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 and under what conditions governments ought to be constrained by rules and institutions in the conduct of their foreign policies.

This graduate seminar examines how global governance works. We consider the myriad ways in which states have brought order and organization to their international conduct, as well as the academic and policy debates surrounding governance in the areas of international security, trade and finance, and environmental change. We also pay attention to the evolving roles of states and state sovereignty, organized and unorganized nonstate actors, and questions of representation and accountability at the global level.

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 political science, plus select readings from other disciplines such as economics, sociology, and law. By the end of the term, students should be able to:

- show a familiarity with a wide range of substantive issues in international organization and global governance;
- understand the basic functioning of the most important institutions in international society;
- articulate coherent positions on a key normative debates arising from the quest for world order and global public policy; and
- design a research project on some problem related to global governance.
Requirements and Evaluation

In this course, the main workload consists of assigned reading. Assignments should be read carefully prior to the session for which they are scheduled. As this is a seminar, participation in class discussion is important to the success of the course and everyone is expected to contribute (20 percent of your course grade). During the term, you are required to make one or two brief presentations on a reading from the supplemental reading list and write two short analytic papers (15 percent each). The latter are to be critical reviews of the readings assigned for the week (5-6 pages), and are due at the beginning of class. You may choose any two weeks. The remaining 50 percent of your grade will be based on a take-home final exam distributed on the last day on class.

Readings

There are no required textbooks for this course. All required readings are available online. Unless a link is provided, students should access readings via the PSU library website (off-campus access requires logging in). For those who are interested in background or integrative reading material on international organizations, there are several options, including:


Code of Conduct

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.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE and ASSIGNMENTS

26 Sep

**Introduction: What is Global Governance?**

*Required*

Supplemental

- Oran Young, “Regime Theory and the Quest for Global Governance.” In Alice D. Ba and Matthew J. Hoffmann (eds.), Contending Perspectives on Global Governance: Coherence, Contestation and World Order (Routledge, 2005).

3 Oct

The Sovereign State and World Order

Required


Supplemental

- Sean Patrick Eudaily and Steve Smith, “Sovereign Geopolitics? – Uncovering the ‘Sovereign
Paradox’.” *Geopolitics* 13 (April, 2008).


### 10 Oct

**International Society and International Organization**

**Required**


**Supplemental**


### 17 Oct

**Global IGOs: United Nations and Beyond**

**Required**


**Supplemental**


24 Oct  

**Regional Organization and Governance**

**Required**


**Supplemental**


31 Oct

**Security Governance**

*Required*

• Alex J. Bellamy, “The Responsibility to Protect- Five Years On.” *Ethics and International Affairs* 24 (Summer 2010): 143-169.

*Supplemental*

• Alex J. Bellamy, “Realizing the Responsibility to Protect.” *International Studies Perspectives* 10 (2009): 111-128

7 Nov  Economic Governance

*Required*


*Supplemental*


**Environmental Governance**

**Required**

**Supplemental**
• Liliana Andonova, “International Organizations Inc.: Patterns of Environmental Partnerships.” In Frank Biermann, Bernd Siebenhuner, and Anna Schreyogg (eds.), *International Organizations in Global Environmental Governance* (Routledge, 2009).
Nonstate Actors and Global Civil Society

Required
- Jörg Friedrichs, “Global Governance as the Hegemonic Project of Transatlantic Civil Society.” In Markus Lederer and Philipp S. Müller (eds), *Criticizing Global Governance* (Palgrave, 2005). (pdf)

Supplemental
Accountability and Representation in Global Governance

Required

Supplemental

Materials for this course are not available on D2L. This syllabus is available online at web.pdx.edu/~kinsella/ps530f16.pdf and all course materials can be linked from this address.

Last updated on 3 October 2016.