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.

Spring 2008: March 31 – June 4

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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 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 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 be able 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 Integrations  
Week 5: Citizens and International Institutions  
Week 6: Non-State Actors  
Week 7: Appraisal of Non-State Actors  
Week 8: The Future of International Institutions  
Week 9: Your Wisdom  
Week 10: Conclusion

**Required Texts:**


In addition to reading some chapters of these two 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 five components of course assignments. These five 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. For group-led discussion sessions, I will assign a group of students to prepare a list of questions and ideas that are related to the readings and case study prior to the class discussion session. This assigned group is responsible for leading discussion with puzzles and questions. For group-based discussion sessions, I will assign problems related to the readings to each group during the class. After discussion within each group in class, groups will be responsible for reporting to the entire class and generating discussion. To be an effective participant, you should pay attention to 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 and Emory University link here 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 Journals are a few good sources for the world news.

(2) One critical thinking memo (15%): Each student is required to complete one critical thinking and analytical memo during the term. **The due dates for these memos are to be self-selected on April 2** when I will have a sign-up sheet for you. The aim of these memos is to give you the opportunity to scrutinize readings and to connect theories and concepts from readings, lectures, and discussion of current world politics with regard to international institutions. **First**, it can be a thoughtful piece articulating on one idea you gained from the assigned readings. This one idea can be the one you raised in class as a part of the above “participation” component or another one you consider important. You desire to develop this idea further in written and organized format. The main goal of this format is to give you opportunity to reflect on the past readings preceding your memo for this class. **Second**, this memo can also be a critical review of readings that are assigned before the memo is due. For instance, if you select Sunday, April 20 as your due date for the memo, you may write a critical review of the readings assigned for April 21. These memos should be three to four double-spaced pages. It is the quality rather than quantity of words that will be counted toward your grade. The memo should be sent to the listserv of the class by 5:00p.m on your selected due date. The entire class is entitled to analyze, comment, and respond to your memos in a respectful manner in the listserv. I may also use your memos for illustrations and discussions in class.

(3) One take-home exam (20%): There will be one take-home assignment. You will be given two questions. You will choose one question out of the two. Your assignment is to respond to the selected question directly and answer the question. These questions are related to the course readings, lectures, and class discussion preceding this assignment. This exam tests your understanding of readings and your ability to apply readings to real world cases of international institutions. You may write your answers in between 5 and 7 double-spaced pages. You are not allowed to discuss your selected question or answer with your classmates. You may consult reading materials and your class notes. While you consider readings, lectures, class discussion, and your notes as appropriate bases for your answer, what I am looking for is your own ingenuity in answering the question. This is an honor system. I expect you to be a conscientious citizen and honor this rule. You will have five days in total to answer the selected question beginning from the end of class in which the
questions are distributed. If you desire, you may turn in your answer anytime within five days from the time you receive the question. The assignment will be distributed on April 25 and the answer is due on April 30.

(4) **One Research Paper (35%)**: Each student is required to write a research paper on a self-selected topic or a topic chosen from 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. 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 draft of paper; and (4) final paper. The statement of topic proposal is due on April 18 (5% of final class grade). The outline of paper is due on May 7 (5%). The first draft of paper is due on May 19 (10%). The final paper is due on May 26 (15%). I will provide further details about each process and expectation for each process in a guideline to be distributed on April 7.

(5) **A Mini-Conference Presentation (15%)**: At the end of the term, beginning on May 28, we will hold Mini-Conference where each student will be assigned to present a colleague’s paper during the class time. 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 10 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 presentation class.

**NOTE:** All written assignments should be double-spaced pages with 12 point Times New Roman font and with page numbers. With the exception of critical thinking memos, your take home assignments and final group papers have to be submitted to me in hard copy in addition to pdf files. Send them to tmyint@carleton.edu

**Schedule of Assignments and Due Dates**

4/2 - Sign up due dates for memo
4/7 - Distribute guideline for research paper
4/21 - Paper topic and research proposal due (graded)
4/23 - Distribute take-home assignment (graded)
4/28 - Distribute feedback on research proposals
5/7 - The outline of research paper is due (graded)
5/14 - Distribute feedback on the outline of research proposal (graded)
5/19 - The final draft of research paper is due (graded)
5/28 - Final paper is due and Mini-Conference begins (graded)
5/30 - Mini-Conference Presentations continues (graded)
6/2 - Mini-Conference Presentations continues (graded)
6/4 - Mini-Conference ends and Conclusion of the Course (graded)

No final exam for the course.

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

Course Conducts

a. Attendance: Attendance is required for this course. If you need to be absent from the class, 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.

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

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. 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 as the best writer in the world. **One exception for this course is that you are not allowed to use the Write Place for your take-home exam.**

**Schedule of the Course and Readings**

**WEEK 1: ONTOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS**

*Essential Readings:*

**March 31:**  Introduction to the Course

This syllabus

**April 2:**  The Logic and Demand for International Institutions


Chapter 1: A Theory of Groups and Organizations, pp. 5-52.

[Select due date for memo]

**April 4:**  Dynamic of International Political Orders


**WEEK 2: EPISTEMIC ORIENTATIONS**

*Essential Readings:*

**April 7:**  International Institutions in World Politics


**[distribute guideline for research paper]**

**April 9:**  
**International Organizations in World Politics**


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

**April 11:**  
**International Law in World Politics**


**WEEK 3: APPRAISAL OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

**Essential Readings:**

**April 14:**  
**The United Nations**


Zweifel:  

April 16: The World Bank and International Monetary Fund

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


April 18: The World Bank and IMF Continues...


WEEK 4: WTO & REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Essential Readings:

April 21: The World Trade Organization


April 23: The European Union

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


[distribute take-home exam]
April 25:  The Research Section at the Gould Library

Kristin Partlo, the Social Science Librarian at the Gould Library, will lead this section. This section is designed to help you identify necessary steps in executing your research proposal and to help advance your proposal to paper outline and draft. As such, it is highly recommended you send your research proposal to Kristin Partlo at kpartlo@carleton.edu when you submit the proposal to me on April 23.

WEEK 5:  CITIZENS AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Essential Readings:

April 28:  Democracy Deficit


[Distribute feedback on research proposal]

April 30:  Nested Institutions and Diversity of Citizenship


May 2:  Globalization and International Institutions


May 3-5:  MID-TERM BREAK
WEEK 6: NON-STATE INSTITUTIONS IN WORLD POLITICS

Essential Readings:

May 7: Transformation of Authority and Legitimacy


The case of Nam Theun 2 Power Company: read company profile at www.namtheun2.com and handout sheet on Concession Agreement and the World Bank Decision Framework.

May 9: Private Sector International Regimes


The case of International Standard Organization, read “About ISA” on the web at www.iso.org

WEEK 7: APPRAISAL OF NON-STATE GROUPS

Essential Readings:

May 12: 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/doe_v._unocal_case_history.html

Doe v. Unocal case history

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

May 14: 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, October 3, 2002.

May 16: Interpreting Consequences

WEEK 8: THINKING THEORETICALLY

Essential Readings:

May 19: 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

May 21: Systemic Thinking about Non-State Groups’ Impact

May 23: Systemic Theory of Inter-State International Politics
WEEK 9: PRODUCT OF YOUR WISDOM

Essential Readings:

May 26: The Future of International Institutions

May 28: Mini-Conference Presentations

May 30: Mini-Conference
Group presentations

WEEK 10: FINAL

June 2: Mini-Conference
Group presentations

June 4: Mini-Conference

[Group term paper is due]