POSC 229-00:
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Syllabus

Monday and Wednesday: 11:10 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fall 2009: September 14 – November 18

Willis 203
Department of Political Science, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

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Course Goals

This course will introduce students to key concepts and theories of international institutions and their dynamics in international relations and world politics. International Institutions that encompass both international organizations and international rules-in-use and rules-on-paper play important roles in shaping dynamics of international relations and world politics. This course focuses on both international organizations (IOs) and international institutions that include formal treaties and informal rules, norms, and strategies of actors that shape world politics. We will study key theoretical concepts and analytical frameworks through case studies and the literature on international interstate organizations and non-state organizations.

This course will enable students: (1) to understand the existing logics, theories, concepts, and functions of international institutions; (2) to appraise the political and legal dimensions of international organizations and; (3) to think critically and theoretically about the dynamic roles of international institutions in world politics that impose consequences on countries and citizens of the world.

To achieve these goals, I have designed this course with two components. One component covers the functional dynamics of key international/intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and the International Non-Governmental Organizations. The other component covers theoretical underpinnings of both the institutional structures and organizational dynamics of the International Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations. We will study these two
components simultaneously in week-by-week topics structured under the following course outline and reading schedule.

Course Outline

Week 1: Ontological Foundations
Week 2: Epistemic Orientations
Week 3: Appraisal of International Institutions
Week 4: Regional Organizations
Week 5: Citizens and International Institutions
Week 6: Non-State Institutions in World Politics
Week 7: Appraisal of Non-State Groups
Week 8: Thinking Theoretically about the Dynamics of International Institutions
Week 9: Product of Your Wisdom
Week 10: Conclusion

Required Texts:


In addition to reading some chapters of these three texts, there will be e-reserve readings. I may also use visual materials such as movies and documentary videos that will serve as illustration to the theories, concepts, and puzzles we struggle with in this course.
Assignments, Expectations, and Grade

There are four components of course assignments. These four components will be used to evaluate your performance in this course. The percentage for each assignment for your final grade is in parentheses. The details of assignments are as follow:

(1) Participation (15%): Your participation in this class begins with reading the assigned materials before the class for which readings are assigned. Raising questions, reflecting on lectures and your colleagues’ discussion in class are all counted as participation. This course will be conducted mostly in interactive lecture style. There will also be group-led and group-based discussion sessions. What this means is that you will have many opportunities to participate during the lecture. To be an effective participant, you should pay attention to the current day world affairs and the role of international institutions. This requires you to read news in hard and soft media. For instance, Library of Congress link here [http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/io.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/io.html) and Emory University link here [http://www.sociology.emory.edu/globalization/ingo.html](http://www.sociology.emory.edu/globalization/ingo.html) are a few good links that will bring you to various international organizations and news sites. In addition, the New York Times, the Financial Times, BBC World Services, and the Wall Street Journal, and The Economist magazine are good sources for the world news. In readings these sources, pay attention to the materials related to the concepts and theories from the course readings. Bring news reports and cases from these sources to class discussion. In sum, to be a good standing citizen of this course, you are required to: (1) have good attendance; (2) read assigned materials before the class; (3) have timely notification and communication with me when you have to be absent or if you need to request extension for personal reasons; and (4) exercise self-respect and responsibility of a student for the success of learning mission of this course and the Carleton College as a whole; and (5) exercise your intellectual freedom in discussions and the assignments for the course.

(2) Your position essay OR state-your-case essay (15%): Each student is required to complete one critical thinking and analytical essay during the term. The aim of the essay is to give you the opportunity to take a position and state your case as concise as you can and to provide supporting evidences and reasoning to your position. For instance, if you are interested in human right issues, you may argue for the need to recognize human right as a universal right and propose how to operationalize it universally in real world politics. This essay can also be a position essay against an argument from the assigned readings. For instance, you may agree or disagree with the “false promise of international institutions” thesis put forth by John Mearsheimer. What I will be looking for in your essay is: (1) your concise and clear statement of position; (2) your use of qualitative and quantitative evidences supporting your position; (3) clarity and coherence of reasoning and your treatment of counter arguments; (4) your application of course readings and citation to appropriate sources; (5) control of errors and language; and (6) clear organization of your essay. These six components are parameters I use to grade your essay. Students will self-select the due date. I will have the signup sheet on September 18. You have to submit the paper to the entire class by sending to the listserv by 5:00p.m. on the day you sign up for your due date. I will use these position papers for class discussion as appropriate. Each citizen of this course is entitled to provide constructive comment and criticism. Your paper should be 5 to 6 double-spaced pages.
(3) A Research Paper (35%): Each student is required to write a research paper on a self-selected topic or a topic chosen from the suggested list. This research paper should be a case study research paper applying theories and concepts we learned from the readings and discussion in class. I will have a list of topics you can select from during the second week of the term. You are highly encouraged to select your own topic and case. There are four graded processes in writing this research paper. Students will write (1) a three-page statement of topic proposal; (2) the outline of the paper; (3) the final draft of paper; and (4) final polished version of the paper. The statement of topic proposal is due on September 29 (3% grade). The extensive outline of the paper is due on October 16 (5%). The first draft of paper is due on November 5 (optional). The final draft of the paper is due on November 10 (12%). I will provide further details about each process and expectation for each process in the guideline to be distributed on September 23 and during the individual meetings that you will sign up as we move forward with the project. The final polished version of the paper with the quality closest to the journal articles we read for this course is due on November 21 (15%). In the final polished version of the paper, the author of the paper must address the issues pointed out by the peer reviewer and my written comment on your final draft. The final paper should be no longer than 25 double-spaced pages and no shorter than 20 double spaced-pages including tables, charts, and references. I highly encourage you to discuss potential topics of interest with me before your topic proposal is due on September 29. This is a term research paper. This research paper cannot be written overnight. I assure you that you will not be left alone in the processes of completing this assignment.

(4) A Mini-Conference Presentation (15%) and Peer Review (15%): At the end of the term, beginning on November 11, we will hold the Mini-Conference for the course where each student will be assigned to present a colleague’s paper. The presentation should include both concise summary and the appraisal of the paper. Attendance during the Mini-Conference is mandatory. If you need to be absent, make sure you request at least two days in advance. Each student will have 15 minutes to present the entire research paper of a colleague and thus this requires your skill to present in the most succinct and effective way. Be creative with powerpoint slides and other visual aids. All presenters must submit PowerPoint slides or presentation notes to the Course Folder in the network drive before the presentation and to me. Each student will write 3 page review of paper to the author and send a copy to me. This review is due in the evening before the day you present your colleague’s paper. This review should address: (1) the validity and clarity of the main thesis of the paper based on the literature we read for the course; (2) the validity of research method applied; (3) the strength of the paper; (4) the weakness of paper; and (5) suggestion to the author to improve the paper for final version that is to be submitted on November 21.

NOTE: All written assignments should be double-spaced pages with 12 point Times New Roman font and with page numbers inserted on each page. With the exception of position essays, final papers have to be submitted to me in hard copy in addition to pdf files or read-only MS Word file. Send them to tmyint@carleton.edu . You will submit your position essay to posc229-00-f09@lists.carleton.edu
Schedule of Assignments and Due Dates

9/18  - Sign up due date for memo

9/23  - Distribute guideline for research paper

9/29  - Paper topic and research proposal due (graded)

10/7  - Distribute feedbacks on research proposals

10/8 and 10/13 – Individual meetings for research proposals

10/16  - Extensive outline of your research paper is due (graded)

10/23  - Distribute feedbacks on the outline of research papers

10/27 and 10/29 – Individual meeting for the outline and future steps

11/5  - The first draft of your term paper is due (optional)

11/10  - The Final draft of research paper is due (graded)

11/11  - Mini-Conference and Peer Review Process begin (graded)

11/13  - Mini-Conference Presentations continues (graded)

11/16  - Mini-Conference Presentations continues (graded)

11/18  - Mini-Conference ends and Conclusion of the Course (graded)

NOTE: Peer reviews of papers are due at 5:00p.m on the day before the paper is scheduled to be presented.

11/21  - The Final Term Papers are due at 5:00p.m.

No final exam for the course.

IMPORTANT: This is a provisional syllabus and subject to change depending on the ebb and flow of the course and surrounding world.

Course Conducts

a. Attendance: Attendance is required for this course. If you need to be absent, it is your responsibility to notify me in advance. When you are absent, it is in your benefit to borrow notes from your classmate or ask your classmates to learn what you missed. If you wish, I will be available during office hours or by appointment at your request to meet with you and go over what you missed while you were absent. More than three absences without any notification will be penalized in participation grade accordingly.
b. **Plagiarism**: There is **zero tolerance for plagiarism**. A summary of the College’s policy on plagiarism states: “At Carleton College, an act of academic dishonesty is therefore regarded as conflicting with the work and purpose of the entire College and not merely as a private matter between the student and an instructor; all cases involving such dishonesty are referred for appropriate action to the Academic Standing Committee (ASC) via the Associate Dean of Students or the Associate Dean of the College.” For more information on Carleton’s policy on academic honesty, please consult [http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/dos/handbook/academic_regs/?policy_id=21359](http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/dos/handbook/academic_regs/?policy_id=21359)

c. **Late assignments**: Assignments are due on the dates specified in this syllabus or in the assignment sheet. Late work **will receive half point reduction per late day**. If you are unable to complete an assignment on time due to illness or personal emergency, you can request an extension with the supporting documents such as a medical note from a doctor or the Wellness Center.

d. **Special needs**: If you require special accommodation due to a documented physical or medically classified different learning strategy, please come see me during the first week of class or any time throughout the semester to discuss how I might best assist you in meeting the objectives and requirements of this course.

**IMPORTANT**: The key for you to be successful as a student and for me as a teacher in this course is timely and effective communication between you and me. In addition, Carleton has numerous resources to help you excel in learning. If you do not know them, do not be shy to ask. Make good use of resources on campus! I encourage you to use the Write Place even if you consider yourself the best writer in the world.

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**Schedule of the Course and Readings**

**WEEK 1: ONTOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS**

*Essential Readings:*

*September 14: Introduction to the Course*

This syllabus

*September 16: The Logic and Demand for International Institutions*


Chapter 1: A Theory of Groups and Organizations, pp. 5-52.
September 18:  Dynamic of International Political Orders


   Chapter 1: International Law and World Politics Entwined, p. 1-17.

WEEK 2: EPISTEMIC ORIENTATIONS

Essential Readings:

September 21: International Institutions in World Politics


September 23: International Organizations in World Politics


   Chapter 2: A Brief History of International Organization, pp. 31-58.

   Chapter 3: Intergovernmental Organizations in International Law, pp. 35-65.

September 25: International Law in World Politics


Chapter 5: The Logical Structure of International Law, pp. 87-110.

**WEEK 3: APPRAISAL OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

*Essential Readings:*

**September 28:**  **The United Nations**


**September 30:**  **The World Bank and International Monetary Fund**

Chapter 5: International Monetary Fund, pp. 101-113.


**October 2:**  **The World Bank and IMF Continues. . .**


WEEK 4: WTO & REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Essential Readings:

October 5: The World Trade Organization
Chapter 6: The World Trade Organization, pp. 115-130.


October 7: Regional Organizations and Regional Integration

Chapter 7: The European Union, pp. 131-145.


October 9: The Research Section at the Gould Library
Danya Leebaw, the Social Science Librarian at the Gould Library, will lead this section. This section is designed to help you identify necessary steps for research in executing your research proposal and to help advance your proposal to the paper outline and draft stages. As such, it is highly recommended you send your research proposal to Danya Leebaw at dleeaw@carleton.edu when you submit the research proposal to me on September 29. Having your research proposal and preliminary research needed for writing your proposal should prepare you for this section.

WEEK 5: CITIZENS AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Essential Readings:

October 12: Democracy Deficit


**October 14:** Nested Institutions and Diversity of Citizenship in World Politics


**October 16:** Globalization and International Institutions


**OCTOBER 17-19:** MID-TERM BREAK

**WEEK 6:** NON-STATE INSTITUTIONS IN WORLD POLITICS

*Essential Readings:*

**October 21:** Transformation of Authority and Legitimacy


The case of Nam Theun 2 Power Company: read company profile at [www.namtheun2.com](http://www.namtheun2.com) and handout sheet on Concession Agreement and the World Bank Decision Framework.
**October 23:** Private Sector International Regimes


**WEEK 7: APPRAISAL OF NON-STATE GROUPS**

**Essential Readings:**

**October 26:** Non-State Actors as Diffusion of International Institutions

The Case of EarthRights International’s human and environmental rights project in Burma. Read the following two items on the web at: [http://www.earthrights.org/site_blurbs/roe_v._unocal_case_history.html](http://www.earthrights.org/site_blurbs/roe_v._unocal_case_history.html)

*Doe v. Unocal* case history

Decision on *John Doe et al v. Unocal Corporation et al*


Chapter 4: Nonstate Actors in International Law, p. 73-82

**October 28:** Non-State Actors and International Law


The case of Nam Theun 2 Power Company’s Concession Agreement. Read the handout copy of the Concession Agreement between the Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao P.D.R.) and the Nam Theun 2 Power Company [www.namtheun2.com](http://www.namtheun2.com), October 3, 2002.


Chapter 13: The Future Role of International Law in World Politics
October 30:   Interpreting Consequences


WEEK 8: THINKING THEORETICALLY

Essential Readings:

November 2:   Unraveling the Puzzle

  Chapter V: Orthodox Theories of Pressure Groups, pp. 110-131
  Chapter VI: The “By-Product” and “Special Interest” Theories, pp.132-167

November 4:   Systemic Thinking about Non-State Groups’ Impact


November 6:   Systemic Theory of Inter-State International Politics


WEEK 9: PRODUCT OF YOUR WISDOM

Essential Readings:

November 9:   The Future of International Institutions


November 11:   Mini-Conference Presentations

November 13:   Mini-Conference Presentations
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