



**Political Science 2231E (570) (571)
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: Z. Hassan
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course surveys contemporary world politics and examines contending theories used by scholars and policymakers to make sense of international affairs. It also provides the conceptual tools and theories to interpret the international system.

Antirequisite(s) at Main campus, King's campus: Political Science 2131, Political Science 2231W/X, Political Science 2531F/G, Political Science 2532F/G. **Antirequisite(s)** at Huron Campus: Political Science 2131, Political Science 2231W/X.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 Political Science course(s) at the 1000-level.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 1.00

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: POLISCI

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Political Science 2231E -- International Relations

King's University College University

Fall/Winter 2025/2026

Lecture Time and Location: *Please see Brightspace for details*
Instructor and Email: Dr. Zheger Hassan -- zhassan3@uwo.ca
Office Hour: TBD (Zoom)

Course Description: This course provides students with an introduction to global politics and the discipline of International Relations (IR). Students will first learn the main theoretical and methodological approaches used for studying IR and the central debates around the theories and methodologies. The second part of the course will offer students an introduction to the complexity of the international system and the role of key actors (e.g., states, international corporations, NGOs, etc.). It examines the behaviour and the interactions of those actors with one another, and how the structures that have been created at the international level mediate those relationships. The course focuses on the evolution of these interactions, paying careful attention to the tensions between state and non-state actors.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the origins and evolution of the field of international relations;
- Identify and explain current international relations issues in historical context;
- Outline and evaluate the main theoretical approach used for understanding IR
- Outline and discuss the domestic and international factors that contribute to international conflict;
- Strengthen practical skills in conducting systematic search for literature, reading, and writing; and
- Enhance the ability to critically evaluate academic and non-academic literature and to engage with the ideas in a constructive manner.

Note on course content and delivery: The course material will be delivered to students in-person during the scheduled day and time listed for the course.

The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments, and any materials posted to Brightspace, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of the course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content to third-party websites violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this

course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Failure to follow these instructions may be in contravention of the university's Student Non-Academic Code of Conduct and/or Code of Academic Conduct and will result in appropriate penalties. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant University Policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with King's UC.

Note on classroom etiquette and communication with instructor:

Before entering the classroom, please silence all communications devices, including laptops, smart phones, watch phones, or any other disruptive technology that I may have neglected to list.

Required Text/Readings:

1. John Baylis, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens (eds.), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 9th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2020).
Cost: EBook \$44.00
2. Supplementary readings will be made available on the course website at no cost to students.
3. Students are encouraged to consult the media and magazines on a regular basis to stay updated on the state of international affairs. Some suggestions include reading/listening to *The New York Times*, *BBC*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *The Economist*.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Assignment	Value	Date
Tutorial	15	Ongoing
Essay Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	10	October 10, 2025
In-Class Test	15	November 10, 2025
Research Essay	20	March 20, 2026
Simulation	10	March 9-30, 2026
Final Exam	30	Final Exam Period (April 2026)

Tutorial: Attendance at weekly tutorial sessions is *strongly recommended* for success in the course. One-third of the tutorial grade will be determined by your attendance and the remainder by your active and engaged participation. Tutorials will provide students with the opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and discuss the lecture and readings. Tutorial activities will include debates, group discussions, group assignments, and other tasks. To receive full credit for participation, students must not only regularly attend the discussion section but also have completed the reading assignments for that week and actively participate in the discussion. Students are expected to participate in a constructive and respectful manner. Please refer to 'King's Code of Student Conduct' (available on Brightspace) for additional guidance on classroom expectations.

Essay Proposal and Annotated Bibliography:

Detailed instructions for the assignment will be provided during class time on September 8 and supporting documents will be shared on the course website.

In-Class Test:

The midterm test will take place during class time on November 10, 2025. The test will cover material from the course readings and lectures. Additional information, including a test review and format, will be provided to students prior to the test date.

Research Essay:

Students will write a research essay on a topic related to the course material and following the submission of the essay proposal.

The essay is due on March 20, 2026 by 11:59PM. Papers must be between 2,000-2,500 words in length, double-spaced, not counting appendices or the compulsory title page or bibliography. The paper ***must be formatted in Times New Roman or Calibri 12pt font with 2.54 cm margins*** all around. Papers that do not meet these basic criteria will be penalized. Students must conduct research with a **MINIMUM of 10 references**. Of these, reference at least four relevant articles from academic journals and two books. Note that while sources such as current affairs magazines (Economist, Foreign Policy, etc.) or media sites (NYT, BBC, etc.) are informative, they are different from peer-reviewed publications. Students must avoid using Wikipedia – it may be useful to get a quick overview of a topic, but it is not always reliable and therefore must be avoided.

The essay should be well-written and carefully organized – marks will be deducted for poorly written or poorly organized papers. Style, grammar, punctuation, and spelling are all important and will affect the grade. Further instructions and detailed guidelines for the essay assignment will be posted to Brightspace.

Final Exam:

The final exam will take place during the Final Examination Period in April 2026 on a date to be determined by the Office of the Registrar. The final exam is cumulative.

Late Policy:

Read carefully: Written assignments and exams must be submitted by the deadline by 11:59PM. If you fail to meet this deadline, your assignment ***will be considered late***. Late assignments will receive a penalty of 15%. The late assignment is then due the following week by 11:59PM. After that, the assignment will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

Extensions will be granted under the following circumstances:

1. Humanitarian grounds (e.g., in the case of death or serious illness in the family); and
2. Medical grounds.

In either circumstance, you will be expected to provide documented evidence.

Academic Offenses and Plagiarism: Scholastic offenses are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the university policy available on our OWL site. All written assignments must be submitted both in hard copy and electronically to the plagiarism checking website turnitin.com (available through the course website and under license to the University). Please be advised that: 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.

POL2231E Class Schedule and Weekly Reading List (First Term):

Week 1 (September 8): Introduction to the course and Essay Proposal Guidelines

Readings: Course Outline

Week 2 (September 15): Introduction to IR and Key Concepts

Reading: Baylis et al., chapters 1-2.

Week 3 (September 22): Levels of Analysis

Reading: J. David Singer, "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations," *World Politics*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (1961): 77–92.

Week 4 (September 29): International History (1900-1999)

Readings: Baylis et al., chapter 3.

Suggested: Barry Buzan and George Lawson, "Twentieth Century Benchmark Dates in International Relations: The Three World Wars in Historical Perspective," *Journal of International Security Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (2015): 39-58.

Week 5 (October 6): Liberalism

Readings: Baylis et al., chapter 7.

Week 6 (October 13): Thanksgiving Holiday – no class this week

Week 7 (October 20): Realism

Reading: Baylis et al., chapter 9.

Week 8 (October 27): Feminism

Reading: Baylis et al., chapter 10.

Week 9 (November 3): Fall Reading Week – no class this week

Week 10 (November 10): In-Class Test

Week 11 (November 17): Postcolonialism

Reading: Baylis et al., chapter 11.

Suggested: Sankaran Krishna, "Postcolonialism and its Relevance for International Relations in a Globalized World," in Randolph B. Persaud and Alina Sajed (eds.), *Race, Gender, and Culture in International Relations: Postcolonial Perspectives* (London: Routledge, 2018), chapter 2.

Week 12 (November 24): Postmodernism and Poststructuralism

Reading: Baylis et al., chapter 12.

Week 13 (December 1): Constructivism

Reading: Baylis et al., chapter 13.

Week 14 (December 8): First Term Review

POL2231E Class Schedule and Weekly Reading List (Second Term):

Week 1 (January 5): How to Write a Research Paper

Week 2 (January 12): History and Formation of Global Governance

Readings: Baylis et al., chapter 20.

Suggested: Ian Hurd, "Myths of Membership: The Politics of Legitimation in UN Security Council Reform," *Global Governance*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (2008): 199-217.

Week 3 (January 19): International Law

Readings: Baylis et al., chapter 19.

Suggested: Jana von Stein, "The Engines of Compliance," in Jeffrey L. Dunoff, and Mark A. Pollack (eds.), *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on International Law and International Relations: The State of the Art* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Week 4 (January 26): International Organizations

Readings: Baylis et al., chapter 21.

Suggested: Susanne Zwingel, Elisabeth Prügl and Gulay Caglar, "Feminism" in Thomas Weiss and Rorden Wilkinson (eds.), *International Organization and Global Governance* (London: Routledge, 2014).

Week 5 (February 2): Human Rights

Readings: Baylis et al., chapter 31.

Suggested: David P. Forsythe, *Human Rights in International Relations* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), chapter 4.

Week 6 (February 9): War and World Politics

Readings: Baylis et al., chapter 14.

Suggested: Stephen Van Evera, *Causes of War: Power and the Roots of Conflict* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999), chapter 2.

Week 7 (February 16): Spring Reading Week – no class this week

Week 8 (February 23): Regionalism

Readings: Baylis et al., chapter 23.

Suggested: Pinar Bilgin and Beatrix Futák-Campbell, "Introduction: Globalizing (the Study of) Regionalism in International Relations," in Beatrix Futák-Campbell (ed.), *Globalizing Regionalism and International Relations* (Bristol: Bristol University Press, 2021), chapter 1.

Week 9 (March 2): Nationalism and Self-Determination

Reading: Baylis et al., chapter 31.

Week 10 (March 9): Organization of Simulation Groups

Week 11 (March 16): Simulation Preparation

Week 12 (March 23): Simulation Preparation

Week 13 (March 30): Simulation

Week 14 (April 6): Concluding Remarks and Final Exam Review

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

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

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under Special Examinations).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University

College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-supportservices/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:
https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's 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.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safecampus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

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

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammarchecking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

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.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.