

COURSE OUTLINE

POLI SCI 2141 | POLI SCI 2191 | POLI SCI 2135

OUTLINE CONTENTS:

Youtube link to hear course outline explained: <https://youtu.be/lbKwVKetiOc>

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Name(s) and Number(s):

- Department of Political Science POL SCI 2141 650: Global Violence & Injustice (fall or winter term TBC)
- Department of Political Science POL SCI 2191 650: Special Topics in Poli Sci: Global Diplomacy and Peace (fall or winter term TBC)
- Department of Political Science POL SCI 2135 650: Canada Abroad (fall or winter term TBC)

Date(s) and Time(s) Offered:

This is the preliminary version of the Course Syllabus, not the Final Version. The Final Version of all the Course Syllabuses will be posted on Western's online learning management system, OWL Brightspace (hereafter OWL BS) by the third lesson, before the official drop date.

Online Quizzes and Exams (not in-person and not proctored):

The Mid-term Exam, a 2-hour multiple-choice test with 80 questions, focuses on information covered in Slides and Audio Lectures from Classes 1 through 6. No bonus questions or marks are included, and it excludes content from the "Engage More Readings."

Similarly, the Final Exam mirrors the Mid-term, featuring a 2-hour multiple-choice format with 80 questions of varying difficulty. The Final Exam is non-cumulative and assesses information from Classes 7 through 12.

The Quizzes and Exams are online. The online quizzes and exams are *not* in-person and they do *not* use Proctortrack. To repeat, they do *not* use Proctortrack due to privacy/confidentiality reasons.

Changes to Course Syllabus:

Each week's lectures will be released as soon as possible (asap). Please review the lectures sometime during that week before the next set of lectures is released. The lessons are accessible on OWL BS prior to the Mid-term and Final Exams.

Attendance is *not* tracked, and there are no participation marks. Additionally, written answers to questions and Forum interactions are *not* required.

This course outline is a contract between the students in the course and the Instructor. Changes are normally *not* made after the course outline is reviewed online (usually after the first class) and there can be no changes after the last day of registration. Because the course due dates are *not* available by the first class, the week-by-week lesson plans are *not* available in this course outline.

All the course dates including the dates for the quizzes and exams will be made available as soon as possible on your Calendar Tool in OWL. Registered students should consult their Calendar Tool.

If dates must be changed, the Instructor aims to give at least two weeks' notice before the new deadline, however, this may *not* be possible.

Lecture and Exam Location Details:

Each course is taught **entirely online** through asynchronous lectures. This online course primarily operates asynchronously, allowing you to access instructional materials flexibly. Pre-recorded PowerPoint lectures, featuring the Professor's audio, are available in YouTube, mp4, and pptx formats.

For the two Quizzes and two Exams, synchronous (*not* asynchronous) sessions are conducted from your home office. You'll log in to take 2 one-hour Quizzes within 2 different 5-day windows. And you will log in to take the 2 two-hour Exams during specified times within an 8-hour window. If you are registered with Accessible Education, you will log in to take the 2 four-hour Exams during specified times within a 10-hour window. These setups provide flexibility to accommodate your busy schedule; however, these setups mean you **cannot** use a Self-reported Absence form to miss a quiz and/or exam.

The critical requirement is that you must take the 2-hour Mid-term and Final Exams between 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM Eastern Standard Time or Eastern Daylight Time (EST or EDT). While this may require a solid Wi-Fi connection for 2 hours, in a different time zone, you can still pursue this course while travelling or working fulltime or parttime. Students registered with Accessible Education can take it during a window from 12:00 PM until 10:00 PM EDT/EST.

Additional Synchronous Activities are *not* possible and are *not* scheduled:

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 POL SCI 3203 FW25: *International Crises*.

1. PREREQUISITES (NONE)

No pre- or anti-requisites:

This elective has no prerequisites or anti-requisites, and we welcome students from all campuses. This course structure aligns with all the 2100-level cross-campus courses taught by Professor Simpson. Many students take all three 2100 courses with Prof. Simpson.

English as a Second Language (ESL) and International Students:

ESL students are encouraged to join, regardless of their background in politics or Canadian history. There are no English writing requirements, making it suitable for international students. However, note that the course follows standardized expectations for an online class hosted by a Canadian University.

International students are graded based on Canadian University standards for exams. Attendance alone does not ensure passing the course, and no attendance marks are recorded.

Regulations on English and YouTube captions:

The Professor's AUDIO lecture and PowerPoint Slides are in English, supplemented by expert Guest Speakers, tested on exams. While YouTube provides captions, any errors are your responsibility. You can convert videos to other languages, but quizzes and exams must be in English, as Western University is English-speaking. When you are hearing and translating the content, errors in captions are your responsibility, not the University nor the Professor's.

2. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

INSTRUCTORS	EMAIL	OFFICE	OFFICE HOURS
Elise Brown (Course Administrator)	ebrow73@uwo.ca	Not Applicable (NA)	N/A
Dr. Erika Simpson (Instructor)	simpson@uwo.ca	SSC 7331	Mondays 9:00 – 11:00 AM EST/EDT (Zoom Only)
Teaching Assistants (none)			

Note: You must email Elise Brown as the primary administrative contact for this course. Non-administrative inquiries which require Dr. Simpson to reply will be redirected by Elise Brown accordingly.

Office Hours:

Online by zoom on Mondays during fall and winter and spring terms [except statutory holidays]: 9:00 AM EST/EDT to 11:00 AM EST/EDT 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. **You must book an appointment to see Prof. Simpson on Zoom by emailing the Course Administrator Elise Brown ebrow73@uwo.ca** The Course Administrator can book you into the time slot between 9:00 and 11:00 AM EDT/EST.

Zoom is recorded:

By taking this course you consent to being recorded by the Instructor at the link under your Zoom Tool on the OWL BS website.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

If you have questions about the Course Syllabus, Quizzes, Mid-Term/Final Exam grades, Self-Reported Absences (SRAs) or any administrative questions regarding the course, email Elise Brown ebrow73@uwo.ca before emailing the Professor: simpson@uwo.ca

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. Instead, the Professor frequently posts Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and videos that explain issues and FAQs.

Generic questions are not addressed on a drop-in basis during Zoom office hours; however, frequently asked questions (FAQs) are answered through announcements and videos available to the entire class. The FAQs are archived in OWL BS for all students to read and view.

Emergencies:

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

Emails from Non-Western Accounts:

The professor and course administrator will read emails only from Western email accounts; subject lines should include the course number and a clear statement of purpose (e.g., POLSCI 2141 "I have a question about the quiz"). If your question requires more than a brief reply, you may be directed to attend Zoom office hours with the Course Administrator and/or the Professor.

We do not read emails from non-Western accounts. We do not read texts during an exam-related emergency. Your email's subject heading must say the Class Number and the nature of your question (e.g. like this: "POL SCI 2141 OWL BS Link to Exam does not open for me"). If the answer is *not* brief, then the Course Administrator will contact you by email. During an exam you are not allowed to access other screens, like your phone and if you do so, you will be referred to the Dean's Office.

For confidential concerns unrelated to medical or personal situations, you could make an appointment to see the Professor or Course Administrator during Zoom office hours in a private break-out room. However, individual career or course advice is not provided, and we are not trained as a medical health professional to help you. Reminder! Do not share any confidential or medical information with your professors, only with your Faculty's Academic Counselor!

More Information about the Instructor Prof. Simpson and the Course Administrator:

- Erika Simpson holds a PhD and MA from the University of Toronto and is an [Associate Professor of International Relations](#) at Western University, Canada.
- Her research covers international security, foreign and defence policy, focusing on topics like Afghanistan, arms control, disarmament, IR theory, NATO, nuclear proliferation, nuclear waste, peacekeeping, and the UN.
- Author of [NATO and the Bomb](#) (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001), her articles appear in prominent journals, and she is an editor and former columnist for [Peace Review](#), the [Hill Times](#) and the [Postmedia Network](#).
- Professor Simpson is the president of the [Canadian Peace Research Association](#) and a Director on the Boards of the [Canadian Pugwash Group](#) and the [Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#), among other roles.
- Awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by [Voice of Women–Canada](#) in 2015, she contributes to various news outlets and is an alumna of the University of Saskatchewan.
- The Course Administrator is a [senior PhD candidate](#) in the Department of Political Science who is in the fifth year or more of full-time study toward a doctorate. More information can be found on the [Department of Political Science's website](#).

Statement on Reference Letters:

Professor Simpson and the Course Administrator do *not* provide reference letters for students seeking positions with businesses, companies, and/or internships in this online asynchronous course. It is advisable to approach an instructor from another class for such requests.

If you require a reference, kindly reach out to your other professors individually for assistance. Professor Simpson adheres to a strict policy of *not* writing references for law school and/or graduate school based on your performance in a second-year online class. **The professor and course administrator cannot comment on your writing and speaking skills so you should seek a reference from your 3rd or 4th-year course instructors.**

In the case of taking more than three online courses from Professor Simpson or the Course Administrator, they will not act as a referee for jobs and professional programs like internships. Obtaining a reference from a 3rd or 4th-year Instructor is preferred. The Course Administrator will contemplate writing a reference for graduate studies/law school if you have taken or are taking **four** classes under the professor's direct supervision, understanding that you have fewer alternative referees. It is essential to note that a reference letter from a professor teaching in smaller, in-person fourth-year courses is generally more desirable.

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/>

Professor Simpson currently instructs four courses, namely POLSCI 2135 650, 2191 650, 2141 650, and 3203E. Occasionally, Professor Simpson offers specialized Reading Courses 4100 but she no longer oversees Undergraduate or Graduate Theses. While she frequently mentors Graduate Students, including MA and PhD students, in the field of International Relations, Western's graduate program in International Relations is temporarily closed due to a staffing shortfall.

3. COURSE SYLLABUS

For the official up-to-date and current versions, see the Lesson Tool and the Syllabus on OWL Brightspace (OWL BS), Western's new learning technology system.

For help to access the OWL BS sites, see [Western Technology Services \(WTS\)](#) for help.

By phone during an Exam: 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800

With a support ticket that takes 2-5 days: [create an OWL Brightspace service ticket](#)

In-person: Mondays - Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Support Services Building, Room 4100

POLI SCI 2141 650: Global Violence & Injustice

Using lectures including experts and diplomats, this course helps you understand violence and injustice in International Relations (IR). The lectures survey modern instruments of warfare including atomic, biological, and chemical weapons, as well as cyberwarfare and drones. We focus on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear modernization, and nuclear waste. Experts propose options for armed intervention and peacekeeping operations, and explore the roots of media violence, climate injustice, gender violence, human rights violations, and refugee movements.

POLI SCI 2191 650: Special Topics in Poli Sci: 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.

POLI SCI 2135 650: Canada Abroad

Using lectures including with guest experts and diplomats, this course will help you understand Canada's role in the world that confronts us. The lectures survey current topics including ballistic missile defence, disarmament, free trade, nuclear proliferation and peacekeeping. Guest lectures help understand the roots of terrorism, the causes of environmentally-induced warfare over resources and the Arctic, and the foreseeable impact of population growth and migration on refugee policy.

4. COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbooks, Readings and Course Materials:

No purchased items are necessary for this course. There are no textbooks, course readers, manuals, laboratory or safety materials, or specific electronic devices.

All the Instructor's PowerPoint Slides and Engage More Readings are accessible during the term on OWL BS. Once the term is over, the materials are removed from the OWL BS site and are no longer accessible.

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 and/or Accessible Education.

All required, supplementary, and optional PowerPoint Slides, lecture materials, and readings are the property of the Instructor. Engage More Readings are sourced from freely available online platforms such as Google Scholar, Scholarship@Western, and videos.

Supplementary materials:

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

Student Responsibilities:

Students are responsible for checking their course [OWL site](https://westernu.brightspace.com/) <https://westernu.brightspace.com/> regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL BS Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. For help to access the OWL BS sites, see [Western Technology Services \(WTS\)](#) for help.

By phone during an Exam: 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800

With a support ticket that takes 2-5 days: [create an OWL Brightspace service ticket](#)

In-person: Mondays - Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Support Services Building, Room 4100

They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. METHODS OF EVALUATION

QUIZ 1 (Lessons 1-6) – 10 %

QUIZ 2 (Lessons 7-12) – 10 %

MIDTERM EXAM (Lessons 1-6) – 40 %

FINAL EXAM (Lessons 7-12) – 40%

Non-Cumulative Quizzes and Exams:

The quizzes and exams are not cumulative, meaning the Final Exam will 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 on external opinions or materials.

Exam Bank:

Each exam bank for each course comprises over 2,500 questions randomly assigned to students. Meeting with the professor or the course administrator to review correct and/or incorrect answers is not allowed. To seek a review, students must formally appeal the class grade by contacting the Dean's Office, the Chair of the Department and/or the Undergraduate Chair. These individuals decide whether to provide general feedback on incorrect answers.

Proctortrack is not used:

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

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

It is important to recognize that the Professor emphasizes 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 listen to the audio of this term's lectures, but they are incorrect as they were not covered in this term's lecture material.

Quizzes close 10 minutes before the Exams commence:

Quiz #1 and the Mid-term Exam assess Lessons 1-6, typically scheduled around Reading Break. Quiz #2 and the Final Exam cover Lessons 7-12, scheduled during the Official Exam Period. Both Quizzes close for all students 10 minutes before the Mid-term and/or Final Exam begins. **You may not use a Self-Reported Absence (SRA) to miss the Quizzes because the deadlines are flexible over five days.** Because the Final Exam is scheduled by Exam Central, Quiz #2 opens before the Official Exam period begins. **Once the Official Exam period begins, you may not use a Self-reported Absence to take the Quiz and/or Final Exam. If you must miss a Quiz or Final Exam, you must report to your Academic Counselor and arrange with Academic Counseling to miss the Quiz or Final Exam. Do not contact the Professor or Course Administrator to arrange for a SRA or request an official absence form.**

Quizzes (10% EACH):

You can take each of the two multiple-choice quizzes up to three times, and only your highest score will be recorded. Quiz #1 becomes accessible about 5 days before the Mid-Term Exam, while Quiz #2 opens around 5 days before the Final Exam. Because the Final Exam is scheduled by Exam Central, Quiz #2 opens before the Official Exam period begins. The highest scores from Quiz #1 and Quiz #2 are separately recorded, offering a rapid learning opportunity for score improvement.

Exams (40% EACH):

The Mid-Term Exam 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 final exam 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.

Final Exam:

The Final Exam's location, date, and time are To Be Confirmed [TBC] by [Exam Central](#) at the University. Students with Official Exam Conflicts (consult your Counsellor for the Form) must write a Makeup Exam, typically scheduled 1 week later, but possibly up to two weeks later. **To miss and write a Makeup Quiz or Exam, students need to file documented reasons and obtain permission from their Academic Counsellor (not the Professor or Course Administrator).** Before and after obtaining permission, students must promptly email the Professor to ensure their Makeup Exam time. **All students that miss the Quiz or Exam are programmed on OWL BS by the Course Administrator to take Makeup #1 (see your Calendar Tool for the makeup #1 and #2 dates and times). You may not miss the Quiz or Exam's Makeup #1 using a Self-reported Absence form (SRA). If you try to miss the Makeup #1 using a SRA, you will forfeit the mark and the opportunity to write Makeup #2.** If you arrange with your Academic Counselor to write Makeup #2, you may not use a SRA to miss that, as well. You must take the Official Final Exam in order to pass the course. You cannot miss the Final Exam as you will fail the course.

GENERAL INFO ON MISSED COURSEWORK: Students must familiarize themselves with the University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs posted on the Academic Calendar:

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

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for attempted or completed work, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult Accessible Education. For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline. It is likely, however, that your request will not be processed for two weeks or more due to backups during examination periods. Therefore, you should plan your schedule to take Makeup Quiz or Mid-term Exam #1 so check your Calendar for that date, generally one week later. If you are still ill, two weeks later, you must consult with your Academic Counselor and obtain their permission to take Makeup Quiz #2 or #3 or the Mid-term or Final Exam #2 or #3.

Student Reported Absences (SRAS): All Academic Consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the SRA policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request without supporting documentation. **This policy applies to other in-person and online courses, not this one.** That is because the mid-term and final examinations scheduled during official examination periods are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation. In this course, you may not use your SRA to miss any quiz as the quiz deadlines are flexible, stretching over five full days, therefore using your SRA to cover five flexible days is also prohibited. Therefore, if you must miss a Quiz, you must provide your Academic Counselor with documentation that covers the entire five-day time period before you will obtain their official permission to take the Makeup Quiz #1, #2 or #3. Their official permission may arrive two or three weeks later; however, it must be obtained eventually, otherwise you will not pass the course. **For more information, contact the Course Administrator, not the Professor as the Professor does not compose the rules and regulations regarding SRAS.**

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

There are no Makeup Quizzes unless you provide documentation to your Counselor covering the entire time from the time the Quiz is posted online until 10 minutes before the Exam begins. You cannot use a SRA to miss any Quiz including any Makeup Quiz.

To write Make-up Quizzes and/or Exams, documented reasons must be presented to Academic Counselling. Do not send your documentation to the Professor, as it is personal and confidential. The decision to allow a Make-up Quiz/Exam, and its scheduling, is determined by your Academic Counsellor 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.**

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 on your telephone or another computer screen during quizzes and exams is not allowed. WTS personnel may check your OWL BS 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/or Exams are *not* Open Book or Open Computer:

Objective questions, not subjective ones, are assessed in both the two Quizzes and the two Exams. These questions require answers within 5 days (Quizzes) or 8 hours (Exams) and are presented in multiple choice (A, B, C, D, E) format. Each Quiz consists of 40 objective questions, while each Exam includes 80 questions.

Linear and randomized multiple-choice questions:

The questions are randomized multiple-choice (MC) 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.

Calendar Tool (not Syllabus) shows Quiz, Mid-Term, and Final Exam Dates:

Refer to your Calendar Tool in OWL BS for specific Quiz, Mid-term, and Make-up exam dates.

Errors on quizzes and/or exams:

The Mid-term and Final Exams follow an identical structure: Professor Simpson creates multiple-choice exam questions, which include objective questions. University-approved computer-marking systems assess these objective questions. Questions are presented linearly, allowing no revisiting for checking work.

In case of errors, Prof. Simpson adjusts the computer in favor of the class. If you notice an error, make hand-written notes and email the Course Administrator after (not during!) the exam. Never take screenshots, as it is a serious academic offense. **Any inadvertent screenshots will result in a written warning from the Course Administrator followed by referral to the Dean's office.**

Emergency Procedures during Examinations and Assembly Points:

In the event of a collapse of Exam Central or OWL BS and/or the Instructor's unavailability for an entire week, the Lesson will be canceled, and relevant slides for that day will be removed from OWL BS, eliminating the need for study.

If OWL BS experiences issues during Quizzes and/or Exams, an alternative exam, initially scheduled as Make-up Exam #1, will be administered. If Exam Central or OWL BS face a 5-day collapse during a Quiz, the Quiz will be reopened briefly once OWL BS stabilizes.

If you encounter issues with OWL BS 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](#) 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/or 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 and Notetaking Guidance:

In the event of missing a lecture, there is no need to report your absence through any online declaration system, and it is unnecessary to inform the Course Administrator or Instructor. No additional documentation is required. **However, all missed material, including PowerPoint Slides, Audio, 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 Course Administrator will not modify Quizzes or Exams to accommodate individual students' extended or short-term absences, regardless of the duration of their absence from classes.

You are required to memorize numerous dates and numbers. 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. However, no aides during a quiz or exam are allowed. You are not allowed to open other windows or cheat by referring to your typed or handwritten Notes.

Online learning systems, like Quizlet often freely distribute [other students' notes](#). Beware of trusting their notes as the default saves their notes, which may be inaccurate. [Chat GBT](#) also uses hallucinations, gaming sites and false information. If you use Chat GBT to take the quiz, you will quickly learn that it does not know the right answers, however, its guessing skills are amazing and rival yours!

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 EXAM."

Exam Review and Cheating Policies:

We do not disclose individual correct or incorrect answers to students, preserving the integrity of our large Exam Bank. The Professor does *not* provide Feedback and Mid-term Correct Answer sheets. Why? 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:

Studying with others is encouraged, but taking the exam in a small study group or hiring someone to take it for you is considered an academic offense and will be reported to the Dean's Office. Exams must be taken independently, although forming small study groups is encouraged but difficult for you to organize in an online course setting.

The Professor is unable to assist in organizing study groups or sharing student email addresses without prior consent. While collaborative studying is encouraged, it is expected that exams will be completed individually. **Requesting someone else take your exam for you constitutes a serious academic offense. If discovered, this will result in immediate referral to the Dean's Office.** Based on Professor Simpson's extensive experience serving on the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA) for nearly 10 years, it is unlikely that any appeal will be successful. **Consequences include expulsion, and for those here on a visitor status, this may require returning to your home country.**

Note-Taking for Quizzes and Exams:

While handwritten or typed notes are appreciated, they are not necessary as all the PowerPoint slides and the AUDIO transcript of the lectures are posted online. Some students use free online transcript generators to create transcripts using the YouTube link (e.g. [Kome YouTube Transcript Generator](#)). Some students use free AI systems (e.g. [ChatGPT 3.5](#)) to create sample multiple choice questions. **The transcript AUDIO of the lecture is testable material.** Some students convert the PowerPoint text to a MS Word document that they put onto [Quizlet Flashcards](#), although the Professor shows pictures, charts, diagrams, and maps that are also testable material.

Memorizing Dates, Numbers and Maps:

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 EXAM."

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; however, you are not allowed to refer to your notes during the exam.

Since the professor does not use Proctortrack due to student confidentiality/privacy concerns, students are expected to sign an integrity pledge prior to each quiz and exam. The pledge serves as a reminder of the importance of honesty and ethical principles that are the foundation of their fields of specialization whether they be in Aviation, Engineering, Kinesiology, Nursing, Physics or Political Science. Keep in mind that if you cheat on a trivial quiz or exam in a 2100-level course, the guilt and regret may haunt you in your middle-aged years, waking you up in the middle of the night.

Availability of Marks on your Gradebook:

Mid-term exam marks will be available before the drop date and/or before writing the final exam. Yes, the professor updates your marks before the drop date and/or final exam, providing you with information on all your marks, except for the final exam mark. **However, if you miss Quiz #1 and/or the Mid-term Exam, you must see an Academic Counselor. You cannot use a Self-Reported Absence form**

to miss any Quiz or Exam. Since Academic Counselling may be delayed by a few weeks, your Gradebook may change after the drop date and/or final exam.

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

Since computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be administered, software will be used before/after the Quiz and/or Exam to identify unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Therefore, "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating." Your mark may go down after the Quiz and/or Exam.

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, comprising thousands of questions, and you will not write the same exam as other students in the class because your quizzes and exams are randomized. The answers are randomized. And the order of questions is randomized.

While you are welcome to email potential questions for the Exam Bank, please note that doing so will not raise your grade. You can use ChatGBT to create practice questions using Youtube-created transcripts; however, ChatGBT often hallucinates answers or uses internet-wide information to answer questions. The correct answers on the quizzes and exams are in the actual Slides/Lectures, not with Dr. Google or ChatGBT.

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

Once the final exam schedule is posted on OWL, usually fairly late in the term, 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 in consultation with the Professor.

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 Course Administrator.

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 Course Administrator.

6. ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

University policies on scholastic offences:

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 [**bold added by Course Administrator**]:

“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 take the exam for another person or advise another person who is taking the exam on the right answers because as you already took the exam or the course, then you are committing a scholastic offense. **If the Course Administrator suspects an academic offense, your file will be referred to the Chair and possibly the Dean’s Office.** Moreover, the SRBA may also review your file. You and the person who aided you could be expelled.

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 ChatGBT, Control-F or Google during the online tests is considered an academic offense, and there is not 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 and/or 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.

7. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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 related to many Lecture Slides and many Spoken Audio Lectures by Guest Speakers:

While reviewing the 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 professor 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 BS as YouTube links, MP4 files and PowerPoint slides.

You are encouraged to engage with the content of the slides 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 organization 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 transcripts in order to study the guest speakers.

8. SUPPORT SERVICES

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 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 their 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 at Western:

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

SAMPLE WEBSITE DISCLAIMER:

The information provided by Professor Erika Simpson ('we', 'us' or 'our') on the OWL BS 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/or Canada abroad.

As the Course Instructor I want to do our 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 the Course Administrator or the Instructor an email or meet during Office Hours.

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 skills:

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/>

9. ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS ON COURSE RE-EVALUATION, ABSENCES AND EVALUATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

Refer to the APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, located in the folder within this section of the Syllabus, for additional university and departmental regulations applicable to this course. **Note: You are responsible for reading and adhering to the APPENDIX and the INFORMATION BELOW, although we do not cover this information during class time.**

Updated Policies:

Please refer to student services for the updated Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and Student Medical Certificate.

If you have medical illness or other documentation, present it to the Dean's Office or an Academic Counsellor in your Faculty. They will assess whether accommodation is possible.

Follow Student Services, Dean's Office, or your Academic Counsellor's instructions for documenting any medical absences.

Academic Counseling will inform the Professor about accommodation, and decisions on due dates, re-weighting, and/or transfer weighting will be decided in consultation with you and your Academic Counsellor, not the Professor.

Do not meet with the professor or course administrator to discuss reasons for accommodation on medical or non-medical grounds.

Handwritten or Typed Notes and/or Electronic Devices:

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

Regarding Scanitron, 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,' 'Scanitron,' 'Proctorio,' or 'Turnitin.' Professor Simpson does not use Proctor track.

"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 exam 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, as the Course Instructor does not handle appeals after the term ends.

If there are changes to the Official Course Outline:

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.

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 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.

Academic Policies for Online Courses:

This part of the Course Outline and Official Syllabus must be appended to your Course Outline, and it is your responsibility to read the Academic Policies at your own pace. Please review these policies for any queries before seeking guidance from the Course Instructor (and/or Teaching Assistants).

10. LESSON PLAN(S)

The Lessons Plans are To Be Confirmed (TBC) and the final titles/subjects and guest speaker(s) will be confirmed by the third lesson of class. The Professor reserves the right to change/adapt the Lesson Plan as the term unfolds, depending on events and/or changes in the guest speakers' schedules.

Please note that all due effort has been made to avoid overlap and if students take all four of Professor Simpson's classes, there is some overlap regarding Game Theory (the theory itself, not the guest speakers). Otherwise, there is no overlap.

To repeat the Lessons Plans are subject to change; but for now, if you are thinking of taking one of Professor Simpson's 2100 classes, the Lesson Plans are designed to help you understand what will be covered.