





# Political Science (POLI) 440

## Global Governance and Law (Revision 2)

**Status:** Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

**Delivery mode:** [Individualized study](#) 

**Credits:** 3

**Areas of study:** Arts or Social Science

**Prerequisites:** None. A prior course in international studies or political science is recommended. Note that this is a senior level course in the social sciences and as such, students are expected to have advanced critical thinking and writing skills.

**Precluded:** POLI 440 is a cross-listed course—a course listed under 3 different disciplines—**GOVN 540**, **GLST 440** and **GOVN 440**. POLI 440 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for GOVN 540, GLST 440 or GOVN 440.

**Challenge:** POLI 440 has a challenge for credit option.

## Overview

Political Science 440: Global Governance and Law provides the tools and concepts relevant to understanding how practices of governance function in contemporary societies and toward what ends. It overviews some of the central debates on global governance and international law, especially in regard to violence and the use of force, human rights, economic transactions, and the environment. A number of key questions are discussed in relation to these debates. What is governance for? Where does accountability lie? How does law function? Who is being governed? Who participates in governance? Students will gain a broad understanding of some of the issues and potentialities for governance and law in global politics. The course does not assume that students already have a background in global governance and law, however, it provides a sophisticated introduction to some of the key concepts and how those concepts can be applied to contemporary practices.

The course is divided into four parts. The first part explores different approaches to explaining law and governance at the global level. It also reviews the development of law and governance processes and institutions at the global level and the factors that influenced these developments. The second part covers global legal governance and the use of violence, and the relationship of the UN and International Criminal Tribunals to the laws of war. The third part examines the expansion of international law into new areas, such as the development of international agreements and legal instruments to protect such things as human rights and the environment. The fourth part explores law and governance in the economic realm; it reviews the major financial institutions, their origins, and the sources of law in these areas. It also explores the impact of global social movements on the key multilateral economic institutions that govern the global political economy: the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. In addition, it critically evaluates how theoretical formulations regarding global governance impact differently the Global South, as they may perpetuate neocolonial practices. In POLI 440 students develop a sophisticated understanding of the intellectual terrain of governance and law in a globalized world.

## Outline

### Part I: The Politics and History of International Law and Global Governance

- Unit 1: Governance, Governmentality, and Globalization
- Unit 2: The Structure and Foundations of Global Governance
- Unit 3: The History and Evolution of International Law
- Unit 4: The International Law and Global Governance Nexus

### Part II: Governing the Use of Force through Law

- Unit 5: Law and Ethics on the Use of Force
- Unit 6: International Institutions, Legal Instruments, and War

### Part III: The Expansion of International Law and Global Governance

- Unit 7: Protecting and Promoting Human Rights
- Unit 8: Environmental Governance

### Part IV: Contesting Global Governance

- Unit 9: Multilateral Economic Institutions and Global Social Movements
- Unit 10: The Global South: Postcolonial and Decolonial Approaches to Governance

## Learning outcomes

- Discuss the significance of modern forms of state and global governance.
- Analyze the challenges to the sovereign state system and the possibilities of legal governance in globalization.
- Discuss the significance of global social movements in globalization and evaluate the different kinds of democracy that global social movements propose.
- Discuss the interrelationship of the environment, gender, human rights, and social and economic wellbeing.

- Analyze and evaluate how leadership across the various governance models influence and inform relationships, communications, and interactions.
- From postcolonial and decolonial perspectives, critically evaluate the unequal participation of countries from the Global South in the decision-making and practices of global governance.
- Interpret textual, visual, and digital content using a critical analysis lens to identify and problematize unequal power relations in global governance and international law.


## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for POLI 440, you must submit all six of the required course assignments and complete them to the satisfaction of your tutor. To receive credit for the course you must achieve an overall course **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) or better. The weighting of the assignments are outlined below.

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Theory Proposal	5%
Assignment 2: Theory Paper	15%
Assignment 3: Concept Paper	20%
Assignment 4: Research Proposal	10%
Assignment 5: Research Paper	30%
Assignment 6: Creative Project	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#) .

## Materials

This course either does not have a course package or the textbooks are open-source material and available to students at no cost. This course has a [Course Administration and Technology Fee](#)  , but students are not charged the Course Materials Fee.

## Textbooks

POLI 440 taught by a combination of online materials, including a Study Guide, journal articles and book chapters, and academic support.



## Challenge for credit

### Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [challenge for credit](#)  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

### Evaluation





To **receive credit**  for the POLI 440 challenge registration, you must complete a four-hour challenge exam and achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** .

Activity	Weight
Challenge Exam	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



[Challenge for credit course registration form](#)

## Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

*Opened in Revision 2, October 13, 2020*

*Updated November 8, 2023*

View [previous revision](#) 

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