

## **Poli 252: International Organizations and Global Issues**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 Alumni Rm 207

**Fall 2017**

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10.00-1.00 or by appointment

**Office Hours Location:** Fedex Global Education Center - EspressoOasis

### **Course Description**

Why do states create and join international organizations (IOs)? What role do they play in solving global problems? How can international organizations affect state behavior? The goal of this course is to help students develop a theoretical as well as practical understanding of international organizations and the global problems that they attempt to address. Particular emphasis will be placed on students' ability to think critically, both about the nature of problems that states face as well as development of global governance mechanisms. We will begin the course by addressing some overarching theoretical issues to have a core set of analytical tools we can apply to specific international organizations. We will cover general purpose organizations, like the United Nations, as well as those with more specialized functions, like NATO, the WTO, the IMF and the ICC. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to articulate the leading explanations within political science for why IOs exist, why they are thought to help solve global problems, the major challenges they face in meeting their objectives, and to assess the effectiveness of specific IOs.

### **Course Materials**

There are no required books for the course. All readings are available electronically on Sakai.

### **Course Requirements**

Course grades are based upon in-class examinations, class participation and attendance, written assignments and presentations.

**Grading Scale:** The following 10-point grading scale is used for this course:

93 and above: A	90-92: A-	87-89: B+	83-86: B
80-82: B-	77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-
67-69: D+	64-66: D	61-63: D-	60 and below: F

**Exams: (%20 x 2 = %40)**

There will be one midterm (**October 5**) and one final exam (**December 12**). Each exam is worth %20 of your final grade. Exams will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice, identifications, and essay questions taken from the lectures, readings, and class discussions. The format and content of each exam will be discussed in more detail closer to the exam dates.

*Policy on Unexcused Exams:* You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented emergency. If you have other unexpected emergency situations that force you to miss a scheduled exam, please contact me.

**Response Paper: (%10)**

You are required to write a response paper by October 3. You may write your paper for any class you like and response papers are due to the beginning of the class and must be submitted in hard copy. You are not allowed to submit a response paper for a past class. Response papers must be around 1000 words. You should include a very concise summary of the research question the author(s) ask, the theory posited to answer the question and the causal mechanisms identified. Importantly, students will be asked to engage with the reading, offering a meaningful critique of the work on its merits and flaws. This is not an assignment to summarize the readings. This is an assignment about YOUR argument and analysis. You are not required to do additional research, but you may. Additional advice on writing a good response paper is uploaded on Sakai.

Late papers will not be accepted. Grading will be based on the clarity of the position taken, concise writing and well-reasoned support of the argument.

Writing is one of the most important skills one can learn in college. If you are struggling with writing, please come to office hours to discuss strategies to improve your writing. I will NOT read paper drafts prior to the due date, but I am happy to discuss outlines, paper arguments, and writing strategies at any time. For additional writing resources, do not hesitate to take advantage of **UNC's Writing Center**.

**Op-ed Assignment: (%15)**

Students are required to write a 1500 words op-ed on a global issue and an international organization designed to address this particular issue. The assignment must be turned in at the beginning of the class on **December 5**.

Your paper should highlight the importance of the issue in need of attention in regards to global governance and explain why a solution or an improvement of the issue at hand require global cooperation. You should also do research on an international organization mandated to solve the global issue and the mechanisms through which the IO has tried to address the issue. You should identify the major stumbling blocks that the IO and relevant actors have faced in the past that has kept the issue unresolved and make an argument about why the international organization is achieving or not achieving its goal(s) in tackling with

the issue. You should conclude the paper by identifying the mechanisms through which the effectiveness of the IO can be improved to fulfill its mandate.

You are supposed to submit a proposal to me concerning the global issue you choose and the particular international organization mandated to tackle the issue. The proposal is supposed to be a page long (double-spaced) and due **October 17**. This an ungraded component of the assignment and an opportunity to get some feedback from me at an earlier stage; however, failure to turn it in will result in a 5 point deduction from your assignment grade. I will provide more information about the Op-Ed Assignment in September.

### **United Nations Security Council Simulation: (%15)**

As a part of a two-day simulation activity, you will act as a part of a delegation consisting of two people representing an individual country in the United Nations Security Council during a simulated political crisis. On Day 1 of the simulation (**November 14**), each delegation will give a 2-3 minutes policy speech. After the speeches, the floor will be open for two questions, or for/against response speeches. In addition, each delegation will submit a 500 word “policy memo” explaining their respective countries’ position regarding the given issue area. A hard copy should be submitted to me on November 14 at the beginning of the class.

Day 2 of the debate (**November 16**) will be reserved for informal caucusing and the writing of the resolutions with your allies and blocs. Each resolution will be voted by the council following the rules of the UNSC.

I will provide the details on the simulated political crisis, the group-country assignments and the policy memo early in the semester. Moreover, I will go over how the UNSC functions and how the debates are conducted at the Council on November 9. There will be no-make up for this activity. If you will not be able to attend class meetings on December 14 and December 16, you should consider dropping the course before it is too late.

### **Participation: (%20)**

I will determine your participation grade based upon your attendance, active participation, and performance in quizzes.

*Attendance:* I will collect attendance every class. Attendance to class is required, as it is important in terms of your ability to master course material and benefits the quality of class discussion. I understand that from time to time situations arise and you may miss a class. You may miss two classes without penalty; I do not need to know the reason or see any documentation. However, you will be penalized for any unexcused absences beyond the two.

*Participation:* Perfect attendance does not mean a perfect participation grade - you must be actively engaged in class to score well in this area. Class time will be divided between lecture and in-class discussions or activities. Discussion is a central part of this class and each student is expected to do the readings prior to the class and come to each class ready

to ask questions and discuss key points of the assigned readings. Participation points are assigned based upon the quantity and quality of a student's contributions to the class.

I understand that not everyone is willing or feels comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions with a large group of people. However, I hope that in the first few weeks we can foster a community where everyone feels that their opinions are valid and valued.

*Pop-up Quizzes:* You should do the readings in preparation for (i.e. before) the day it is assigned since we will discuss the reading on its assigned day. In order to ensure that everyone is doing the readings, I will give 12 unannounced pop-up quizzes throughout the semester and use the highest 10 scores to calculate your overall quiz grade. The quizzes will account for 5 points of your overall participation grade.

### **Important Dates**

- Response Paper: **Submit by October 3**
- Midterm: **October 5**
- Op-Ed Assignment - Proposal: **October 17**
- UN Simulation - Policy Memo: **November 14**
- UN Simulation - Presentation and Caucusing: **November 14 and 16**
- Op-Ed Assignment: **December 5**
- Final: **December 12 (8 am)**

## **Additional Expectations**

### **Technology**

The use of laptops/tablets/phones are not allowed during lectures. Besides being distracting, existing research proves that taking notes by hand improves learning outcomes. I will let you know when a specific group discussion/class activity requires you to use your laptops.

### **E-mail Policy**

While I am always happy to communicate via e-mail for quick clarification questions, e-mails are not the best way to discuss substantive questions concerning course material. I encourage you to come to office hours if you would like me to clarify concepts or discuss issues in depth. I will not discuss grades through e-mail.

### **Honor Code**

The Honor Code is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://instrument.unc.edu>. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask me about the Code's application. All exams, written work,

and other projects must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work. To familiarize yourself with the concept of plagiarism, you may want to take the library tutorial: <http://www2.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagiarism/>.

## Course Schedule

Students are expected to complete the readings prior to the course meeting on the listed date. All readings are available electronically on the Sakai course page.

- August 22 (Tues): Course Introduction
  - Review Syllabus
- August 24 (Thurs): An Increasing Need for Global Governance
  - Karns, Margaret and Karen A. Mingst. “Chapter 1: The Challenges of Global Governance”
  - Keohane, Robert. 1998. International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work? *Foreign Policy* 110: 82-96.
- August 29 (Tues): Alternative Perspectives on International Organizations
  - Mearsheimer, John. 1994. The False Promise of International Institutions. *International Security* 19(3): 5-37.
  - Keohane, Robert and Lisa Martin. 1995. The Promise of Institutional Theory *International Security* 20(1): 39-51.
- August 31 (Thurs): No Class: American Political Science Association Conference
- September 5 (Tues): Sovereignty and International Organizations: Why Do Countries Act Through IOs?
  - Abbott, Kenneth W. and Duncan Snidal “Why States Act through Formal International Organizations” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(1):3-32
- September 7 (Thurs): Designing IOs
  - Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson and Duncan Snidal. 2001. The Rational Design of International Institutions. *International Organization* 55(4): 761-799
- September 12 (Tues): International Organizations as Information Providers
  - Lebovic, J. and E. Voeten. 2009. The Cost of Shame: International Organizations and Foreign Aid in the Punishing of Human Rights Violators. *Journal of Peace Research* 46(1):75-97. *skip 86-93*

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- Thompson, Alexander. 2006. “Coercion Through IOs: The Security Council and the Logic of Information Transmission.” *International Organization* pp.1-34. *skip 14-26*.
  - September 14 (Thurs): Compliance
    - Beth, Simmons. 1998. Compliance with International Agreements. *Annual Review of Political Science*. 1(1): 75-93.
    - Stein, Jana Von. 2005. Do Treaties Constraint or Screen? Selection Bias and Treaty Compliance. *American Political Science Review*. 99(4): 611-621. *skip 616-620*
  - September 19 (Tues): Enforcement Mechanisms: The World Trade Organization
    - Iida, Keisuke. 2004. “Is WTO Dispute Settlement Effective?” *Global Governance*. 10(2):207-225.
    - Meltzer, Joshua. “The Future of Trade” *Foreign Policy* April 18,2011.
  - September 21 (Thurs): International Organizations and Peace
    - Boehmer, Charles, Eric Gartzke and Timothy Nordstrom. 2004. Do Intergovernmental Organizations Promote Peace. *World Politics*. 57:1-38. *skip pp: 17-28 and 30-38*
    - Pevehouse, Jon and Bruce Russett. 2006. Democratic International Governmental Organizations Promote Peace. *International Organization* 60: 969-1000. *skip 980-993*
  - September 26 (Tues): Regional Organizations: the European Union
    - Harding, Gareth. “The Myth of Europe.” *Foreign Policy* January 3, 2012.
    - Lehne, Stefan. “How the Refugee Crisis Will Reshape the EU.” *Carnegie Europe* February 4,2016.
  - September 28 (Thurs): Regional Organizations: NATO
    - Wallander, Celeste A. 2000. “Institutional Assets and Adaptability: NATO After the Cold War”. *International Organization* 54(4): 705-735.
  - October 3 (Tues): Regional Organizations and Democratization
    - Rodrik, Dani. 2001. Why NATO Enlargement Does Not Spread Democracy. *International Security* 25:41-67.
    - Vachudova, Milada. Democratization in Post-communist Europe: Illiberal Regimes and the Leverage of International Actors. *Center for European Studies Working Paper Series 139*.

**\*\*\* Have you submitted your Response Paper yet?**

● October 5 (Thurs): Midterm

● October 10 (Tues): The International Monetary Fund - Day 1

- Masters, Jonathan. 2013. “Backgrounder: The International Monetary Fund.” *Council of Foreign Relations* October 9, 2013.

In-class Film: *Life and Debt*

● October 12 (Thurs): No Class: University Day

● October 17 (Tues): The IMF - Day 2

- Oatley, Thomas. 2004. American Interests and IMF Lending. *International Politics* 41: 415-429. *skip 419-425*

**\*\*\* Op-Ed Proposal is due**

● October 19 (Thurs): No Class: Fall Break

● October 24 (Tues): International Organizations and Development

- Milner, Helen. 2005. “Globalization, Development, and International Institutions: Normative and Positive Perspectives.” *Perspectives on Politics* 3(4): 833-854.

● October 26 (Thurs): New International Organizations

- Subacchi, Paola. “The AIIB Is a Threat to Global Economic Governance.” *Foreign Policy*. March 31, 2015.
- Lipsky, Phillip. “Who’s Afraid of the AIIB: Why the United States Should Support China’s Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.” *Foreign Affairs*. May 7, 2015.

● October 31 (Tues): Environment

- Michonski, Katherine and Michael A. Levi. “Harnessing International Institutions to Address Climate Change.” *Council on Foreign Relations: International Institutions and Global Governance Program*. Working Paper-March 2010.
- Cassidy, John. “A Skeptical Note on the Paris Climate Deal.” *The New Yorker* December 14, 2015.

● November 2 (Thurs): No Class: Peace Science Conference

● November 7 (Tues): Human Rights

- Neumayer, Eric. 2005. “Do International Human Rights Treaties Improve Respect for Human Rights” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(6): 925-953. *skip 934-950*
- November 9 (Thurs): United Nations
  - Patrick, Stewart. “What’s Wrong with the United Nations.” *Foreign Affairs*. October 20, 2015.
  - Tharoor, Shashi. 2003. “Why America Still Needs the United Nations” *Foreign Affairs* 82(5) pp.67-80.
- November 14 (Tues): United Nations Security Council Simulation - Day 1

**\*\*\* Policy Memo is due**
- November 16 (Thurs): United Nations Security Council Simulation - Day 2
- November 21 (Tues): International Organizations and Humanitarian Intervention
  - Bradford, Colin I. and Johannes F. Linn. 2007. “Reform of Global Governance: Priorities for Actions. *The Brookings Institute Policy Brief #163*.
- November 23 (Thurs): No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 28 (Tues): Reforming International Organizations
  - Bradford, Colin I. and Johannes F. Linn. 2007. “Reform of Global Governance: Priorities for Actions. *The Brookings Institute Policy Brief #163*.
  - Weiss, Thomas G. 2003. The Illusion of UN Security Council Reform. *The Washington Quarterly* 26(4): 147-161.
  - Bershidsky, Leonid. 2015. “IMF Reform Is Too Little, Way Too Late” *Bloomberg - Opinion Column*
- November 30 (Thurs): Global Issues and Non-Governmental Organizations
  - Keck and Sikkink. 1998. “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: Introduction.” in *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. pp: 1-37
  - Raustiala, Kal, 1997. “States, NGOs and International Environmental Institutions.” *International Studies Quarterly*. 41: 719-740.
- December 5 (Tues): Moving Forward

**\*\*\* Op-Ed Assignment is due**
- December 12, Tuesday (8 am): Final Exam