



University  
of Victoria

# POLI 341

## The United Nations and Global Issues

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**Instructor Fall 2021:** Dr. Scott Watson

**Course delivery:** In the Fall 2021 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

### Course description:

This course examines the UN as an institution and the politics of its key agencies, with a view to helping students understand the forces shaping cooperation at the global level. International peace and security is the primary focus of the UN Security Council and therefore also of media coverage of the UN, but most of the UN's work addresses issues that transcend national borders (at least in some senses) and are better characterized as *trans*-national or *global* rather than *inter*-national. Thus, while we discuss the Security Council's roles in relation to inter-state conflict, much of the course focuses on transnational and global issues which have become more salient due to processes of globalization, including economic development, environmental sustainability, and human rights.

**Prerequisite:** None

### Course outcomes/objectives:

- Understand the structures and processes of the United Nations and the forces that encourage and impede cooperation to address global problems
- Examine the practice of diplomacy by state and non-state actors
- Engage in critical analysis, especially in empirical analysis of the practice of world politics
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion

### Topics may include:

Structure of the UN  
Peacekeeping and intervention  
Non state actors  
Theoretical approaches to international cooperation

*This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.*