

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Political Science 447/547, Fall 2019
Portland State University

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Description

The international system has been called an “anarchical society”—anarchic because there is no authority above that of individual states; a society because state behavior is nevertheless influenced by norms, laws, and institutions that states create for themselves. Yet among scholars there is a great deal of debate over the real importance of international rules and institutions and the degree of order they bring to the society of states. And among policymakers in the United States and elsewhere there is disagreement over the extent to which governments ought to be constrained by rules and institutions in the conduct of their foreign policies.

The course examines the myriad ways in which states have brought order and organization to their international conduct, with special emphasis on the functions and activities of formal international institutions. We will cover general purpose organizations, like the UN and (increasingly) the EU, as well as those with more specialized functions, like NATO (security), the WTO (trade), the IMF and World Bank (finance and development), WHO (global health), and the ICC (criminal justice). These organizations are the creations of states, but we will also look at nongovernmental organizations, like Greenpeace and Human Rights Watch. Such organizations, as well as many less formal transnational networks, are the creations of private actors, but designed to serve the global public good.

This is a required course for the [international development track](#) in political science.

Learning Objectives

The general objective of this course is to develop the student's capacity to critically examine problems in international organization and global governance, consider the range of possible solutions to those problems, and communicate the results of this analysis to others. These objectives are to be accomplished by exposing students to relevant literature from the field of international organization. By the end of the term, students should be able to:

- show a familiarity with a wide range of substantive issues in international organization;
- understand the basic functioning of the most important institutions in international society;
- articulate positions on key normative debates arising from the quest for global governance;

- optionally, design and execute a research project on some problem related to international organization, and communicate the findings to others.

Requirements and Evaluation

Undergraduate course grades are based on a [midterm exam](#) (40%) and *either* a [final exam](#) or a [term paper](#) (60%). The exams consist of both multiple-choice questions and longer essays. The term paper requires a significant research effort and a 15-20 page analysis. Graduate course grades are based in a midterm exam and a term paper of 25-30 pages. Graduate students may also meet separately throughout the term (dates and time to be arranged) to discuss readings and research projects. For all students, attendance is required and participation in class discussion is expected.

Readings

All assigned readings are available online; there are no books to purchase for the course. Unless the reading includes a link to a web or D2L file, it is available online from the PSU library. You must retrieve these readings (all journal articles) by logging into the [PSU library website](#) and locating and downloading the article from one of the library's full-content subscription services.

In addition to the assigned readings, you should be reading, on a regular basis, the [New York Times](#), the [Washington Post](#), or some other newspaper with thorough international coverage. Your performance in the course will reflect your familiarity with current issues of international organization and governance, and not just an understanding of lecture material and course readings.

All slides used during lectures are available online via a link to the list of weekly reading assignments. If I revise those slides prior to the time of the lecture, an updated version will be posted shortly thereafter.

Conduct and Courtesy

Students are responsible for being familiar with the PSU [Student Code of Conduct](#), especially the section concerning academic misconduct -- that is, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure of the definition or consequences of academic misconduct, consult your instructor.

Because they are distracting to others, cell phones may not be used during lecture and should be silenced at the start of class. Laptops and tablets may be used to take notes, but not for email, web browsing, or social media. Electronic devices may not be used to photograph, video, or stream course lectures or discussion, but lectures may be audio recorded with permission of the instructor.

Student Resources

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The [C.A.R.E. Team](#), hosted by the Dean of Student Life, is available to consult with you regarding any issues of students in distress, including sexual misconduct.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE and ASSIGNMENTS

30 Sep - 4 Oct **Sovereignty and Global Governance**

- Stephen Krasner, *Sovereignty: Organized Hypocrisy* (Princeton University Press, 1999), chap. 1. ([D2L](#))
- James Rosenau, "Governing the Ungovernable: The Challenge of a Global Disaggregation of Authority." *Regulation and Governance* 1 (March 2007): 88-97.
- Campbell Craig, "The Resurgent Idea of World Government." *Ethics and International Affairs* 22 (Summer 2008): 133-142.

7-11 Oct **Global IOs: The League of Nations and the UN**

- Paul Kennedy, *The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present, and Future of the United Nations* (Vintage, 2007), chap. 1. ([D2L](#))
- John Gerard Ruggie, "The United Nations and Globalization: Patterns and Limits of Institutional Adaptation." *Global Governance* 9 (July-September 2003): 301-321.
- Ramesh Thakur and Thomas G. Weiss, "United Nations 'Policy': An Argument with Three Illustrations." *International Studies Perspectives* 10 (February 2009): 18-35.
- [slides](#)

14-18 Oct **Collective Security: UN Security Council**

- Ian Hurd, "The Myths of Membership: The Politics of Legitimation in UN Security Council Reform." *Global Governance* 14 (April-June 2008): 199-217.
- United Nations, *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines* (United Nations, 2008), chaps. 1-3. ([web](#))
- Alex J. Bellamy, "The Responsibility to Protect- Five Years On." *Ethics and International Affairs* 24 (Summer 2010): 143-169.
- [slides](#)

Term paper prospectus due, 18 Oct

21-25 Oct **NATO and European Security**

- Alexandra Gheciu, "Security Institutions as Agents of Socialization? NATO and the 'New Europe'." *International Organization* 59 (Autumn 2005): 973-1012.
- Michael Cox, "Beyond the West: Terrors in Transatlantia." *European Journal of International Relations* (June 2005), pp. 203-233.
- Renee de Nevers, "NATO's International Security Role in the Terrorist Era." *International Security* 31 (Spring 2007): 34-66.
- [slides](#)

28-30 Oct

Regional Organization and Integration: European Union

- David Mitrany, "The Functional Approach to World Organization." *International Affairs* 24 (July 1948): 350-363.
- Mark A. Pollack, "Theorizing the European Union: International Organization, Domestic Polity, or Experiment in New Governance?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 8 (June 2005): 357-398.
- Amitai Etzioni, "The Community Deficit." *Journal of Common Market Studies* (March 2007): 23-42.
- [slides](#)

1 Nov

Midterm Exam

4-8 Nov

Economic Governance: The WTO

- Susan Esserman and Robert Howse, "The WTO on Trial." *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2003): 130-140.
- Amrita Narlikar, "New Powers in the Club: The Challenges of Global Trade Governance." *International Affairs* 86 (May 2010): 717-728.
- [slides](#)

13-15 Nov

International Development: Bretton Woods Institutions

- Ngaire Woods, *The Globalizers: The IMF, the World Bank, and Their Borrowers* (Cornell University Press, 2006), chaps. 1-3. ([D2L](#))
- Jean-Philippe Therien and Vincent Pouliot, "The Global Compact: Shifting the Politics of International Development?" *Global Governance* 12 (January-March 2006): 55-75.
- Eric Helleiner "A Bretton Woods Moment? The 2007-2008 Crisis and the Future of Global Finance." *International Affairs* 86 (May 2010): 619-646.
- [slides](#)

18-22 Nov

Law and Justice: International Courts and Humanitarianism

- Philippe Kirsch, "The Role of the International Criminal Court in Enforcing International Law." *American University International Law Review* 22 (2007): 539-547.
- Christine H. Chung, "The Punishment and Prevention of Genocide: The International Criminal Court as a Benchmark of Progress and Need." *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 40 (2007): 227-242
- Jamie Mayerfeld, "Who Shall Be Judge? The United States, the International Criminal Court, and the Global Enforcement of Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly* (February 2003): 93-129.
- [slides](#)

25-27 Nov

Global Environmental and Health Regimes

- Oran R. Young, "The Architecture of Global Environmental Governance: Bringing Science to Bear on Policy." *Global Environmental Politics* (February 2008): 14-32.
- Liliana B. Andonova, Michele M. Betsill, and Harriet Bulkeley, "Transnational Climate Governance." *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (May 2009): 52-73.

- Jeremy Youde, *Global Health Governance* (Polity Press, 2012), chaps. 1-2. ([D2L](#))

2-6 Dec **Global Civil Society**

- Mary Kaldor, "The Idea of Global Civil Society." *International Affairs* (May 2003): 583-593.
- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Cornell University Press, 1998), chap. 1. ([D2L](#))
- Diane Stone, "Global Public Policy, Transnational Policy Communities and their Networks." *Policy Studies Journal* 36 (February 2008): 19-38.
- [slides](#)

9 Dec (Mon) **Final Exam, 12:30-2:20**

11 Dec (Wed) **Term Papers Due, 4:00 pm**

This syllabus is available online at web.pdx.edu/~kinsella/ps447f19.pdf and course materials can be linked from this address. *Last updated on 13 Nov 2019.*