OVERVIEW

How to provide order in an anarchic international environment is one of the enduring questions of International Relations. The focus of this course will be to examine the logic and effectiveness of IOs in providing international security and order. The ideals and goals of international organizations seem to embody the best aspirations of humanity, yet many of the outcomes fall very short of those ideals. International organizations and the people who staff them feed starving people, protect refugees, and keep peace in many areas. They also take bribes, rape defenseless people, and on more than one occasion have stood aside while mass murder was perpetrated against people under their protection. Clearly understanding the logic and limits of IOs truly can be a matter of life or death.

Besides contributing to your substantive knowledge of the organizations and their actions, the overarching purpose of this course is to enable you to develop a more coherent worldview about international politics grounded in the use of reason, critical analysis, and evidence.

I also want to make clear what this class is not.

- It is not a course that will cover many of the thousands of IOs that exist nor will we be looking at many of the worthy activities in which they engage. Vaccinating children is wonderful and providing clean water is surely a good thing, but they are politically uncontroversial. The big issue we argue about is whether we trust IOs to order the world and play a major role in ensuring security. This will be the focus of this course.

- It is not an advocacy course. While what you learn here may be useful if your future involves working with IOs, our purpose here is not to sing the praises of IOs but to analyze them.

- It is not a course that will examine international legal cases nor will it go in great depth on the fine details of institutional structures and offices. The former is within the scope of international lawyers and the later can be learned by any intelligent layperson by picking up a basic text.

This course will ask WHY states create international institutions; HOW those institutions are supposed to provide order and security; and UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS they actually do or do not fulfill their promise.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: During the course you will...

- Explore the problem of cooperation in a condition of international anarchy and sovereign states, what role IOs play in a “global governance” approach to that challenge, and why this approach is controversial.

- Compare the varieties of international organizations throughout modern history, their connections with theories of international relations, their animating logic, their institutional design, and their empirical successes and failures.

- Grapple with the ethical issues at stake in humanitarian intervention

- Analyze the troubled relationship between democracy and international organizations.
LEARNING RESOURCES
There are no required books for this course. All readings can be found on the course Blackboard site or will be hyperlinked in the syllabus.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
(More detailed explanations of each assignment can be found on in the “Assignments” folder on Blackboard)

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<th>Assignment/Weight</th>
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| **Weekly Reading Summary/Journal** | After completing the readings each week you will submit a summary/journal responding to questions I provide. The lectures for the week will not unlock until you have submitted this assignment. This assignment ensures that you keep up with the significant reading load and critically engage it. It also will allow you to get much more out of the lectures, and improve your participation. See the “Guide to Reading Summaries” on Blackboard for more information.  
*Due dates: Every week prior to viewing the lectures.* |
| **Participation/Discussion Boards** | To make the course more interactive and to allow you to get to know your class members, you will engage in discussions of course material and ideas in the discussion boards on the Blackboard course site. You will be expected to initiate at least one major thread and respond to at least three other postings each week. Your primary post will be based upon questions I will provide. Your three additional posts will comment on other student’s primary posts and should be at least 200 words (this is not Twitter!) I expect that your posts will be thoughtful and engage important ideas. The purpose of the posts is not so much to express your opinion as it is to exercise and develop your ability to analyze. See the “Guide to Participation” on Blackboard for more details.  
*Due dates: Every week.*  
*Primary post by Friday at 11:59pm Pacific, and responses by Sunday at 11:59pm Pacific.* |
| **Weekly Quizzes** | After completing all of the other requirements for the week, you will take a short, online quiz cover that week’s material. The quizzes may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and fill-in questions. The quizzes will be timed and once you begin it you will NOT be able to pause and return to it. Please plan accordingly.  
*Due Date: Every week by 11:59 pm Pacific Time* |
| **Midterm Essay** | After completing Week 6, you will prepare a short essay that will ask you to analyze the effects of institutional design on the effectiveness of the three IOS we will have studied. See the “Guide to the Midterm Essay” on Blackboard for more information.  
*Due Date: see Blackboard for information at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.* |
| **Analysis Project** | You will select a case of peacekeeping or intervention by an international organization. This project will ask you to present your findings and analysis to several questions I will pose about the case. See the Guide to the Analysis Project” on Blackboard for more details.  
*Due Date: See Blackboard for information at 11:59 pm Pacific Time* |
| **Final Exam Essay:** | Your final exam will consist of essays that will ask you to draw upon insights from the course to answer compelling questions.  
*Due Date: See Blackboard for information at Noon Pacific Time* |

This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact:
Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu  
Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu  
Tel: 800-667-1465
General Grading Scale:

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ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

OSU COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES

PS 454 International Law and Organizations - 4 credits

Theories and historical development of international law and organizations; the United Nations system. Prerequisite: PS 204 or 205

COURSE DELIVERY

Blackboard

This course will be delivered via Blackboard, a course management software environment. Within the course Blackboard site you will access the syllabus, assignments, learning materials, discussion boards. You will also be submitting all your assignments and essays, and taking your exams on Blackboard. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo

Prior to Beginning the Course

- Ensure you have access to Blackboard and the files contained there.
- Thoroughly review the syllabus.
  - (if you ask me a question that is clearly answered on the syllabus, I will redirect you back to the syllabus)
- Familiarize yourself with the assignments.
- Order any required books.

Weekly Process

Each week of the course will consist of a regular cycle of activities:
1. Read the “Weekly Reading Guide.”
2. Read the assigned articles or chapters.
3. Read and listen to the lecture slides.
4. Reflect on what you have learned and participate in the discussion boards.
5. Take the weekly quiz.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty, defined as: An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work. For further information, visit Avoiding Academic Dishonesty, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded themselves. Disrespectful behavior to others (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course (such as persistent and unreasonable demands for time and attention both in and out of the classroom) is unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Oregon Administrative Rules Division 015 Student Conduct Regulations.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Contacting the instructor — You should post questions on the course material on the discussion boards. For issues relating to your individual status in the class please e-mail me.
Technical Assistance — If you experience computer difficulties, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

Tutoring — OSU provides access to - NetTutor to meet the needs of Ecampus students. NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

Debating Global Governance: Anarchy, Sovereignty, and Cooperation

54 pages
Handout on Anarchy


Week 2

Theory: What Do International Organizations Do?

79 pages


John J. Mearsheimer “The False Promise of International Institutions,” *International Security*, v.19, n.3 (Winter 1994-1995) pp. 14-19 only. *(While Mearsheimer is a realist I include his section on liberal institutionalism because he rigorously lays out the premises and logic of the approach)*


Week 3

The Evolution of IO from the Concert of Europe to the League of Nations; The Logic and Empirical Record of a Great Power Concert and Collective Security

95 pages
Richard B. Elrod, “The Concert of Europe: A Fresh Look at an International System,”


Week 4

**The Creation and Design of post-WWII Institutions:**

**Building the UN and the International Economy**


*An analytic overview situating the creation of the UN in a larger context*


*A brief overview of the major conferences that led to the creation of the UN*


*A detailed look at the diplomacy involved in creating the UN*


Week 5

**UN Peacekeeping: Hopes and Successes**


*If you are interested you can skim 490-516 to see what you can get out this empirical sections, but this is optional. I do not expect that you will understand the statistics she uses, although some of you may.*


**Video:** “The War Against War”

Week 6

**UN Peacekeeping: Pathologies and Failures**

Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide,” Atlantic Monthly (September 2001)

Rhodes, Endgame: The Betrayal and Fall of Srebrenica preface, ix-xvi.

*Movies:* “The Triumph of Evil” and “Safe Haven: The United Nations and the Betrayal of Srebrenica”

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**Week 7**

**Issues in UN Reform**

71 pages


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**Week 8**

**The Ethics of Humanitarian Intervention**

62 pages


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**Week 9**

**International Law**

58 pages


Q&A: International Criminal Court, BBC, 07/10/2012

“IInternational Criminal Court Working to Protect African Victims,” Amnesty International, 03/05/2009.


**Movie:** “The Reckoning; The Battle for the International Criminal Court”

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### Week 10

**Democracy and International Organizations; The Future of IO**


- Thomas Carothers, “A League of Their Own,” *Foreign Policy* (July/August 2008).


- “What is the International Community?” *Foreign Policy* (September/October 2002).

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**Final Essay Due:** see Blackboard for due date information

**Congratulations and Good Luck!**