

Political Science 1503
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
Summer 2018
Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 – 11:45 AM
Room #242 Cathedral of Learning

Instructor: Anthony Ocepek

Office: 4433 Wesley Posvar Hall

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00 – 2:00

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Course Description:

Traditional international relations theories characterize the international system as anarchic and focus on interactions between nation-states. Since WWII, international organizations (IOs) have become more prominent players in the international system. The goal of this course is for students to develop a theoretical as well as practical understanding of IOs. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to articulate the leading explanations for why IOs exist, controversies surrounding IOs in the context of the different theories and approaches to international relations, why they are thought to help solve global problems, and the major challenges IOs face in meeting their mandates. The course on International Organization fulfills one General Education requirement (GER): Global Issues.

The course will be divided into two sections. The first section will be structured to examine the question why do IOs exist. Under this section, there will be an overview of the varied analytic frameworks and theories of international relations, for example realism and liberalism, and their application towards understanding the development of IOs. Building off these frameworks and theories, the section will examine topics such as the principal-agent theory and IO autonomy. The second section will then introduce the students to key IOs of varying mandates and regions such as the UN, WTO, IMF, and EU. It will also examine major issues such as the promotion of human rights and peace and security. Applying the frameworks from the preceding section, this section will attempt to provide a more holistic understanding on some of the major IOs operating in the international system and both their successes and failures in achieving their mandates.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Evaluate the extent to which the major theoretical paradigms explain the behavior and design of specific international institutions
2. Assess the success of international institutions in solving important global problems
3. Apply theory and empirical evidence to their understanding and evaluation of new forms of international cooperation

Reading Materials:

Required Textbooks:

Karns, Margaret, Karen Mingst, and Kendall Stiles. 2015. *International Organizations: The Politics & Processes of Global Governance*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 3rd edition. I refer to this book in the syllabus as “**KMS**.” Copies of the book have been ordered and are available for purchase at the Pitt Book Center. *Important:* if you choose to order the book online from Amazon or another retailer, please make sure you have the **3rd edition**.

Required Supplemental Readings:

The course has specific required readings that complement the general textbook readings. Please see the course syllabus to learn which readings you are required for each respective week. These required readings for the class will be posted on CourseWeb (in the course documents folder). (Note: the syllabus is also available for viewing on CourseWeb).

Recommended:

Additionally, please subscribe to email updates from a major provider of international news, such as the *New York Times*, *Economist*, *BBC*, *Financial Times* or *Wall Street Journal*.

Course Requirements:

Your grade for this class can be broken down as follows:

Attendance/Participation	10%
Presentation Project	15%
Two Short Response Essays	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

Attendance/Participation:

Attendance is required for each lecture. If you notify me **in advance** with a valid reason to have missed the course, your absence may be excused. However, you are responsible to submit any assignments that are due for that day. Each unexcused absence **after the first absence** will subtract 1% from your total Attendance/Participation grade (10%). Makeup opportunities for essays, presentations, and exams will only be allowed in the case of excused absences such as illness (with a doctors' note), a family emergency (with documentation), or university-sponsored travel (with a signed note from the appropriate university authority).

With regards to participation, please make sure that you have read the required material for the designated day. Moreover, you are expected to participate in the class by asking/responding to questions during the lectures and as well as engaging in the varied in-class activities and discussion groups.

Presentation Project:

Students will be expected to choose an international organization, other than those explicitly reviewed during lectures, and a current global issue that it is attempting to resolve. There are two components of this project. First, you will provide to the class a detailed outline of the international organization overall and the global issue it is attempting to resolve, the key actors involved, and the reasons for either its failures or successes with regards to the issue. The second part will be a 10-minute presentation and Q&A session presented to the class on the selected organization and issue. Instructions and rubrics offering greater detail of the expectations for the essay and the presentation will be made available on CourseWeb and reviewed during lecture.

Short Response Essays:

You will be required to write two short response essays. The essay must be 12pt, Times New Roman font, 1" margins and at most 2-3 pages double-spaced. For these essays, you will choose one of the assigned readings other than those assigned from the textbook and offer a brief summation of the main points and contributions of the reading, state which theoretical IR perspective the authors are using and why, and what you think about the implications for their argument in how we can understand international organizations. Instructions offering greater detail of the expectations for the essay and the grading rubric will be made available on CourseWeb and reviewed during lecture. —late papers will not be accepted.

Midterm/Final Exams:

Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer questions (in which students will be asked to write a few sentences for each question), and one longer essay question. The tests are designed to be comprehensive and challenging, but never to be tricky.

Grading Scale:

Each assignment will be evaluated on a scale of one hundred points. The correlation of the scale with the letter grade for the final course grade is as follows:

93-100% A	87-89% B+	77-79% C+	67-69% D+	0-59% F
90-92% A-	83-86% B	73-76% C	63-66% D	
	80-82% B-	70-72% C-	63-66% D-	

Important Information:**Office Hours:**

I offer multiple hours per week. If you cannot make these hours, I can schedule appointments via e-mail. I will advise the class should my hours not be available as normal. If you are struggling with a text or the class, or simply have more questions than we can get to in class, I am happy to work with you. During weekdays, please allow me a period of 8 hours to respond to any email. Emails sent during the weekend will be responded by the following Monday.

Class Discussions:

For you to get the most out of this class, it is important that you keep current with the readings and are willing to participate in class discussions. The classroom is intended to be an open space for discussion, where all ideas and questions are valid. Being a course examining a range of international political issues, serious and often conflict-prone issues will be discussed. It is important that all people in the class—instructors and students—treat everyone’s viewpoint with respect. This doesn’t mean that viewpoints won’t be critically assessed, but it does mean that no one should feel afraid to voice their opinion in the class. However, no personal attacks or *ad hominem* arguments (i.e. “you’re wrong because you have red hair”) will be tolerated. In an ideal world, each student will speak at least once in each lecture during the course of the semester. I will attempt to ensure ample opportunities for students to share their own perspectives and critiques within small group settings in addition to the overall lecture.

Disability Resources and Services:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890 / (412) 536-5568 (VP), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Academic Standards:

Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity (<http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity>). Turning in the work of another and calling it your own violates the academic standards of this class, as does any manner of cheating on exams. Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will receive an F for the final grade of this class.

General Rules:

- Please be on time for class
- Keep your phone turned off during class
- No food will be permitted in lecture, Drinks are perfectly OK (I will always have my cup of coffee)

Important Dates:

Friday, May 25th - Essay #1 Due by 5PM

Monday, May 28th – **Memorial Day, No Class**

Wednesday, May 30th – **Midterm Examination**

Friday, June 15th - Essay #2 Due by 5PM

Wednesday, June 20th – **Final Examination**

Course Schedule:

Following is the reading and assignment schedule for this course. Note that reading assignments list what must be read by that class meeting. Please complete all readings for each date **prior to coming to class**.

Week #1

Monday, May 14th: Introduction to International Organizations/Course Overview

Readings:

1. KMS, Chapter 1 – “The Challenges of Global Governance”

Wednesday, May 16th: Perspectives on International Organizations

Readings:

1. KMS, Chapter 2 – “The Theoretical Foundations of Global Governance”
2. Mearsheimer, John. 1994/5. “The False Promise of International Institutions,” in *International Security* 19(3): 5-49. **Available on CourseWeb**
3. Keohane, Robert and Lisa Martin. 1995. “The Promise of Institutional Theory,” in *International Security* 20(1): 39-51. **Available on CourseWeb – optional**

Week #2

Monday, May 21st: Foundations of Global Governance

Readings:

1. KMS, Chapter 3 – “IGOs and the Foundations of Global Governance”
2. Von Stein, Jana. 2005. “Do Treaties Constrain or Screen? Selection Bias and Treaty Compliance,” *American Political Science Review* 99(4): 611-622. **Available on CourseWeb, Focus on pages 611-616 and 620-621**

Wednesday, May 23rd: IO Autonomy & the Socialization of Norms

Readings:

1. Hawkins, Darren G., David A. Lake, Daniel L. Nielson and Michael J. Tierney, Eds. 2006. *Delegation and Agency in International Organizations*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 1 **Available on CourseWeb**

2. Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore. 1999. "The Politics, Power and Pathologies of International Organizations," *International Organization* 53(4): 699-732. **Available on CourseWeb – Focus on pages 707-725**

3. Checkel, Jeffrey. 2005. "International Institutions and Socialization in Europe," *International Organization* 59(4): 801-826. **Available on CourseWeb – Focus on pages 804-815**

Essay #1 due by 5PM, on Friday, May 25th

Week #3

Monday, May 28th: **Memorial Day, No Class**

Wednesday, May 30th: **Midterm Examination & The United Nations**

Readings:

1. KMS, Chapter 4 – "The United Nations: The Centerpiece of Global Governance"

Week #4

Monday, June 4th: Regional Organizations

Readings:

1. KMS, Chapter 5 – "Regional Organizations"

2. Acharya, Amitav. 2014. "Power Shift or Paradigm Shift? China's Rise and Asia's Emerging Security Order," *International Studies Quarterly* 58(1): 158–173. **Available on CourseWeb**

3. Schneider, Christina J. 2007. "Enlargement Processes and Distributional Conflicts: The Politics of Discriminatory Membership in the European Union," *Public Choice* 132(1/2): 85-102. **Available on CourseWeb – optional**

Wednesday, June 6th: Global Economic Organizations

Readings:

1. KMS, Chapter 8 – "Global Economic Government", **Focus on pages 379-403 and 412-422**

2. KMS, Chapter 9 – “Protecting Economic Well-Being and Human Development”, **Focus on pages 425-456**

3. Stone, Randall. 2008. “The Scope of IMF Conditionality,” *International Organization* 62(4): 589-620. **Available on CourseWeb, Focus on pages 589-602 and 615-617**

4. Allee, Todd and Jamie Scalera. 2012. “The Divergent Effects of Joining International Organizations: Trade Gains and the Rigors of WTO Accession,” *International Organization* 66(2): 243-276. **Available on CourseWeb, Focus on pages 243-260 and 271-273**

5. Mansfield, Edward and Eric Reinhardt. 2003. “Multilateral Determinants of Regionalism: The Effects of GATT/WTO on the Formation of Preferential Trading Agreements,” *International Organization* 57(4): 829-862. **Available on CourseWeb – optional**

Week #5

Monday, June 11th: Nonstate Actors

Readings:

1. KMS, Chapter 6 – “Nonstate Actors, NGOs, Networks, and Social Movements”

2. Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change,” *International Organization* 52(4): 887-917. **Available on CourseWeb – Focus on pages 894-909**

3. Towns, Anne. 2012. “Norms and Social Hierarchies: Understanding International Policy Diffusion “From Below”,” *International Organization* 66(2): 179-209. **Available on CourseWeb – skim reading**

Wednesday, June 13th: Human Rights

Readings:

1. KMS, Chapter 10 – “Protecting Human Rights”

2. Vreeland, James. 2008. “Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture,” *International Organization* 62(1): 65-101. **Available on CourseWeb, Focus on pages 65-80 and 93-95**

3. Hafner-Burton, Emilie. 2009. “Sticks and Stones: Naming and Shaming the Human Rights Enforcement Problem,” *International Organization* 63(4): 559-592. **Available on CourseWeb – skim reading**

Essay #2 due by 5PM, on Friday, June 15th

Week #6

Monday, June 18th: Peace and Security

Readings:

1. KMS, Chapter 7 – “The Search for Peace and Security”
2. Kydd, Andrew and Scott Straus. 2013. “The Road to Hell? Third Party Intervention to Prevent Atrocities,” *American Journal of Political Science* 57(3): 673-684. **Available on CourseWeb – skim reading**

Wednesday, June 20th: **Final Examination**