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Course Description

In the absence of a “world government”, the international system is often characterized as anarchical. In modern times, however, states have created international organizations which contribute to the solution of problems with international reach, help to provide rules and structures to manage interstate relations, and serve as venues in which learning processes can occur. While some see international organizations as just another venue in which states pursue their national interests, others argue that the enormous rise in the number and reach of international organizations is proof that globalization and changing global power dynamics increasingly require cooperation and coordination that can only be achieved by international organizations.

This class will explore the history, causes and effects of selected formal international organizations (such as the United Nations and its various agencies), treaty organizations (like NATO), regional organizations (such as the European Union) as well as international non-governmental organizations (like Amnesty International). Students will learn how to use various international relations theories and concepts to make sense of the evolution, success and failure of global governance and international law in the issue areas of security, economics, human rights and environmental politics.

Readings

Required textbook available at the OSU Bookstore

Other required and recommended readings

All other readings are posted or linked to on the class site on Blackboard. The required readings are listed in the course outline at the end of this syllabus. It is important to have read the required readings before class to be able to participate in class discussions and to do well in the exercises (see below).

Additionally, you are encouraged to follow news coverage of current international events, which will also be important to complete the News Review (see below). The News Review Assignment Sheet on Blackboard provides a list of English-language quality news sources from around the world. The following websites offer comprehensive additional resources for interested students:
Assignments and Grading

In-Class Midterm (20%)

The 60-minute midterm exam will take place on Monday of Week 6 (2/13). It will be roughly equally divided into a multiple choice part and an essay part that tests your understanding of the material covered in the required readings AND in lecture. No open books or notes are allowed.

Tips regarding the multiple choice part: There’s always only ONE correct answer. If you have no clue, take a guess. Read carefully!

Tips regarding the essay part: Read extra carefully! Try to take every word of the question into account while writing your answer. Construct a logically coherent argument (e.g. define and describe a theoretical concept before you apply it to a case). Discuss counterarguments too. Provide examples. You are not graded on your opinions (even if asked to provide them), but on how well you use facts, theories and authors discussed in class to build your argument and form your conclusions.

PS 454 Students: In-Class Final (30%)

Similar in structure to the midterm, the final exam is longer (110 minutes). In both exams, you will be given a choice of essay topics. The final is cumulative (covering the entire term). The final exam will take place on Wednesday, 3/21, at noon.

PS 554 Students: Research Paper (30%)

Graduate students registered to PS 554 do NOT take the final exam. Instead, you have to submit a research paper of 16-20 pages length. The paper is due on Monday of Finals Week (3/19). You will also be required to summarize your paper’s findings in a 15-minute in-class presentation on Wednesday, 3/14. The available topics can be found on the Paper Assignment Sheet on Blackboard. You have to submit a 4-page paper draft per email to golyat@onid.orst.edu by Monday, 2/27, to which you will receive feedback.

Exercises (30%)

There will be five short exercises out of which your top three scores will count. At least two of these will be home work assignments. The in-class exercises will not be announced in advance. These exercises are meant to stimulate your learning beyond the memorization of the (sometimes dry) contents of the textbook, with the additional benefit of a relatively low pressure to score well (because the two lowest scores will be dropped).

News Review (20%)

You will be asked to summarize and analyze the current news coverage on a topic of your choice (but related to international organizations) and to relate it to the theoretical concepts discussed in class in the form of a posting on the discussion board on Blackboard. Your posting should be around 2-3 pages in length. The News Review Assignment Sheet on Blackboard provides details on the format and content of your posting. This assignment is due on Wednesday of Week 8 (2/29). You are encouraged (with bonus points) to respond to other students’ contributions on the Blackboard discussion board.
Grading
Even though more than 100 points are possible (due to bonus points), your minimum grade will be determined by treating the total number of points in this class as percentage points in the following way:

- A+ 98 or more points
- A  93.0-97.5 points
- A- 90.0-92.5 points
- B+ 87.0-89.5 points
- B  83.0-86.5 points
- B- 80.0-82.5 points
- C+ 77.0-79.5 points
- C  73.0-76.5 points
- C- 70.0-72.5 points
- D+ 67.0-69.5 points
- D  60.0-66.5 points
- F  59.5 or fewer points

If your final Blackboard score is close to a cutoff point between grades, you will be rewarded for regular contributions to class discussions with the higher grade.

Class Policies

Late Work / Make-Ups
There is no make-up and no graded late work for the exercises. In fact, the additional exercise scores that will get dropped can be seen as make-up opportunities. For late submissions of the news review or the research paper, 10% of the maximum possible score will be subtracted per late day. In medical or other emergency situations or time conflicts, you may petition the instructor to change the midterm or final exam time or date. However, you need to contact me about such issues as soon as you become aware of them and NOT after the exam. Student-athletes should contact me as early as possible (i.e., at the beginning of the term) regarding excused days of absence and with relevant contact information for proctoring exams on the road.

Incompletes
Incompletes will only be granted in exceptional emergency situations. In all other cases the grade will be based upon the work completed by the end of the class, which may result in a failing grade. The grade “I” for Incomplete will be assigned only after the instructor and the student have completed and signed a Contract for Grade of Incomplete, which will specify deadlines for the student to finish the missing assignments.

Academic Integrity and Civility
The Oregon State University Student Conduct Code will be enforced. You can read the code at: [http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/code/index.php](http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/code/index.php)

Behaviors disruptive to the learning environment will not be tolerated and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. The Conduct Code is also concerned with academic dishonesty, which it defines as an act of deception such as: cheating (use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids); fabrication (falsification or invention of any information); assisting (helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty); tampering (altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents); and plagiarism (representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own). If you are caught doing any of this you risk failing the class and being reported to university authorities. Whenever you’re in doubt about what constitutes cheating, contact me before problems arise.
Disabilities
Students with documented disabilities will be accommodated. Please contact Disability Access Services, A200 Kerr Administration Building (737-4098 or http://ds.oregonstate.edu/home/) and they will advise me as to how to meet your needs.

The #1 Class Policy
Have fun – with the assignments, the readings, and, hopefully, in class! I will attempt to leave considerable room for discussion time in class. As in other areas of life, you will get as much out of this class as you are willing to put into it.

Course Outline with Required Readings

K&M = Karns & Mingst
All other required readings and additional recommended readings available on Blackboard

1/9 Introduction (no readings)

1/11 A Brief History of Global Governance
   • K&M Chapters 1, 3

1/16 MLK Holiday (no class)

1/18 IR Theory and Global Governance I
   • K&M Chapter 2

1/23 IR Theory and Global Governance II

1/25 International Law: The Logic of Legalization and Delegation

1/30 States
   • K&M Chapter 7
2/1 Nonstate Actors
  • K&M Chapter 6

2/6 Regional Organizations
  • K&M Chapter 5

2/8 European Union

2/13 MIDTERM EXAM; United Nations I (no readings)

2/15 United Nations II
  • K&M Chapter 4

2/20 United Nations III

2/22 The Quest for Security I
  • K&M Chapter 8

2/27 The Quest for Security II; PS 554 Students: Paper Draft due

2/29 The Quest for Prosperity; News Review due
  • K&M Chapter 9

3/5 The Quest for Individual Liberty
  • K&M Chapter 10

3/7 The Quest for Environmental Protection
  • K&M Chapter 11
3/12  The Future of Global Governance
   - *K&M Chapter 12*

3/14  Review (*no readings*); **PS 554 Students: Paper Presentations**

3/19  **PS 554 Students: Research Paper due**

3/21  **FINAL EXAM (12:00-1:50)**