

PSC 2442/HONR 2175.82
Fall 2014
MW 2:20-3:35
Phillips B156

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Office hours (in Monroe 414):
Mon and Wed 4:00-5:30pm or by
appointment

International Organizations in World Politics

Course Description

This course explores the role international organizations (IOs) play in world politics. The central questions we will ask about these organizations are: why were they created and by whom? What is their mission today and how has that mission changed over time? What tools of influence do IOs have to accomplish their goals and, conversely, what are the limitations on their effectiveness? What are the major challenges facing these IOs today that will shape politics in consequential ways?

We begin by reviewing several contending perspectives on the importance and utility of international organizations. We ask why states would want to set up these organizations in the first place and how, theoretically, we should expect them to behave. We also investigate sources of dysfunction and pathology. The course then examines the historical development, activities, and performance of specific institutions in the major policy areas of security, trade, finance, economic development, environmental protection, and humanitarian assistance. We will examine organizations of many types—big flagship intergovernmental IOs like the UN, but also non-governmental organizations, activist networks, and multinational corporations—all of which are organized across borders and have big transnational effects.

Course Requirements

Grading will be based on two in-class tests (100 points each) and a 10-page research paper (200 points). The two in-class tests will cover both reading and lecture material for the first and second halves of the course. Dates for these are noted in the course schedule, below. The research paper is due at the beginning of class on **DECEMBER 1**.

Research Paper

For the research paper, you will pick an important problem in world politics and design or reform an international institution to fix or improve it. Specifically, your paper will:

- 1) present a clear analysis of the problem, including an examination of the major actors that shape this issue and their goals;
- 2) analyze efforts made to date to address your problem (if any) and explain why these have been insufficient;
- 3) present a plan whereby the problem might be solved or reduced, either by reforming (an) existing international organization(s) or creating new ones;

4) explain why this new or reformed institution will have the technical capacity--the resources, mandate and organizational design--necessary to solve the problem where actors previously could not;

5) explain why the proposed institution or reform will be viable politically and will attract the political support necessary from crucial actors.

These last three tasks are particularly important. Good policy making involves devising plans to make things better. Describe why your recommendation for institutional change is the right one to address the problem both technically and politically. Your organization may be an IGO or an NGO. It may be regional or it may be global. It must, however, involve nationals from three or more countries and involve problem-solving efforts that cross borders in some way. If you are uncertain about the suitability of your proposal, check with the professor before you start.

If you are unsure how to research your chosen topic, a place to start is with David Ettinger's International Affairs Research Resources page at:

<http://libguides.gwu.edu/intrel>

Good papers will be well-informed and clearly argued. This is an exercise in critical thinking and problem-solving. Students will be evaluated on how clearly they have thought through the logic of their chosen problem and whether their proposed solution plausibly remedies or at least ameliorates the problem. Brevity is a virtue, particularly in the policy world. The 10 page limit (double spaced, standard margins) is firm. Extra pages will not help you.

Papers should be written in clear, correct prose. **If you have writing difficulties, be sure you draft your paper early enough that you can seek help** from the Writing Center or a friend to clean up structure, grammar, and mechanical problems before turning in a final draft. Writing counts in the assessment of the assignment.

All sources must be properly cited in one consistent, recognized format. Proper formats for footnotes or endnotes and bibliography are discussed in The Chicago Manual of Style, the MLA Handbook, and Kate L. Turabian, *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. **Note that web materials also require full and correct citation.** If you are unsure how to do this, details are posted on Gelman's webpage at: <http://www.gwu.edu/gelman/service/offcampus/diy/citing.html>. One example of correct web source citation is the APA's at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/>. If you still have questions, the reference desk at Gelman Library can help you.

All papers must be submitted with a coversheet stating the following and signed by you: "I understand the GW Code of Academic Integrity and have completed this paper according to its guidelines. The work herein is mine alone." More information about GW's Code of Academic Integrity can be found at:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>. Failure to comply with the code will be heavily penalized.

The grading rubric for the paper is posted on Blackboard. Be sure to check it before you turn in your paper. Have you met the criteria it sets out?

Research papers are due at the beginning of class on DECEMBER 1. Bring a printed paper copy to class that day. ***Prior to class you must also submit the paper electronically via SafeAssign on Blackboard.***

Readings

Most course readings are available through Blackboard. We will also read most of the following textbook, which can be purchased in the online:

Margaret Karns and Karen Mingst, *International Organizations: The politics and processes of global governance*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2nd ed. 2009.

For students who do not wish to purchase this book, copies will be on reserve at Gelman.

In addition, all students are expected to keep informed about current events. Daily reading of a major news source (*New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *BBC*, *Economist.com*, *Financial Times* or similar) is required. Two good blogs to follow are David Bosco's at <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/voices/bosco> and Stewart Patrick's at <http://blogs.cfr.org/patrick/>.

Many classes will begin with a discussion of recent news events concerning international organizations.

Missed classes: It is the student's responsibility to be informed of any changes in reading requirements and to obtain notes from other students from any missed classes.

Missed exams, late papers, medical excuses: Make up exams or deadline extensions for the paper require a written medical excuse stating the dates on which the student was incapacitated. Students requesting medical accommodations are expected contact the professor as soon as health allows and provide documentation promptly. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 5 points per calendar day, calculated from the beginning of class on the due date. Unexcused missed exams are marked as zero.

Technology policy: Use of laptops to take notes in class is fine. Other online activities should be done outside the classroom. Violators will be asked to stow all electronics and use pen and paper for the rest of the semester.

Learning Objectives. As a result of completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and explain the functioning of key international organizations.
2. Evaluate and discuss critically the role of key international organizations in shaping international political outcomes.
3. Design reforms to existing organizations that will help solve identified problems.
4. Research and write competently at an upper-division undergraduate level

Course Schedule

- 8/25 **Introduction**
Read:
- Stewart Patrick, "The Unruled World" *Foreign Affairs* Jan/Feb 2014.
 - Karns and Mingst, chapter 1.
- 8/27 **Contending Perspectives on International Institutions (2 sessions)**
Read:
- Karns and Mingst, chapter 2.
 - "How Global Should Government Be?" Essays by Drezner, Florini, Rabkin, and Raustiala at <http://www.cato-unbound.org/issues/june-2007/how-global-should-government-be>
- 9/1 **LABOR DAY. NO CLASS.**
- 9/3 **Contending Perspectives on International Institutions (2nd session)**
Read:
- Karns and Mingst, chapter 2.
 - "How Global Should Government Be?" Essays by Drezner, Florini, Rabkin, and Raustiala at <http://www.cato-unbound.org/issues/june-2007/how-global-should-government-be>
- 9/8 **Multilateralism as a Policy Choice**
Read:
- Stewart Patrick and Shepard Forman, *Multilateralism & U.S. Foreign Policy*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner 2002, chapter 1.
 - Kim Holmes, "Smart Multilateralism and the United Nations" at <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2010/09/smart-multilateralism-when-and-when-not-to-rely-on-the-united-nations>
 - Stewart Patrick, "Prix-Fixe and a la Carte: Avoiding False Multilateral Choices" *Washington Quarterly* October 2009.
- 9/10 **Politics of Organizational Structure.**
No reading.
- 9/15 **Historical Backdrop: the evolution and proliferation of modern international institutions through 1945.**
Read:
- Karns and Mingst ch. 3

9/17

The United Nations: where it came from, how it works

Browse: <http://www.un.org/en/>
<http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/index.shtml>

Read:

- Karns and Mingst, ch. 4.

9/22-24

Security Council, UN Reform, Peacekeeping

Read:

- Karns and Mingst, chapter 8.
- Shashi Tharor, "Security Council Reform: Past, Present, and Future" *Ethics and International Affairs* 25, 4 (2011):397-406.
- "Thinking the UNthinkable" *The Economist* Nov 11, 2010.
http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displaystory.cfm?subjectid=10519735&story_id=17463443
- John Bolton, "The Key to Changing the United Nations System" in Brett D. Schaefer, ed., *ConUNdrum: The Limits of the United Nations and the Search for Alternatives*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield (2009), xiii-xxviii.
- Browse the interactive map of troop and police contributors:
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors.shtml>
- Browse the basic stats on troops, contributors, cost, gender balance at:
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/>
- "List of Peacekeeping Operations" Available at:
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/operationslist.pdf>
- "A Female Approach to Peacekeeping" *New York Times* March 5, 2010.
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/06/world/africa/06iht-ffpeace.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

9/29

Saving Failed States, Sovereignty, and Responsibility to Protect

Browse:

- Interactive map and rankings on "The Fragile State Index 2014" link at
<http://ffp.statesindex.org/>

Read:

- "The Fragile State Index 2014" *Foreign Policy* July/Aug 2014.
<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/fragile-states-2014>
- Edward Luttwak, "Give War a Chance" *Foreign Affairs* July/August 1999.
- Michael Cohen, Maria Figueroa Kupcu, Prag Khanna, "The New Colonialists" *Foreign Policy* July/Aug 2008.
- David Reiff, "The Saints Go Marching In." *The National Interest* July/Aug. 2011.
- Michael Mazarr, "The Rise and Fall of the Failed State Paradigm" *Foreign Affairs* Jan/Feb 2014 with reply by James Schear in the May/June 2014 issue

- 10/1 **Governing Cyberspace**
- Ronald Deibert and Masashi Crete-Nishihata, "Global Governance and the Spread of Cyberspace Controls." *Global Governance* 18(2012) 339-61.
- 10/6 **FIRST TEST ON READINGS**
- 10/8 **NATO**
Browse: www.nato.int/
Read:
- Karns and Mingst, pp. 154-8.
 - Charles Kupchan, "NATO's Final Frontier" *Foreign Affairs* May/June 2011.
 - Renee de Nevers, "NATO's International Security Role in the Terrorist Era" *International Security* 31, 4 (2007): 34-66.
- 10/13 **WMD, terrorism and other challenges**
Browse:
UN Action to Counter Terrorism website.
Read:
- Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, "Combating Terrorism" *The Washington Quarterly* 26, 4 pp. 163-76 (autumn 2003).
 - Emma Belcher, "The Proliferation Security Initiative: lessons for using non-binding agreements." CFR Working Paper, July 2011.
- 10/15 **NGOs and security politics**
Browse: ICBL website at <http://www.icbl.org/en-gb/home.aspx>
Read:
- Karns and Mingst, chapter 6.
 - Ramesh Thakur and William Maley, "The Ottawa Convention on Landmines: A Landmark Humanitarian Treaty on Arms Control." *Global Governance* 5, 3(1999): 273-302.
- 10/20 **Humanitarian action—comparing IGO and NGO strategies**
Browse: websites for UNHCR, ICRC, Amnesty International.
Read:
- "Lost in Limbo" *The Economist*, 29 August 2009.
 - Gil Loescher, Alexander Betts, and James Milner, "UNHCR as a global institution." *The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*, chapter 4.
 - "Doing Business like a Refugee" *Planet Money* podcast. July 30, 2014 at <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2014/07/30/336117663/episode-557-doing-business-like-a-refugee>

- 10/22 **Human Rights and advocacy networks**
Read:
- Karns and Mingst chapter 10.
 - Beth Simmons, "The Future of the Human Rights Movement" *Ethics and International Affairs* 28 (2014) 183-96.
- 10/27 **Bretton Woods—history.**
Read:
- Karns and Mingst, chapter 9
 - "The Dollar at the Center of the World" Planet Money podcast:
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2014/07/16/331743569/episode-552-the-dollar-at-the-center-of-the-world>
- 10.29 **Money and the International Monetary Fund**
Browse: IMF website.
Read:
- "Do we need the IMF?" Planet Money podcast, May 24, 2011.
 - Ngaire Woods, "Global Governance after the Financial Crisis: A New Multilateralism or the Last Gasp of the Great Powers?" *Global Policy* 1,1(Jan 2010).
 - Raghuram Rajan, "Grassroots Economics" *The National Interest* July/Aug 2010.
- 11/3 **Development and the World Bank**
Browse: World Bank website.
Read:
- Christopher Blattman and Paul Niehaus, "Show them the Money" *Foreign Affairs* May 2014.
<http://proxygw.wrlc.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=tsh&AN=95603435&site=ehost-live>
 - William Easterly, "The ideology of development" *Foreign Policy* July/Aug 2007.
- 11/5 **Trade and the WTO**
Browse: WTO website.
Read:
- Ian Hurd, "The World Trade Organization" in *International Organizations* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011, 37-60.
- Bali fallout, WTO's future:
- "Bailing out from Bali" *Economist* 9 August 2014 at
<http://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21611088-indias-scuppering-latest-trade-talks-leaves-no-one-better-bailing-out?zid=301&ah=e8eb01e57f7c9b43a3c864613973b57f>
 - "No More Grand Bargains" *Economist* 9 August 2014 at:
<http://www.economist.com/node/21611064/>

- 11/10-12 **The Environment**
Browse: UNEP and Greenpeace websites
Read:
- Karns and Mingst chapter 11.
 - Frank Biermann, “The Case for a World Environment Organization” *Environment* 42,9 (Nov.2000): 22-31.
 - Adil Najam, “The Case Against a New International Environmental Organization.” *Global Governance* 9(2003):367-84.
- 11/17 **Research Paper writing clinic**
- 11/19 **Private firms as international authorities**
Read:
- Deborah Avant, "Private Security Companies" *New Political Economy*, v.10, no.1, March 2005, 121-131.
 - Dieter Kerwer, ‘Holding Global Regulators Accountable : The case of credit rating agencies.’ *Governance* 18,3 (2005).
- 11/24 – 12/1 **The European Union (2 sessions)**
Browse: EU website.
Read:
- Anthony Luzzatto Gardner and Stuart E Eizenstat, “New Treaty, New Influence” *Foreign Affairs* Mar/April 2010.
 - Glyn Morgan, *The Idea of a European Superstate*, 1-23
 - Henry Farrell and John Quiggin, “How to save the Euro—and the EU” *Foreign Affairs* May/June 2011.
 - “Why join the Euro these days? Here’s why Estonia did.” Planet Money podcast. Blackboard.
 - "Superhero Central Banks" Planet Money podcast Dec 6, 2011. Blackboard
 - Nicolas Berggruen and Nathan Gardels, "The Next Europe: Toward a Federal Union" *Foreign Affairs* July/Aug 2013
- 11/26 **THANKSGIVING. NO CLASS.**
- 12/1 **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
- 12/1 **The European Union (2nd session)**
Browse: EU website.
- Nicolas Berggruen and Nathan Gardels, "The Next Europe: Toward a Federal Union" *Foreign Affairs* July/Aug 2013
 - Glyn Morgan, *The Idea of a European Superstate*, 1-23
 - Henry Farrell and John Quiggin, “How to save the Euro—and the EU” *Foreign Affairs* May/June 2011.
 - “Why join the Euro these days? Here’s why Estonia did.” Planet Money podcast.

- "Superhero Central Banks" Planet Money podcast Dec 6, 2011.
- "Continental Breakup" This American Life podcast #455, Jan.20, 2012.

12/3

New forms of multilateralism for the 21st century
No reading.

SECOND TEST ON READINGS in our final exam slot