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 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 of 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.

Because they are distracting to others, cell phones (voice or text) and MP3 players may not be used during lecture and should be turned off 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.

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**WEEKLY SCHEDULE and ASSIGNMENTS**

11 Jan  
**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).
- Beth A. Simmons and Lisa L. Martin, “International Organizations and Institutions.” In Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons (eds.), *Handbook of International Relations* (Sage, 2002).
The Sovereign State and World Order

Required


Supplemental


International Society and International Organization

Required

- Thomas Franck, “Legitimacy in the International System.” *American Journal of International Law*


**Supplemental**


1 Feb

**Global Organizations: United Nations and Beyond**

**Required**

- Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore, “The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of


**Supplemental**


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8 Feb

**Regional Organization and Governance**

**Required**


**Supplemental**

• Louise Fawcett and Andrew Hurrell (eds.), *Regionalism and World Politics: Regional Organizations and International Order* (Oxford University Press, 1995), chaps. 1, 11.

15 Feb

**Security Governance**

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

**Supplemental**
• Alexander Thompson, “Coercion through IOs: The Security Council and the Logic of Information


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**Economic Governance**

**Required**


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**Supplemental**


1 Mar

**Environmental Governance**

*Required*


*Supplemental*

• Per-olof Busch and Helge Jörgens, “The International Sources of Policy Convergence: Explaining the Spread of Environmental Policy Innovations.” *Journal of European Public Policy* 12 (October


8 Mar

**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*


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15 Mar

**Accountability and Representation in Global Governance**

*Required*


*Supplemental*

- Anne-Marie Slaughter, “Disaggregating Sovereignty: Towards Public Accountability of Global

Materials for this course are not available on D2L. This syllabus is available online at [http://web.pdx.edu/~kinsella/ps530w18.pdf](http://web.pdx.edu/~kinsella/ps530w18.pdf) and all course materials can be linked from this address.

Last updated on 2 February 2018.