

Course: MPA 880: CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Instructor: Barbara Martin

COURSE OVERVIEW

Recent decades have seen tectonic shifts in international dynamics, from the end of the Cold War, to 9/11, to the increasing muscularity of China and Russia. All these changes have posed serious challenges to the rules-based international order and its pillars of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights.

How did we get here? Since World War II, the steady process of globalization accelerated dramatically through ease of travel and technology, bringing countries, businesses and individuals closer together than ever before. It has brought huge increases in global wealth, a surge in the global middle class and lifted 1 billion people out of extreme poverty.

But, as positive as the process of globalization has been, there have been downsides. As the world became more interconnected, sovereign boundaries blurred and events far away have ever greater and more immediate repercussions here at home - from terrorism to infectious diseases to natural disasters and environmental damage. Globalization has also spawned disaffection among those who feel left behind as industries and economies adapt to new technology, globalized supply chains and shifting markets. Growing inequality, as wealth pools among the world's richest 1%, is often blamed on the dynamics of globalization. This has created fertile ground for populist leaders promising change through retrenchment – tariffs, border controls or abandoned environmental policies. The global pandemic that began in 2020 both underscored our inter-connectedness and added new challenges to the international dynamic from preventing the spread of disease to the sharing of vaccines. And Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has brought war to Europe once again, galvanizing NATO and driving home Canada's vulnerabilities across the Arctic Ocean.

This course will examine how Canada's government navigates through these turbulent times to keep Canadians secure and prosperous. It will highlight the growing inter-connectedness of domestic and international policies, and how actors across governments work together, and with actors outside government, to develop and implement effective policies.

Through case studies, debates, memos, and team presentations (crisis simulation) students will explore the structure and dynamics of the foreign policy process, assess the implications for Canada of international developments and develop skills needed to provide succinct policy advice. Readings will include government websites, along with analysis and commentary on current issues by academics, journalists, and foreign policy practitioners. **Full course details will be available on OnQ,**

YOUR INSTRUCTOR, WHO AM I?

As a former diplomat, I have more than 30 years' experience in Canadian foreign policy. I served in Manila and in Canada's delegation to the OECD in Paris, as well as in multiple assignments in the Privy Council Office. I have experience in international security (NATO, NORAD, G7), economic relations, human rights (UN), as well as bilateral relations (Afghanistan and the Middle East). I have been a municipal councillor and am a Fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. I live in Chelsea, QC.