessing information are strictly prohibited, whether or not the device is actively in use.
- **Washroom Breaks:** Any time spent outside the examination room for a washroom break must be recorded by the proctor on the report submitted to the Registrar's Office. Students will be identified by **Student ID number, not by name**, and the proctor will record the time the student leaves the examination room and the time the student returns.

Students requiring Midterm Test or Final Exam accommodations must arrange them in advance through Accessible Education and the appropriate University examination services.

The Final Exam's location, date, and time are To Be Confirmed [TBC] by the University. Students with Official Exam Conflicts must apply to the SAP or consult your Counsellor for the Form. They must write a Makeup Exam, typically scheduled 2 weeks later, but possibly up to 4 weeks later. To miss and write a Makeup Exam, students need documented reasons and permission from the [Student Absence Portal](#). For more information on the SAP, see below. After obtaining permission, students must promptly email the

Professor to check they have been added to the Makeup Exam time –we need to know you have permission but generally you receive an email from the SAP portal *and* the professor informing you.

Makeup Quizzes and Exams: (for more information, see Additional Statements below)

There is no Makeup Quiz unless you provide documentation to the SAP covering the entire time from the time the Quiz is posted online until 10 minutes before the Exam begins and you receive permission to take the Makeup Quiz from the SAP portal and the Course instructor.

To write Make-up Quizzes and Exams, documented reasons must be presented to the SAP. Do not send your documentation to the Professor, as it is personal and confidential. The decision to allow a Make-up Exam is determined by the Academic Counsellor and the SAP based on your individual situation. A Make-up Quiz is only possible with documentation covering the entire period from the time the Quiz was first posted until 10 minutes before the Final Exam.

****REMEMBRANCE DAY** Two minutes of silence will be observed on November 11 at 11:00 a.m. throughout the University and, where this is not possible, two minutes of silence will be observed between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Students are permitted to be absent from class to attend a Remembrance Day Service, provided the instructor is informed 21 days in advance of the intended absence. In order to provide professors and counsellors with time to arrange the 2nd makeup Quiz #1.

Use of Electronic Devices and Handwritten/Typed Notes:

Electronic devices are prohibited during tests and examinations. Opening additional windows, PowerPoint slides, audio, or handwritten notes during Quizzes and Exams is not allowed. WTS personnel may check your OWL use after exam submission to ensure compliance. Any deviation can result in charges of cheating, handled by the **Dean's office**, not the Professor.

Quizzes and Exams are *not* Open Book or Open Computer:

Objective questions, not subjective ones, are assessed in both the two Quizzes, the Test and the Final Exam. These questions require answers within 1 hour or 2 hours and are presented in multiple choice (A, B, C, D, E) format. Many multiple-choice questions have 'multiple' correct answers, not 'single' correct answers.

Linear and randomized multiple-choice questions:

The quiz and test questions are randomized with single or multiple correct answers. These questions are presented linearly, preventing you from revisiting and reviewing your answers. No feedback is provided, and correct answers are not disclosed. The rationale behind this is to prevent the sharing of correct and incorrect answers publicly, preserving the integrity of the extensive Exam Bank each year.

To complete your Final Exam, review your answers written in pencil on the printed question sheet before marking the bubbles in pencil. Submit both your marked question sheet and your bubble sheet (Gradescope or Scantron). Instructors will use your original question sheet to fix bubble errors if needed. Sign your name on every page of the question sheet and the bubble sheet.

Final Exam Rules

- **Review answers:** Check your work on the question sheet first.
- **Submit two items:** Turn in both the question sheet and the bubble sheet.
- **Backup check:** Staff use your question sheet to fix bubble sheet mistakes.
- **Sign every page:** Write your name on each page of the materials.

Reporting Exam Errors – Strict Policy

If an error occurs during an exam, the Course Instructor will adjust the grading in favour of the class. Students who notice an error must make **hand-written notes, take a picture of the hand-written notes** and email the Professor at simpson@uwo.ca with their attachment of the hand-written notes, immediately after completing any quiz, test or exam. You must include the **verbatim question and all answer options** in your report otherwise we cannot discern what question you are referring to.

Zero-Tolerance Rules:

- Students **must remain on the quiz/test screen** at all times.
- **Screenshots or photographs are strictly forbidden.** Any violation is a **serious academic offence**.
- Accidental screenshots or any attempt to capture exam content will result in **immediate referral to the Dean's office**. No exceptions will be granted.

Compliance with these rules is mandatory. Any breach will be treated with the **full severity of the University's academic integrity policy**.

Emergency Procedures during In-Person Final Examinations and Assembly Points:

In the event of WESTERN'S ONLINE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (OWL) collapse during an online test or the Final exam or the instructor's unavailability, the tests will be rescheduled, Lessons maybe canceled, and relevant slides for that day will be removed from OWL, eliminating the need for study.

If OWL experiences issues during Quizzes and Exams, an alternative exam, initially scheduled as a Make-up Exam, will be administered. If OWL faces a collapse during a Quiz, the Quiz will be reopened briefly once OWL stabilizes.

If you encounter issues with OWL or there is an emergency during an Exam or Quiz, evacuate the area and go to the assembly points. Later, report the incident to WTS personnel via [WTS Jira Ticket](https://wts.uwo.ca/service_desk.html) at https://wts.uwo.ca/service_desk.html or by calling 519 661-3800 (Ext. 83800) until 10 pm daily.

Communication in this class is restricted to email and Zoom. In an emergency, do not leave voice messages or texts on the instructor's cell or landlines. All communication must occur through Zoom or Western's email, with no phone calls answered.

Study Material, Notetaking Guidance, Memorization and Exam Rules:

In the event of missing a lecture, there is no need to report your absence through any online declaration system, and it's unnecessary to inform the instructor or teaching assistant. No additional documentation is required. However, all missed material, including PowerPoint Slides, Audio, Required Readings, and

Guest Speakers, will be covered in Quizzes and Exams. The assessments will encompass all content, and no Gradebook Items can be adjusted for absences or illnesses. If illness results in missing more than three weeks of lectures, it is advised to consult with your Academic Counsellor to discuss catch-up possibilities. However, as a steadfast policy, the instructor will not modify Quizzes or Exams to accommodate individual student's extended or short-term absences, regardless of the duration of their absence from classes.

Students are required to memorize numerous dates and numbers for Quizzes and Exams. While it may be helpful to maintain a personal list for study purposes, **no cheat sheets, paper notes, or electronic devices (including phones) may be used during any Quiz or Exam.** Any violation of this rule constitutes a **serious academic offence** and will be reported to the Dean's office.

If a detailed timeline, video, or map is presented on the Slides or linked via a URL, consider it testable material. The audio lecture will emphasize testable information, indicated by the Professor's spoken emphasis. In rare cases where a detailed picture, timeline, or map is not testable, it will be explicitly marked on the Slide as "NOT ON THE QUIZ, TEST OR EXAM."

Exam Review and Cheating Policies:

We do not disclose individual correct or incorrect answers to students, preserving the integrity of our large Exam Banks. The Professor does not provide Mid-term Correct Answer sheets to prevent distribution and potential cheating in future cohorts. Viewing exams off-campus requires written permission from the Dean, and sharing with off-campus proctors is prohibited.

Study Groups and Academic Integrity:

The Professor cannot provide student email addresses or organize study groups without permission. While collaborative studying is encouraged, all exams must be completed individually. Hiring or asking another person to complete an exam on your behalf—including friends who have previously or are presently taking the class—is a serious academic offence. Both parties involved may face disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

Note-Taking and Exam Preparation:

Handwritten or typed notes are optional but cannot be used during Quizzes or Exams. Last year's notes are not useful, as we cover entirely new material. The PowerPoint slides and lecture audio are available online, including images, charts, diagrams, and maps, which are all testable but cannot be accessed during testing.

Some students use transcript generators (e.g., Kome YouTube Transcript Generator) or AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT 3.5) to create practice questions. However, the course and exam questions include distractor words and invisible images designed to prevent AI from giving reliable answers. Using AI during Quizzes or Exams is strictly prohibited and may result in a significantly lower grade than if you studied the lectures and readings directly.

This course is designed for learning, not just boosting your GPA. Academic dishonesty undermines your education and may have long-term consequences.

Memorizing Dates, Numbers and Maps:

You are required to memorize numerous dates and numbers. You are required to study the pictures, maps and URL links that are explored during the lectures. Many students find it helpful to maintain a separate list of these details to review a few days before the Mid-term or Final Exams.

If a detailed timeline, video, or map is presented in the Required Readings, on the Slides or linked via a URL, consider it testable material. The audio lecture will emphasize testable information, indicated by the Professor's spoken emphasis. In rare cases where a detailed picture, timeline, or map is not testable, it will be explicitly marked on the Slide as "NOT ON THE EXAM."

Availability of Marks on your Gradebook:

Mid-term test marks will be available before the drop date and before writing the Final Exam.

The professor updates your marks before the drop date and Final Exam, providing information on all your marks except for the Final Exam mark. However, if you miss Quiz #1 and the Mid-term Test, you must see an Academic Counselor. Since Academic Counselling may be delayed by 2 weeks or more, your Gradebook may change after the drop date or the Final Exam.

Cheating detection software is employed after your Quiz mark appears on your Gradebook:

As computer-marked multiple-choice Tests and exams will be administered, software will be used to identify unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Therefore, "Computer-marked multiple-choice Tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Exams, Quizzes and make-up exams will be different for each student:

The Professor frequently updates PowerPoint slides and creates new multiple-choice questions. The Exam Banks are very large, and you will not write the same Mid-term Test as other students in the class because your Quizzes and exams are randomized. The answers are randomized. And the order of questions is randomized. However, the Final Exam is consistently the same for those attending students.

Early exam date and 'wrong answers' on OWL cannot be accommodated:

- Once the Final Exam schedule is posted on OWL, you cannot arrange to take any Quizzes or exams early.
- Rewriting exams or assignments after submission is generally not allowed, except in exceptional circumstances assessed by the Dean's office.
- If you submit the "wrong answer" and wish to provide the "right version," consult your Academic Counsellor. The decision will be made in collaboration with the Professor.
- Missing classes does not result in mark reweighting for absences. Permission from your Academic Counsellor is required for any adjustments, and you should consult them, not the Professor.

Non-medical and medical accommodation

Absences & Student Reported Absences (SRAs)

- SRAs and Special Consideration (the one-per-term option) **cannot be used** for the Quizzes or the Mid-term Test or the Final Exam. These rules are University policies and are applied consistently, so please read carefully and plan ahead. The Course Instructor will deny academic consideration relating to the timeframe submission of work as there is already flexibility in the submission timeframe (for example, the Quizzes have a 72-hour submission window and a no-penalty late-grace period of 2 more days). The Mid-Term is a Designated Assessment exemption. This means you cannot use an undocumented absence to miss the Mid-term Test.
- As required, this assessment flexibility is indicated on this course outline here (https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html#cannot)

Quiz, Mid-term Test & Final Exam SRAs and Special Consideration (the one-per-term option) cannot be used

- Tests scheduled during the Mid-term and the official exam period cannot be excused using an SRA.
- If you miss a Quiz, Mid-term Test or Final Exam, formal supporting documentation must be submitted directly to the [Student Absence Portal](#) and your Academic Counselor within your Faculty.
- **The Mid-term Test cannot use a one-per-term Special Consideration form unless you submit formal documentation (for example, a medical note that covers the full 8-hour window of the Mid-term Test) and you may be denied by your Academic Counselor and the Instructor of this course.**

SRAs and Designated Assessment Exemption

- SRAs and Special Consideration (the one-per-term option) cannot be used for Quizzes, the Mid-term Test and the Final Exam. **The Mid-term Test is designated as exempt from “undocumented absence” academic consideration.**
- Quiz deadlines are intentionally flexible—each Quiz is open for a minimum of 72 hours and 2 no-late penalty grace-period days—which is why SRAs and Special Consideration do not apply.
- If you must miss a Quiz, Mid-term test or Final Exam entirely, you need formal documentation covering the full window, submitted to your Academic Counselor.
 - Documentation for only one or two days is not sufficient. Documentation must cover the entire 72 hours and 2 no-late penalty grace-period days.

Act Quickly if You Miss Something

- If you miss a Quiz, Mid-term Test or Final Exam, you must submit the appropriate form through the [Student Absence Portal](#) within 24 hours of the scheduled date.
- If you are seriously ill, you may submit later only if your medical documentation clearly covers the entire period, including the first 48 hours.
- Even if you are unwell, the form still must be submitted. Not doing so usually leads to additional paperwork and a **formal appeal**.

- Based on experience, delays almost always result in ineligibility for makeup assessments and escalation to high-level appeals—something we all want to avoid.

Student Absence Portal

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html#supporting

- “If you will be temporarily absent due to extenuating circumstances and miss a course-related component or assessment, you must report your absence by using the [Student Absence Portal](#). The [Student Absence Portal](#) creates an official record of your absence in support of a formal request for academic consideration and includes a self-attestation, information on the course(s) and course component(s) or assessment(s), and any supporting documentation (as relevant).
- There are two ways you can request academic consideration:
- Request with Formal Supporting Documentation
- For a medical illness-related absence, submit a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (see FAQs for [accepted types of documentation](#))
- [Submit your request](#)”
- **Resources**
- To learn more about the types of absences and eligibility for an Academic Consideration for Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs:
- Review your rights and responsibilities with regards to your absences: [Policy for Academic Consideration - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)
- Refer to the information provided by the instructor in your course outline(s).
- Consult with the advising office of your Faculty of Registration
- [Main Campus](#)
- [King's](#)
- [Huron](#)
- Important Note: This policy does not apply to students in second entry programs, including Education, Law, Medicine & Dentistry, and the Ivey Business School. Students in these programs should consult their Faculty of Registration for more information.
- **[Student Absence Portal](#) Guide & Video Tutorials**
- To view tutorial guides and videos, please log into the portal using the link above, and your Western credentials. Tutorial guides and videos can be found in the “Resources” tab on the top of the page.
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- Definitions
- [What are extenuating circumstances?](#)
- [What is the difference between academic consideration and academic accommodation?](#)
- [What is flexibility in assessment?](#)
- [What is the no late-penalty period?](#)
- [What is a designated assessment?](#)

Before Using the Student Absence Portal

- [Who does the policy apply to? In other words, who should use the portal?](#)
- [I am registered with Accessible Education. When should I use the Student Absence Portal?](#)

- [What do I use the Student Absence Portal for?](#)
- [Do I need to attach supporting documentation?](#)
- [What are some things I need to think about when seeking academic consideration?](#)
- [When SHOULD I consider using an undocumented absence?](#)
- [When CAN'T I use an undocumented absence?](#)
- [I cannot get documentation in time to meet the 48-hour submission window from my missed assessment. What should I do?](#)
- [Can I use my undocumented absence as a time-management tool?](#)
- [Do I use the Portal to submit requests for work less than 10%?](#)
- [Can I retract or edit my submission?](#)

Using the Portal

- [It has now been longer than 48 hours since my assessment. Can I still submit?](#)
- [Who can complete a Student Medical Certificate?](#)
- [What should I write in the textbox?](#)
- [What file formats are permitted for submission?](#)
- [I write with Accommodated Exams. Can I indicate that on the form?](#)
- [Where do I submit an exam conflict?](#)
- [What if I miss a make-up exam?](#)
- [Does my instructor need to see my supporting documents?](#)
- [I am having technical issues submitting my form. Who do I contact?](#)

After Submission

- [I just submitted my request. What do I do now?](#)
- [I am waiting to hear if my request is approved or denied. What do I do?](#)
- [It has been a few days since submitting my request and I have not heard back. What should I do?](#)
- [I used my undocumented absence, but it was denied? Do I get it back?](#)
- [My request was denied. What do I do now?](#)
- [Why was my request denied?](#)
- [I want to appeal the outcome of my academic consideration request. What do I do now?](#)

Contact Us

- In advance of sending an email we recommend that you review the FAQs section as it contains answers to many common questions. You may be able to find an answer to your question in the FAQs section quicker than you will receive an email response. Please note, **response by email may take up to five business days.**

Email: absence.portal@uwo.ca

- If the question is related to a technical issue you are experiencing with the webform, please include 'Absence Portal Technical Issue' in the email subject line

Additional Resources

- If your absence is directly related to a permanent or temporary disability, please seek accommodations through Accessible Education: accessibleeducation.uwo.ca
- To book a Health or Wellness appointment and to access Health and Wellness resources on campus, visit: health.uwo.ca
- To book an appointment with the Mental Health Team, visit: mentalhealth.uwo.ca

- To book an appointment with an Academic Advisor in your home faculty, visit: vpacademic.uwo.ca/Academic_Advising.html
- [Office of the Ombudperson](#)

Makeup Quizzes, Tests & Exams

- Makeup assessments are approved only for documented, legitimate reasons.
- Everyday issues (e.g., oversleeping, misreading the deadlines, no available wifi) are not acceptable grounds.
- Documentation must cover the entire assessment window (for example, the full five-day Quiz period and the full 8-hour mid-term Test window). **You cannot use an SRA to miss the Mid-term Test and or the makeup Mid-term Test.**

Who to Contact https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html#supporting

- Questions about SRAs, documentation, or missed assessments should go to the [Student Absence Portal](#) and your Academic Counselor, or—if needed—to the course administrator and course instructor, Professor Erika Simpson. Remember professors do not see your confidential information on the portal – **never send confidential medical information to your professors.**
- Please do not contact the Course Instructor directly about SRAs or Special Consideration. She does not set or adjudicate these rules and does not see your medical or personal documentation—she only processes the portal paperwork.

These policies exist to ensure fairness and consistency for everyone. Thank you for taking the time to review them carefully and for planning accordingly—we really appreciate it.

Academic Advising

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office can assist when an issue is affecting your studies. Academic advisors can provide information about adding or dropping courses, academic consideration for absences, appeals, examination conflicts, and other academic matters. Students who are struggling or are unsure where to seek help are encouraged to contact their Faculty's Academic Advising Office.

Contact information for all Faculties is available at:

https://vpacademic.uwo.ca/Academic_Advising.html

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices and Statement on Academic and Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken very seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences_26SEP.pdf

University policies on scholastic offences:

[Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions](#)

- [Undergraduate Procedures](#)

[Scholastic Offences](#)

- [Undergraduate Procedures](#)

[Senate Review Board Appeals](#)

- [Procedures](#)

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

That policy reads:

“Scholastic Offences include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Plagiarism, which may be defined as “The act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.” Excerpted from Black’s Law Dictionary, West Group, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170. This concept applies with equal force to all assignments, including laboratory reports, diagrams, and computer projects. Students wishing more detailed information should consult their instructor, Department Chair, or Dean’s Office. In addition, they may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available in the University’s libraries. Information about these resources can be found at: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html>
2. Cheating on an examination or falsifying material subject to academic evaluation.
3. Submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials. or falsifying records, transcripts or other academic documents.
4. Submitting a false medical or other such certificate under false pretences.
5. a) Improperly obtaining, through theft, bribery, collusion or otherwise, an examination paper prior to the date and time for writing such an examination. b) Unauthorized possession of an examination paper, however obtained, prior to the date and time for writing such an examination, unless the student reports the matter to the instructor, the relevant Department, or the Registrar as soon as possible after receiving the paper in question.
6. Impersonating a candidate at an examination or availing oneself of the results of such an impersonation.
7. Intentionally interfering in any way with any person's scholastic work.
8. Submitting for credit in any course or program of study, without the knowledge and written approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which 6 credit has been obtained previously or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.
9. Aiding or abetting any such offence.”

For example, if you submit a paper written for a previous or concurrent course, you are committing a scholastic offense. Instead, you must produce new work for each class (unless you have obtained the written permission of all course instructors involved).

Scholastic offence to search for ‘right’ answers during exams:

During the exams, it is prohibited and not anticipated for you to search through saved PowerPoint Slides or your notes. You are expected to have a thorough understanding of the material to respond to the randomized questions. Attempting to search for answers using Control-F or Google during the online tests is considered an academic offense, and there isn't sufficient time for such actions. Additionally,

cheating students may score much lower, as the Professor utilizes Google and Chat GBT to formulate incorrect answers.

Attendance and Examination Policy if you miss Quizzes, Tests and Exams:

Failure to attend the Mid-term, Final Exams, or Make-up Exams will result in automatic course failure. Even if you excel in the Final Exam covering Lessons 7-12 --after missing the Mid-term Exam on Lessons 1-6 -- course failure is inevitable.

A student is entitled to be examined in courses maintained in registration, but with limitations:

- A student may be barred from the Final Examination due to unsatisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- Excessive absences, as determined by the instructor, may lead to reporting to the Dean of the offering Faculty after due warning. This condition must be explicitly outlined in the course syllabus. "Due warning" implies a personal email before reaching the specified threshold of absences.
- Based on the Department's recommendation and with the Dean's permission, the student may be prevented from taking the regular examination for the course.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves reliance on the work of another author without attribution. Students must compose their own essays and assignments, in their own words. Whenever students incorporate an idea, or a passage, or data from another author, they must fully acknowledge this by using quotation marks where appropriate and by properly citing the borrowed material.

Plagiarism can be direct, involving straightforward copying of an author's work without providing both attribution and quotation marks. It can be less direct, involving lightly paraphrasing an author's work, rearranging their sentences while maintaining the same general structure and meaning, or stitching together material from two or more sources — these would count as plagiarism even with the source or sources identified, as they rely too heavily upon the way the author or authors chose to present their ideas. Take note that students may satisfactorily write up an author's ideas in their own words, but then neglect to cite the source or sources of the ideas, which also counts as plagiarism. And students may plagiarize themselves by submitting work they have previously submitted in other courses.

Plagiarism is a major academic offence, one which is taken seriously at Western.

See Scholastic Offence Policy (above) and Procedures in the Western Academic Calendar for more detail: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: 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.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

For more information on Artificial intelligence (AI) tools that may be used outside graded assessments as optional study aids, see [Western's official site: https://ai.uwo.ca/index.html](https://ai.uwo.ca/index.html). For example, students may use these tools to generate practice questions, organize study notes, or test their understanding of course concepts. However, AI tools may produce inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information. The required readings, PowerPoint slides, recorded lectures, and guest lectures are the authoritative sources for this course, and students are responsible for verifying any AI-generated material against the content posted on OWL.

Artificial intelligence tools are strictly prohibited during Quiz 1, Quiz 2, the online Mid-term test, and the in-person Final Examination. Students may not use ChatGPT or any similar tool to search for information, generate answers, check answers, interpret questions, or receive assistance during an assessment. All Quizzes, Tests and Examinations must be completed independently using only the knowledge students have developed from the assigned course materials.

Using an artificial intelligence tool and receiving unauthorized assistance during a Quiz or examination may constitute a **Scholastic Offence** (for more information on scholastic offences, see below) and may be referred to the **appropriate Dean's Office** under Western University's academic integrity policies

Essay course requirements

Not applicable as this is a 2100-level course.

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work

"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grading and grade adjustments

The Department of Political Science has a policy that undergraduate final course grades will only be rounded to the next whole grade if they end at 0.5 or higher; otherwise, they will be rounded down.

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Grading Policy: No Extra Credit or Reweighting or Rounding

Grades in this course are determined by the assessments listed in the Grade Weight Percentages section. Additional assignments, bonus marks, or opportunities to rewrite an assessment after it has been submitted will not be offered. **Students are expected to complete both Quizzes, the Mid-term Test, and the Final Examination.** Failure to complete the required assessments will result in failure of the course.

Grades will not normally be reweighted because a student missed course material, a Quiz, or an Examination. Students seeking academic consideration must contact the Academic Counselling Office of their Faculty of Registration and submit any required documentation there rather than to The Course Instructor. When academic consideration is approved, any adjustment to the course requirements or grade weighting will be determined in accordance with University policy and in consultation with Academic Counselling.

Quiz and Examination marks will be posted to the OWL Gradebook when they are available. Mid-term marks will normally be posted before the course drop deadline or before the Final Examination. Because academic consideration requests may take time to process, a student's Gradebook may be updated after an initial mark has been posted.

Requests to review or appeal a grade must be made during the term in which the course is offered and must follow the applicable University and Department of Political Science procedures. Rewriting an examination or replacing a submitted answer is not normally permitted except where an exception has been authorized through the appropriate academic process.

Grading Policy: No Rounding

Course grades in this course will not be rounded to the nearest percent. Students occasionally cite this policy: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/grades_undergrad.pdf.

The policy includes at the bottom of page 4 this sentence: "Averages will be calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number with .45 rounded up." That policy applies to the calculation of averages in your academic record, for purposes like determining eligibility for progression in modules or for awards. The policy does not apply to the calculation of Course grades, and the standard practice at Western Registrar's policy is to round the final grades (not the individual Quizzes and Exams) to the nearest percent. That means that in this Course, any final grade with a .49 or below will be rounded down, and any grade with a .50 or above will be rounded up.

For example, an 89.49% will be submitted to the registrar as an 89%, and an 89.50% will be submitted to the registrar as a 90%.

For the University policy on Appeals, see

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Statement on Reference Letters

My policy is firm and outlined in the syllabus and course notices. I do not write reference letters for online courses without participation, as I cannot provide a meaningful academic assessment. Please do not write to me asking, as a special favour, to raise your mark. If I raised your mark, I would have to raise every other student's mark. I use the University's standard rules for final grades, and I will not change your mark—whether for graduate school, Ivy ambitions, or simply wanting a higher number.

Under no circumstances will the Course Instructor provide reference letters for business positions, internships, law school, or graduate programs based on performance in this second-year online asynchronous course. Requests for references from this course will not be considered. Students should obtain references from professors or TAs in other courses, preferably third- or fourth-year in-person classes, where meaningful assessment is possible. Students who have taken or are taking three or more online courses with The Course Instructor will *not be eligible* for any reference. With thousands of online students, personalized evaluations for professional or academic purposes are not feasible. **This policy is final and non-negotiable.**

Support Services

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <https://www.advising.ssc.uwo.ca/index.html> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Accessibility at Western: Please contact accessibility@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.
<https://accessibility.uwo.ca/index.html>

The website for the Office of the Registrar, and the same for affiliated university colleges when appropriate, and any appropriate Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC) and Academic Support Page 3 and Engagement, should be provided for easy access.
<https://www.uwo.ca/health/case-management/index.html>

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing

website <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html> . To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. <https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Non-Medical and Medical Accommodation:

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. Instructors must explain how they will handle accommodation for medical illness affecting less than 10% of the course grade. The exams and Quizzes are worth 10% of the course grade, therefore students must see their Academic Counsellor for all accommodations. For absences worth more than 10% of the course grade, students should consult their Academic Counsellor and are not obligated to disclose confidential medical information to the professor.

Social Science Academic Counselling Services and Medical Illness Policies:

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters.

For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

The Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Medical or non-medical accommodation documentation should be submitted to the appropriate University counselling office, and definitely not the instructor.

Please note: Multiple-choice questions on exams and Quiz/Exam dates cannot be changed for accommodation reasons. Students must consult the Calendar Tool to find out the date(s) of Makeup Quizzes and Exams. Then they must inform their counselor and take the earliest possible makeup.

Religious Accommodation:

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration.

Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Students with Accessible Education:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Mental Health and Disclaimers:

Students experiencing emotional or mental distress are encouraged to seek support through Mental Health at Western. Information about available services and how to obtain help is available at:

<https://uwo.ca/health/>

The instructor posts a disclaimer on the lectures that may have slides and pictures that affect students in emotional/mental distress. The disclaimer also applies to the entire course's materials, therefore a **sample** disclaimer is here:

WEBSITE DISCLAIMER:

The information provided by Professor Erika Simpson ('we', 'us' or 'our') on the OWL Site (the 'Site') is for general informational purposes only. All information on the Site is provided in good faith, however we make no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability, or completeness of any information on the Site. Under no circumstance shall we have any liability to you for any loss or damage of any kind incurred as a result of the use of the site or reliance on any information provided on the site your use of the site and your reliance on any information on the site is solely at your own risk.

EXTERNAL LINKS DISCLAIMER:

The Site may contain (or you may be sent through the Site) links to other websites or content belonging to or originating from third parties or links to websites and features in banners or other advertising. Such external links are not investigated, monitored or checked for accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability or completely by us. We do not warrant, endorse, guarantee, or assume responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of any information offered by third-party websites linked through the site or any website or feature linked in any banner or other advertising. We will not be a party to or in any way be responsible for monitoring any transaction between you and third-party providers of products or services.

SENSITIVE CONTENT AND DESCRIPTIONS OF WAR AND VIOLENCE

Some students might find the Content and pictures on some PowerPoint Slides upsetting. The Slides deal with strong adult themes concerning violence, death, war, abuse (torture), international and national conflict as well as political or religious affiliation, substance abuse, illegal activities, and other adverse health or mental health issues including mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, hate speech or strong abusive language.

Viewers may not use the Content in any manner that would be deemed offensive or in connection with a subject that would be controversial or unflattering to a reasonable person.

There may be sensitive topics or images in the content that might be triggering to someone who experienced war, trauma or an abusive situation.

Sensitive Content Notice in the Lessons (examples):

This week's lessons contain content that may be challenging to deal with now, in the context of..... (**fill in the blank using lesson title**), and I want to flag it now. The content is used in the course to provide a real-world example for applying what you are learning about international crises, global violence, global diplomacy, and Canada abroad.

As the course instructor, I want to do my best to make any conversations we have either online or in class about this content feel safe for you. If clips from pictures or documentary are shown, they are neither meant as an endorsement nor as a criticism of the content. If you have thoughts to share with me about this, please do send me a note: simpson@uwo.ca

Mental Health and Disclaimers:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

<https://uwo.ca/health/>

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre can help students strengthen their academic and learning skills. Services include support with time management, multiple-choice examination preparation, reading strategies, and other approaches to effective learning.

Individual support is available during the Fall and Winter terms through the drop-in Learning Help Centre and throughout the year through individual counselling.

More information is available at:

<https://learning.uwo.ca>

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling. Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats.

<https://learning.uwo.ca>

We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>

Course Feedback

Please recommend The Course Instructor's courses to other students. She would also appreciate if you could leave a review on Rate My Professor: <https://www.ratemyprofessors.com/>. The University's number of responses to internal evaluations tend to be low each year as fewer students are taking the time to write assessments. Balanced public feedback is helpful, especially since negative experiences tend to be overrepresented.

This is a gentle request for your assistance in completing the Student Questionnaires on Courses and Teaching (SQCT). The response rate in the Faculty of Social Science hovers around 14.54%, and the Chair and Faculty administration have encouraged instructors to invite greater participation. I would be especially grateful to hear from those of you who are participating online from overseas so that your perspectives are included.

I read all submitted feedback carefully, and I genuinely value what students share. For example, recently I appreciated a student's thoughtful email message about Syria, including photos of new leadership meeting with Ukraine's President Zelenskyy. Another student raised a helpful point about "Question 41" on a Quiz. There were only 40 questions, but an additional OWL page with my header and footer appeared. This did not affect the grade. I am grateful for such observations by email, as they help clarify and improve the course experience.

Conversely, you may also wish to use the SQCT to share broader views. In particular, beginning in December 2026, Final Exams for all three of my courses will be held in person (to reduce cheating), and your feedback on this and other aspects of course design can be helpful for administrative awareness. One student wrote me from China in a different time zone. In 2026 that student will have to return to Canada to take the Final Exam in person, highlighting the importance of your input.

If you are able, I would greatly appreciate you taking approximately 15 minutes to complete the SQCT here: <https://feedback.uwo.ca>

I recognize that students are always very busy all term, and I regret that I am not able to offer incentives or additional time. Nevertheless, with response rates remaining low, each response carries significant weight. If you are able to contribute your thoughts before the feedback system closes, it would be sincerely appreciated.

One small additional favour: if you're willing, please also leave a short note on Rate My Professor at <https://www.ratemyprofessors.com/>. Unlike the University's internal evaluations — which only registered students can see — RMP is public. I often get questions from prospective students about those reviews, and, as you can imagine, the students who don't do as well are usually the most motivated to post there. A few balanced voices would really help.

International Relations as a Career Choice:

To explore additional classes related to the general topic of International Relations (IR), refer to the faculty and personal websites accessible through the Department of Political Science:

<https://politicalscience.uwo.ca/>

The Course Instructor currently instructs four courses, namely POLSCI 2135 650, 2191 650 and 2141 650. The Course Instructor no longer offers specialized Reading Courses, like POL SCI 4439F/G nor does she oversee Undergraduate Theses. While she frequently mentors Graduate Students, including MA and PhD students, in the field of International Relations, she is no longer accepting MA students for course and thesis supervision.

Additional Statements:

Statement on Academic Offences

The statement: “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the Scholastic Offences policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence. Additionally, A) If written work will be assigned in the course and plagiarism-checking software might be used, the following statement to this effect must be included in the course outline: “All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com.” B) If computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams will be given, and software might be used to check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating, the following statement must be added to course outlines: “Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.”

Statement on Health/Wellness Services

All course outlines must contain the following statement:

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Mental Health Support at Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.” Course Outlines

Statement on Accessible Accommodation and Accessible Education (AE)

Academic accommodation may be available to students with disabilities who require adjustments in order to participate fully in the course while continuing to meet its essential academic requirements. Students who may require accommodation are encouraged to register with Accessible Education as early as possible. Accessible Education reviews the relevant documentation and provides recommendations for appropriate academic accommodations.

Students requiring accommodations for Quizzes, the online Mid-term Test, or the in-person Final Examination must make the necessary arrangements through Accessible Education and the appropriate University offices. Confidential medical or disability documentation should not be sent directly to The Course Instructor. Once formal accommodations have been approved, they will be implemented in accordance with Western University policy.

For information about registering, documentation requirements, and available services, visit Western’s Accessible Education website: https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

This course outline contains the following statement:

“Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education (AE), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations may include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.”

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western University is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and to providing compassionate support to individuals who are experiencing or have experienced these forms of violence.

Information about available support is available at:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

Students can also find survivor support services and emergency contact information at:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>

To connect with a case manager or arrange an appointment, contact support@uwo.ca.

This course outline contains the following statement: “Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing website. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.”

Statement on Course Outlines: Retention of Electronic Version of Course Outlines (Syllabuses)

At the same time that course outlines/syllabi are posted on the appropriate website, each program must forward an electronic version of items 1, 3, 4, and 7 of each course outline to the SGPS. By the fourth week after the start of term, SGPS will forward all of the collected outlines to the Office of the Registrar, where they will be maintained in electronic form in the faculty/staff extranet for a minimum of ten years after the completion of the course. (Final retention periods and disposition will be determined by the relevant records retention and disposition schedule approved by the President's Advisory Committee.)

Appeals

For the University policy on Appeals, see

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Additional regulations on course re-evaluation, absences, evaluation of international students and OWL engagement tracking:

OWL Engagement Tracking

Many of you may notice OWL is showing missing activity for Lessons 1–12 even though you *have* watched the videos, done the readings, and kept up with the course. Several students report that claims they “never visited” certain lessons or that only some components were recorded. Please don’t stress about this. This appears to be a tracking glitch, especially for those of you who:

- Watch the lesson videos on YouTube because the .mp4 files don’t always open
- View lessons using the left-hand table of contents instead of clicking each lesson page directly
- Download files without opening them inside

All of these behaviours can cause OWL to fail to log your activity even though you’ve fully completed the work. I contacted WTS and filed tickets explaining the problem, and they are looking into it but this problem will not be solved.

What you need to do:

Nothing. Truly—do not go back and re-click every lesson, and please do not worry about being flagged. I know many of you are engaging with the material, and the system is simply not recording it properly for a growing number of students.

What this means for you:

- You will *not* be penalized for this glitch.
- You do *not* need to prove you watched anything.
- **You do *not* need to email me about mismatched tracking—this is affecting thousands of students.**

If WTS provides a fix or needs additional information, I’ll send an announcement. **I will *not* be reviewing or using individual access records for this course.** You are not being monitored on whether you click each lesson or sub-page, and no one is being penalized for anything the system fails to record.

Please continue engaging with the material in the way that works best for you — watch the videos, read the slides, and follow the weekly expectations as usual.

Key Academic Policies and Procedures

Links to all policy updates taking effect September 1, 2026 are below. These policies govern the course and all these policies take precedence over the syllabus regulations herein.

Definitions of Types of Examinations	Policy
Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions (Undergraduate)	Policy • Procedures
Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate)	Policy
Senate Review Board Academic Appeals	Policy • Procedures

Permanent links to all policies (version that is currently in effect)

Name of Policy/Procedure	Links
Mandatory Training for Undergraduate Students	Policy
Marks/Grades. Definitions of Grades; Grading Scale for Undergraduate Students	Policy
Structure of the Academic Year	Policy
Letter of Permission	Policy
Course Outlines	Policy
Course Numbering Policy, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction	Policy
Undergraduate Course Credit	Policy • Procedures
Definitions of Types of Examinations	Policy
Evaluation of Academic Performance	Policy
Examination Conflicts	Policy
Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities	Policy
Accommodation for Religious Holidays	Policy
Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs	Policy • Procedures • Student Medical Certificate
Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions (Undergraduate)	Policy • Procedures
Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate)	Policy • Procedures
Senate Review Board Academic Appeals	Policy • Procedures

Handwritten or Typed Notes and Electronic Devices:

You may not use additional electronic devices, such as cellphones, personal computers, or electronic dictionaries, during any exams.

Regarding Scantron, Proctorio, and Proctor track:

Exam questions are created by professors and objective questions are marked by university-approved multiple-choice computer-marking systems like 'OWL,' 'Scantron,' 'Proctorio,' or 'Turnitin.' The Quizzes are online. The online Quizzes are not in person and do not use Proctortrack, Proctorio, or other online proctoring software

"Special exams" may have different content, structure, and format than regularly scheduled exams. The specific format will be announced by the Professor, Dean, or Chair, but most cases involve objective questions (e.g., multiple choice, blank answers, T/F).

If you miss too many Mid-term or Final exams, you may have to write a combined multiple-choice and essay-type exam, with essay-style answers. For instance, missing the third make-up for the Mid-term Test means the fourth make-up exam will consist of essay-style (not multiple choice) questions. This is due to the professor's large exam bank not being large enough for various multiple-choice makeup exams.

Appeals:

Appeals to change an exam or essay grade must be submitted during the term of instruction.

Mask Policy:

University policy may require instructors and students to wear non-medical face masks in all common-use indoor spaces on campus, including classrooms. For the complete [Health & Safety](https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/healthsafety/index.html) mask policy, visit <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/healthsafety/index.html>

Vaccination Policy:

Western has protocols for any member of the University community coming onto campus, explained here: <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/health-safety/index.html#before>

Students with questions can contact the Student Health Care clinic at 519-661-3030.

Appendix for all Course Outlines:

This part of the Course Outline and Official Syllabus is no longer appended to your Course Outline. It is your responsibility to read the Academic Policies at your own pace online. Please review these policies for any queries before seeking guidance from the Course Instructor. The Appendix is available here:

<https://politicalscience.uwo.ca/undergraduate/docs/outlines/2025-26/APPENDIX%20TO%20UNDERGRADUATE%20COURSE%20OUTLINES1.pdf>

Changes to Existing Policies and Procedures (as of September 1, 2026)

Below are links to policies and procedures with updates that came into effect (September 1, 2026). These links are the permanent links to the policy that is currently effective.

[Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions](#)

- [Undergraduate Procedures](#)

[Scholastic Offences](#)

- [Undergraduate Procedures](#)

[Senate Review Board Appeals](#)

- [Procedures](#)

Syllabus Topics and Required Readings: Syllabus May Change

This is a preliminary version of the course syllabus. The central content, assessment structure, and expectations of the course are not expected to change substantially. However, some wording, dates, procedures, or policies may need to be revised to reflect updated requirements from Western University, the Department of Political Science, or the Office of the Registrar. The final version of the syllabus will be posted on OWL by the third lesson. Any later changes will be communicated through OWL announcements and the OWL Calendar.

Under certain circumstances, such as the illness or death of the course instructor, you will be notified through all available communication channels, and a replacement instructor will be assigned promptly.

Lecture, simulation, and exam dates and topics may be adjusted due to schedules, illnesses, or unforeseen events. The dates in this course outline are for illustration purposes and may be updated on the class website as the term progresses.

Lesson Plan – 2191 Global Diplomacy and Peace

Course Introduction. Professor Simpson marks in Green Highlighting where we are in the Lesson Plan as they are released each week.

Unit 1: Global Diplomacy & Peace

1A_2135 1.1 **Course Overview:** Meet & Greet at Receptions

1A_2191 Global Diplomacy & Peace

2191 1.3 How to Become a Diplomat Working for Peace (with Diplomats Kirsten Moisey and Demyan Plakhov)

2191 1.4 Theoretical Isms: Marxism, Capitalism, Feminism, Post-modernism

Unit 2: Diplomacy and the Cold War

2191 2.1 Traditional Diplomacy, Balances of Power, and World War I

2191 2.2 Diplomacy during World War II and Legacies of Warfare

2191 2.3 The Dawning of the Nuclear Era and The Atomic Bombings

2191 2.4 Deterrence, Containment, and Explaining the Cold War

Unit 3: The Cuban Missile Crisis

2191 3.1 Events Leading up to the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis

2191 3.1 The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis

2191 3.2 Cold War CNN Cuba (1959–1962) and *Blast from the Past* (videos)

2191 3.4 The Fall of the Diefenbaker Government

Unit 4: Nuclear Risks and Disarmament

2191 4.1 Nuclear Risks and Deterrence

2191 4.2 Nuclear Dangers and Disarmament

2191 4.3 Nuclear Dangers and Risks (with Canadian Diplomat Earl Turcotte)

2191 4.4 Disarmament Dangers and Risks (with Executive Director Cesar Jaramillo)

Unit 5: The United Nations

2191 5.1 Introduction to the United Nations

2191 5.2 UN Ambassador: A Primer

2191 5.3 How the UN and Global Governance Work

2191 5.4 Joining International Organizations (with Barbara Bedont, Lawyer, Activist, Director DFM)

Unit 6: Peacekeeping and Multidimensional Operations

2191 6.1 UN Peacekeeping and Multidimensional Operations

2191 6.2 Peace Support Operations: Afghanistan, Latvia, and Mali

2191 6.3 Peacekeeping and the RCMP (with RCMP Officer Benoit Maure)

6D_2191 Quiz & Mid-term Exam Information

Quiz 1 + Midterm Exam

Unit 7: Terrorism and Security

2191 7.1 Handling Terrorism in North America

2191 7.2 Reducing Terrorism from Abroad

2191 7.3 Preventing Suicide Terrorism

2191 7.4 Suicide as a Global Phenomenon (with UNBC Vice-Provost Dr. Katerina Standish)

Unit 8: NATO and Global Security

2191 8.1 NATO Lessons Learned (1949–1999)

2191 8.2 NATO Canada’s Lessons Learned (2000–2022)

2191 8.3 Crescent of Crisis: Georgia, Syria, Ukraine

2191 8.4 How to Be a NATO Diplomat (with former Canadian Ambassador Marius Grinius)

Unit 9: Game Theory and Diplomacy

2191 9.1 Game Theory Primer

2191 9.2 Game Theory: Chicken and Prisoner’s Dilemma

2191 9.3 The United States (Sam) vs. Russia (Ivan)

2191 9.4 Game Theory and Marshall Plan 2.0 Cooperation (with CEO Mike Simpson)

Unit 10: Global Health and Nuclear Futures

2191 10.1 International Diseases: Ebola and Lessons for COVID-19

2191 10.2 Biological Diseases and Chemical Warfare

2191 10.3 The Promises and Perils of Nuclear Fusion

2191 10.4 Nuclear Fusion (with Dr. Gordon Edwards, Dr. Frank von Hippel, Dr. Metta Spencer)

Unit 11: Global Pressures and Development

2191 11.1 Population Explosions and Growth Pressures

2191 11.2 Population Movements and Migration

2191 11.3 Disaster Capitalism & UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2191 11.4 The UN’s SDGs (with Canadian Foreign Service Officer Maria Ramirez)

Unit 12: Future Peace and Diplomacy

2191 12.1 Future Challenges for Humankind (with U.S. International Lawyer Jonathan Granoff)

2191 12.2 Prospects for Peace (with Senator & Ambassador Douglas Roche)

2191 12.3 Diplomatic Parlance: Advice and Checklist

2191 12.4 Information on #2 and Final Exam (Classes 7–12)

Required Readings

The Required Readings can be sorted by title, author, date, or lesson using the D. B. Weldon Library tool. The readings listed below are organized by topic and title for ease of reference.

The Required Readings are subject to change. Students are responsible for checking the Library tool regularly and for locating and completing the correct readings assigned for each lesson.

Please also note that, where the content of a reading differs from or contradicts material presented by the Course Instructor in lectures, the lecture content takes precedence for the purposes of quizzes, tests, and examinations. Students will be assessed on the course material as taught by the Course Instructor, rather than on a conflicting claim or interpretation presented by an author in a Required Reading.

UGRD_1269_17897 POLISCI 2191A 650 LEC FW26: SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

2026 Fall/Winter

Simpson, Erika

[Balances of Power](#) (2) [Containment & Cold War / The Fall of the Diefenbaker Government](#) (2) [Deterrence](#) (2) [NATO](#) (2) [Nuclear Deterrence and Arms Control After the Cold War / Nuclear Modernization and Nuclear Posture / Nuclear Disarmament and the TPNW \('Ban Treaty'\)](#) (2) [South China Sea – Nine Dash Line & Spratly Islands](#) (3) [Terrorism](#) (2) [Terrorism and Violence in North America](#) (1) [Transnational Threats & International Diseases / Cyberwarfare / Drones / Climate Change / the Arctic and Global Warming](#) (3) [Transnational Threats & International Diseases / Cyberwarfare / Drones / Climate Change/ the Arctic and Global Warming](#) (1) [UN](#) (2) [UN Peacekeeping / UN Emergency Peace Force as Band-Aid?](#) (3) [WWI & II / Collective Defence & Atomic Decisions / Nukes Today / Cuban Missile Crisis](#) (1)

Reserve Items			
	ID	Title	Author
Show Details View Item Edit	237410	 AP News Dutch intelligence services say Russia has stepped up use of banned chemical weapons in Ukraine	MOLLY QUELL
Show Details View Item	237404		JIM GOMEZ

Reserve Items			
	ID	Title	Author
Edit		AP News Philippines launches comic book to counter China's 'disinformation' in the disputed South China Sea	
Show Details View Item Edit	237408	 Atlantic Council Russia accused of escalating chemical weapons attacks against Ukraine	Katherine Spencer
Show Details View Item Edit	237406	 Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers Navigating Disputes: South China Sea and The Role of International Arbitration in Territorial Conflict Resolution	Stephanie B. Magsumbol
Show Details View Item Edit	237393	 ICAN Will Canada Stop Ignoring the TPNW?	
Show Details View Item Edit	237405	 ICAS Navigating the South China Sea: Key Developments in 2024 and What to Expect in 2025	Nong Hong
Show Details View Item Edit	237389	 Journal of Applied History Nuclear Weapons in Crisis Situations	Mikhail A. Polianskii, Matthias Deml and Willi Schrenk
Show Details View Item Edit	237402	 New Perspectives Countering hybrid threats: How NATO must adapt (again) after the war in Ukraine	Davide Genini
Show Details View Item Edit	237391	 PBS News With only one nuclear arms pact left	

Reserve Items			
	ID	Title	Author
		between the U.S. and Russia, a new arms race is possible	
Show Details View Item Edit	237407	 RAND Actionable Options Exist for Canada to Enhance Its Arctic Sovereignty	
Show Details View Item Edit	237394	 Reuters UN adopts pact that aims to save global cooperation	Michelle Nichols
Show Details View Item Edit	237399	 The Guardian Canada and India to share terrorism intelligence despite 2023 murder plot, says report	Leyland Cecco
Show Details Edit	237401	 The Guardian Canadian police seize largest ever weapons cache in terrorism inquiry	Leyland Cecco
Show Details View Item Edit	237395	 The Guardian UN chief António Guterres to seek world leaders' backing for vision of the future	Patrick Wintour
Show Details View Item Edit	237396	 The Hill Times Bob Rae is feeling the UN's pain	DOUGLAS ROCHE
Show Details View Item Edit	237398	 The Hill Times Broken promises: the Trudeau government let down the world on UN peacekeeping	WALTER DORN

Reserve Items			
	ID	Title	Author
Show Details View Item Edit	237387	 The Hill Times Canada today: an exporting country in a trade-compromised world	LES WHITTINGTON
Show Details View Item Edit	237409	 The Hill Times Droning into oblivion	SCOTT TAYLOR
Show Details View Item Edit	237388	 The Hill Times If we can't move it, we can't sell it: reducing Canada's reliance on the U.S. demands a national trade infrastructure strategy	CANDACE LAING, RODRIGUE GILBER KEITH CURRIE, DENNIS DARBY, BRAD SCOTT, CHRIS LORENC, GARY MAR
Show Details View Item Edit	237403	 The Hill Times NATO summit 'not a disaster' on the Trump front, but a 'piece of theatre' otherwise	RIDDHI KACHHELA
Show Details View Item Edit	237397	 The Hill Times Peacekeeping not apace: feds' spending plan for UN operations down 42 per cent from 2015-16	NEIL MOSS
Show Details View Item Edit	237390	 The Hill Times Time for Canada to consider its own nuclear deterrent	JAMIE CARROLL
Show Details View Item Edit	237392	 The Hill Times Trying to keep fear out of a fearful topic	JIM CRESKEY
Show Details View Item Edit	237400		

Reserve Items			
	ID	Title	Author
		Times of India RCMP claims 488% spike in Canada's terrorism charges	