

POSC 339: International Organizations

Carleton College- Fall Term 2006

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:15-4:15 pm; Wednesday 3:00-4:00 pm and by appointment

Course Description

This course focuses on international organizations (IOs) and their role in international relations and global governance. It covers both intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). We will read theoretical literature on IOs as well as case studies of specific organizations and specific issue areas (e.g. human rights; international development) in which IOs are active. Special attention will be given to the UN system. Other international organizations covered include The Bretton Woods institutions and the International Criminal Court.

Course Policies and Expectations

The course will combine reading assignments, writing assignments, and a requirement to attend class and participate regularly. The purpose of including different types of assignments/requirements is to accommodate different learning styles.

It is essential that you complete all of the assigned readings. You may find some of the assigned readings quite challenging. I will go over these readings in class and help you grasp them. Please do not hesitate to ask questions about any materials you have difficulties with.

The success of the class and your learning will to a large extent depend on your careful reading of all assigned materials and literature prior to our class meetings and on your eagerness to participate in class discussions.

Since class participation will be a very important component of the class, it is essential that all class discussions, debates and other activities take place in a very respectful and civil manner. We will be discussing very controversial and contentious issues throughout the term and there will inevitably be disagreements. For this reason it is important to maintain a civil classroom environment that is conducive to fruitful debates. Incivility in the classroom will not be tolerated. It is also essential that all readings be completed prior to the class meetings in which they will be discussed.

Late assignments will be penalized. You will lose half a letter grade for each day your assignment is late up to a maximum of two letter grades, which means that it is ALWAYS worth it to submit a late paper. The only time when late assignments will be

accepted without penalty is in the case of illness; in that case you will need to provide a note from your doctor.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

While incorporating the thoughts of others into your work is expected, you must be sure to give credit where it is due. Any quotations must be clearly marked and correctly cited, and ideas, information or concepts you have gotten from the work of others must also be cited. If you are unsure how to properly cite sources in your work see me, and I will be glad to help you. Presenting the work of others as your own (without citation) is plagiarism – that is, cheating, and will result in a failing grade for the course.

Accommodation of Special Needs:

If you have a documented physical or learning disability that will affect your ability to complete the assignments in this class in a timely manner, I will make accommodations for you. If you need extra time or assistance in completing assignments, you must tell me during the first week of class.

Assignments and Grades

The final grade in this class will be based on four types of assignments/requirements. 25% of the final grade will be based on a class presentation and a written report on the topic of the presentation. You will also be asked to write a critical review once during the term (20% of the final grade) and a 20-25 page research paper (35% of the final grade). Finally, 20% of the final grade will be based on class participation.

Here is again a list of the requirements and percentages of the final grade:

Class Participation	200 points (20% of final grade)
Critical Review	200 points (20% of final grade)
Presentation and report	250 points (25% of final grade)
Final Paper	350 points (35% of final grade)

Total 1000 points

Here is a description of each of these requirements:

Participation

This is a discussion-based seminar that requires your active participation in class discussions. It is essential that you complete all readings prior to coming to class. 20% of the final grade will be based on participation. This portion of the grade is not intended to be simply an attendance grade; rather, it will be based on the performance of students in class discussions and the quality of their contribution to the discussions.

Several times during the term, I will be asking you to bring news stories to class and to present them and comment on their relevance to the issues we will be discussing during the term (see schedule below). This will help us get a sense of the wide range of issues that pertain to the topic of the course and will introduce us to some of the many “real

world” examples that illustrate the concepts and arguments we will discuss in class. Part of your participation grade will be based on your presentation of the news stories to the class.

Critical Review

Critical reviews are designed to provide overviews on the assigned literature and to raise some questions for discussion. Each student will be responsible for writing one 3-4 page review during the term and will briefly present it in class in order to initiate discussion. The quality of the discussions will depend in part on the quality of these reviews, and I expect you to devote time and attention to them and to e-mail them to me at least 24 hours prior to the class meeting in which they are due.

As far as the content of the reviews is concerned, the reviews should cover four areas:

1. The first part of the review should be a summary of the main ideas, concepts and arguments presented in the assigned readings. You need not and should not summarize each single piece of literature assigned; you should try and provide a general summary of all assigned materials focusing on their common themes. This part of the review should be not longer than 1 page.
2. The second part of the review should place the readings in a broader context and establish the connection between the topics that they focus on and the general topic of the class or other issues we have discussed. Some of the questions you could address include: What new perspectives and insights are presented in the readings? What are the main important points raised in the readings? How do the readings help us better understand and explain the role of international organizations?
3. The third part of the review should be concerned with generating discussion questions. In this part you should present some important questions that the assigned readings raised for you and that you would like to discuss in class. You could also generate a controversial statement based on the readings that the class can debate.

Presentation and Report

Several class presentations on selected topics are scheduled for some of our class meetings. These presentations serve as case studies that illustrate the topics and issues we discuss in class. I will ask each of you to sign up for a presentation at the beginning of the second class meeting of the term. Each presentation will be prepared and given by one or two students. These presentations should not be longer than 15-20 minutes and are to be based on a 6-8 page written report (10-12 pages if written by two people). Please turn in a copy of the report the day that you are giving your presentation. I ask that you drop by and talk with me about your presentation/report at least two weeks beforehand. I will help you find good sources and get started. The grade will be based on the written report and the oral presentation.

Paper

A research paper of about 20-25 pages is a central requirement of this seminar. You can write your paper on any topic related to the general topic of the course. While the exact structure of the papers will vary depending on the paper topic, all papers should include the following:

1. An introduction that presents the research question or problem briefly and explains its importance and significance.
2. A literature review that grounds the research question/problem in the theoretical and empirical literature and develops a thesis to be explored in the analysis. You must incorporate articles from peer-reviewed political science and international relations journals into your review.
3. An analysis of the research question that is structured around the thesis developed in the literature review. This part should be the bulk of your paper.
4. A conclusion that ties together the different parts of the paper and summarizes the main points.

I will be available to talk with you individually about your papers during the term. I encourage you to discuss with me any issues related to any aspect of your paper, so please do not hesitate to drop by and talk about the paper. I also encourage you to use the services and resources offered at the Writing Center. To help you stay on track and to make sure that you will be getting feedback at the different stages of writing the paper, I ask that you do the following:

* Please submit a one-page description of your paper topic by Thursday, September 28th. If you have problems choosing a topic and/or framing and narrowing the scope of the paper, feel free to drop by in the first or second week of the term. I'm more than happy to talk with you about any ideas you may have and to brainstorm with you.

* Please submit a preliminary bibliography of scholarly publications related to your paper topic by Thursday, October, 5th.

* Please submit an outline of your paper by Thursday, October 19th.

The paper is due on Tuesday, November 14th. Please bring a hard copy of your paper to class on November 14th.

Readings

We will use two books in this class.

Paul Diehl (ed.), *The Politics of Global Governance. International Organizations in an Interdependent World*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2005

Thomas Weiss, David Forsythe and Roger Coate, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*. Westview, 2004

Many of the assigned readings are in these two books. The other reading materials will be available on e-reserve.

Week 1

Tuesday, September 12th: Introduction to the course

Discussion of the syllabus and the course content and requirements

Presentation by Kristin Partlo, Reference and Instruction Librarian (library, room 306)

Thursday, September 14th: IGOs: Theoretical Approaches

Chapter 1 and chapter 2 in *The Politics of Global Governance*

Week 2

Tuesday, September 19th: IGOs: Theoretical Approaches

Chapter 3 in *The Politics of Global Governance*

Stephen M. Walt, International Relations: One World, Many Theories, in: *Foreign Policy*, Spring 98, Issue 110

Thursday, September 21st: IGOs: Peace and Collective Security

Chapter 2 and chapter 3 in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*

Week 3

Tuesday, September 26th: IGOs: Peace and Collective Security

Chapter 8, chapter 9 in *The Politics of Global Governance*

Thursday, September 28th: IGOs: Peace and Collective Security

Chapter 10 in *The Politics of Global Governance*

Chapter 4 in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*

Presentation: Current or recent UN operation

Week 4

Tuesday, October 3rd: IGOs: Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

Chapter 5, chapter 6 and chapter 7 in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*

Please bring a news story to class today!

Thursday, October 5th: IGOs: Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs
- Spyros Economides, The International Criminal Court: Reforming the Politics of International Justice, in: *Government and Opposition* 38/1, 2003, pp. 29-51

Thomas Smith, Moral Hazard and Humanitarian Law: The International Criminal Court and the Limits of Legalism, in: *International Politics* 39, 2002, pp. 175-192

Presentation: The ICC and Uganda

Week 5

Tuesday, October 10th: IGOs: The Global Economy/Development
Chapter 11 and chapter 12 in *The Politics of Global Governance*

Issue 17: Do International Financial Organizations Require Radical Reform?, in: John Rourke, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics*. McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2004, pp. 274-287

Presentation: The Bretton Woods institutions

Thursday, October 12th: IGOs: the Global Economy/Development
Chapter 13 and chapter 14 in *The Politics of Global Governance*

Please bring a news story to class today!

Week 6

Tuesday, October 17th: Regional Organizations

Presentation: NAFTA (or other regional organization)

Presentation: African Union (or other regional organization)

Thursday, October 19th: IGOs: Sustainability and Sustainable Development

Chapter 8 and chapter 9 in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*

Week 7

Tuesday, October 24th: IGOs: Sustainability and Sustainable Development
Chapter 10 in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*

Chapter 16 in *The Politics of Global Governance*

Please bring a news story to class today!

Thursday, October 26th: IGOs: Reform
Conclusion in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*

Chapter 18 and chapter 19 in *The Politics of Global Governance*

Week 8

Tuesday, October 31st: NGOs: Introduction and Theoretical Approaches
- *The Economist*, Sins of the Secular Missionaries. January 29th, 2000

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders. Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1998, Chapter 1

Jessica T. Matthews, Power Shift, in: *Foreign Affairs* 76/1, 1997, pp. 50-66

P. J. Simmons, Learning to Live with NGOs, in: *Foreign Policy*, Fall 1998, Issue 112, pp. 82-96

Thursday, November 2nd: NGOs: Sustainability and Sustainable Development
Chris Wille, Certification: A Catalyst for Partnerships, in: *Human Ecology Review* 11/3, 2004, pp. 288-291

Deanna Newsom and Daphne Hewitt, The Global Impacts of SmartWood Certification. Rainforest Alliance, 2005, available at http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/forestry/documents/sw_impacts.pdf

Week 9

Tuesday, November 7th: NGOs: Development
Kamal Malhotra, NGOs Without Aid: Beyond the Global Soup Kitchen, in: *Third World Quarterly* 21/4, 2000, pp. 655– 668, 2000

Alan Fowler, NGDOs as a Moment in History: Beyond Aid to Social Entrepreneurship or Civic Innovation?, in: *Third World Quarterly* 21/4, 2000, pp. 637-654

Please bring a news story to class today!

Thursday, November 9th: NGOs: Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs
Chapter 15 in *The Politics of Global Governance*

Laurie Weiseberg, Human Rights and Nongovernmental Organizations, reprinted in: Richard Pierre Claude and Burns H. Weston, *Human Rights in the World Community. Issues and Action*. University of Pennsylvania Press: 1992, pp. 372-383

Week 10

Tuesday, November 14th:
Conclusions: What have we learned?