

POLS 433 International Organization

Fall 2022

TTh 12:30–1:45 PM

Gifford 331

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Office Hours: TTh 2:30–4:00 PM

Course Description and Objectives

This is a course about cooperation at the international level. Why do states cooperate? More specifically, why do states form and act through international institutions? Can international institutions alter states' behavior, influence domestic politics, or create and spread new norms about appropriate behavior?

There are several competing answers to these questions. The objective of this course is to help you evaluate the validity of these competing answers and discuss what evidence you would need to see in order to gain confidence in one answer and reject others. We will begin with a broad overview of the international system, incentives for cooperation under anarchy, and controversies surrounding international organizations (IOs) in the context of international relations theory. We will then examine the history, structure, and activity of IOs like the UN, the World Bank, the IMF, and the WTO, covering issue areas like finance, trade, health, nuclear weapons, the internet, and the environment. To conclude, we will evaluate the success of IOs in solving global problems as well as the major challenges they face in meeting their mandates.

You are welcome — even encouraged! — to disagree with the answers proposed by the assigned readings. If this is the case, you should be able to formulate an evidence-based counter-argument that convinces your colleagues to reject alternative explanations. This analytical exercise will help you prepare for a career in settings where there are no clear-cut answers, such as consulting, research, finance, public policy, or law.

Readings

Our main reference will be the following textbook:

- Thomas G. Weiss and Rorden Wilkinson. 2018. *International Organization and Global Governance*. 2nd edition. Routledge.

Several other readings will come from the following handbook, which is available for free at the library:

- Jacob Katz Cogan, Ian Hurd, and Ian Johnstone (eds). 2016. *The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations*. Oxford University Press.

Additional readings will consist of articles in scientific journals or book chapters, all available on Canvas.

Optional: If you need a general IR theory refresher, the following textbook is a good companion to our main textbook:

- John Baylis, Patricia Owens, and Steve Smith. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. 8th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Assignments

Participation (10%) Preparing for the classes and engaging in discussion is a requirement for this course, which is why this grade evaluates the *frequency* and *quality* of contributions. I will not take attendance; if you miss class, I trust that you have legitimate reasons to do so. However, frequent absences might reduce your ability to engage in class discussion, which in turn will affect your participation grade.

Quizzes (20%) Ahead of several classes, a short online multiple choice quiz will gauge your comprehension of the readings. Quizzes are forward-looking: they cover the readings assigned for the *next* class session and are due at the beginning of said class (12:30 pm). Late quizzes will be accepted up until September 15. Students who join the course late should go back and complete missed quizzes in order to receive credit. There will be a total of 18 quizzes and I will drop the 3 lowest scores. Since I am dropping the 3 lowest scores, *there will be no make-up quizzes*.

Presentation (10%) Beginning on September 8, every class will feature a 10-minute student presentation of an IO. This is a low-stakes presentation; the goal is just to tell your colleagues how this IO works and connect this IO to the topic covered on that specific day. Please sign up to present an IO of your choice; if there are more students than IOs, some presentations can be done in pairs.

In-Class Midterm Exam (30%) An in-class exam on October 11 will cover material from the readings, lectures, and class discussions up until that point (Parts 1 & 2 of the class). The exam will consist of a combination of providing definitions of terms and short essay questions. To help you prepare for the exam, there will be a review session on October 6.

Take-Home Final Exam (30%) The final exam will be assigned on the last class day (December 8) at 12:30 pm and will cover material from the readings, lectures, and class discussions corresponding to Parts 3 & 4. The exam will consist of 10 essay questions. It can be completed at your own pace and can be submitted anytime up until the end of the assigned final period (Monday, December 12 at 9 pm). Please submit it on Canvas as a PDF or Word document. To help you prepare for the exam, there will be a review session on December 6.

Course Policies

Communication The most reliable way to get in touch with me is via email. You should expect a response within 48 business hours.

Beyond Class While not required, I encourage you to keep up with current events in economics and politics by reading reputable newspapers and magazines (e.g. New York Times, Washington Post, Financial Times, The Economist, The Guardian, etc). Please check your emails regularly, as I may share pertinent articles with the class every week. I also encourage you to share news with your colleagues using the Canvas discussion board.

Academic Honesty and Integrity This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found on the Student' Responsibilities page of the [CSU General Catalog](#) and in the [Student Conduct Code](#). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Student Resolution Center.

Accommodations Your experience in this class is important to me. If you require any accommodation, let me know ahead of time what would be helpful so that we can plan together for you to succeed. You do not need to share private information with me, but you must provide verifiable documentation to the [Office of Student Case Management](#) or [Student Disability Center](#). For religious accommodations, please complete the [Religious Accommodation Request Form](#). Please provide verifiable documentation *to them* (not to me!)

ahead of time and ensure that they forward me this information *at least one week* prior to the assignment for which accommodations are required. I cannot make adjustments after the fact.

Late Assignments I will accept no late assignments. Exceptions are granted only if the [Office of Student Case Management](#) is able to provide documentation of a health emergency or other life emergency. If you experience an emergency, please contact Student Case Management, which will then contact me.

Grievances If you are unhappy with your grade on an assignment, please wait 48 hours after the assignment is returned before contacting me. This provides the opportunity to let the initial emotions subside and think more clearly about the issue at hand. After 48 hours, you can contact me with a written explanation of why you feel your grade should be different. “I worked hard” is not a good explanation; I can only grade the quality of the work that you give to me! Based on this petition, I will decide whether to re-grade your assignment. However, be advised that your grade may move upwards or downwards.

Grading Policy

Grade	Range
A+	100% to 96.67%
A	<96.67% to 93.33%
A-	<93.33% to 90.0%
B+	<90.0% to 86.67%
B	<86.67% to 83.33%
B-	<83.33% to 80.0%
C+	<80.0% to 76.67%
C	<76.67% to 70.0%
D	<70.0% to 60.0%
F	<60.0% to 0.0%

Additional Resources and Policies

Check out this link or QR code for policies relevant to your courses and resources to help with various challenges you may encounter: <https://col.st/2FA2g> This includes information about technical support, universal design for learning/accommodation of needs, undocumented student support, etc.



Course Outline

Aug 23: Introduction

- **Recommended:** Jon Pevehouse and Inken von Borzyskowski. 2016. “International Organizations in World Politics.” In *The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations*, edited by Jacob Katz Cogan, Ian Hurd, and Ian Johnstone. Oxford University Press, pp. 3-32.

Part 1: What IR Theories Say About IOs

Aug 25: Realism

- John J. Mearsheimer. 1994. “The False Promise of International Institutions.” *International Security* 19(3): 5-49 (skip pp. 26-37, “Collective Security”).
- **Recommended:** Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 6 – Realism.

Quiz 1 due

Aug 30: Liberalism

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 8 – Liberal Institutionalism.
- Robert Keohane and Lisa Martin. 1995. “The Promise of Institutional Theory.” *International Security* 20(1): 39-51.
- **Recommended:** Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 7 – Classical Liberal Internationalism.

Quiz 2 due

Sep 1: Constructivism

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 10 – Constructivism.
- Alexander Wendt. 1995. “Constructing International Politics.” *International Security* 20(1): 71-81.

Quiz 3 due

Sep 6: Critical Approaches

- B. S. Chimni. 2016. “International Organizations, 1945–Present.” In *The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations*, edited by Jacob Katz Cogan, Ian Hurd, and Ian Johnstone. Oxford University Press, pp. 113-130.
- **Recommended:** Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 12 – Marxism and Chapter 13 – Feminism.

Quiz 4 due

Part 2: The Purpose and Procedure of IOs

Sep 8: National, Regional, or Global Governance?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 4 – The Diffusion of Authority.

IO of the Day 1: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Quiz 5 due

Sep 13: IOs as the Product of Rational Design?

- Barbara Koremenos, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. “The Rational Design of International Institutions.” *International Organization* 55(4): 761-799 (skip pp. 780-799).

IO of the Day 2: The UN Security Council

Sep 15: IOs as the Product of Norms?

- Martha Finnemore 1993. “International Organizations as Teachers of Norms: The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and Science Policy.” *International Organization* 47(4): 565-97.

IO of the Day 3: The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Sep 20: International Law

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 2 – The Evolution of International Law and Chapter 37 – The Pursuit of International Justice.

IO of the Day 4: The International Criminal Court (ICC)

Quiz 6 due

Sep 22: Compliance and Enforcement

- Abram Chayes and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. “On Compliance.” *International Organization* 47(2): 175-205.

IO of the Day 5: The International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Sep 27: Accountability and Legitimacy

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 3 – International Organizations and the Diffusion of Power and Chapter 5 – Who Governs the Globe?

IO of the Day 6: The European Union

Quiz 7 due

Sep 29: Effectiveness

- Anne Peters. 2016. “International Organizations and International Law.” In *The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations*, edited by Jacob Katz Cogan, Ian Hurd, and Ian Johnstone. Oxford University Press, pp. 33-59.

IO of the Day 7: The League of Nations

Oct 4: Financing and Budgets

- Jacob Katz Cogan. 2016. “Financing and Budgets.” In *The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations*, edited by Jacob Katz Cogan, Ian Hurd, and Ian Johnstone. Oxford University Press, pp. 903-919.

IO of the Day 8: The African Union

Oct 6: Review Session

Bring questions!

Oct 11: Midterm Exam

In-class exam covering parts 1 & 2 of the class.

Part 3: The Scope of IOs

Oct 13: Global Finance

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 42 - Global Financial Governance.

IO of the Day 9: The International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Quiz 8 due

Oct 18: Global Trade

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 43 – Global Trade Governance.

IO of the Day 10: The World Trade Organization (WTO)

Quiz 9 due

Oct 20: Global Development

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 44 – Global Development Governance and Chapter 50 – Poverty Reduction.

IO of the Day 11: The World Bank

Quiz 10 due

Oct 25: Global Environment and Climate

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 45 – Global Environmental Governance and Chapter 47 – Climate Change.

IO of the Day 12: The UN Environmental Program (UNEP)

IO of the Day 13: The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Quiz 11 due

Oct 27: Energy Governance

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 49 – Global Energy Governance.

IO of the Day 14: The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

IO of the Day 15: The International Energy Agency (IEA)

Quiz 12 due

Nov 1: Internet Regulation

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 54 – Global Internet Governance.

IO of the Day 16: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Quiz 13 due

Nov 3: Collective Security

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 33 – Regional Organizations and Global Security Governance.

IO of the Day 17: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Quiz 14 due

Nov 8: Nuclear Weapons

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 34 – Weapons of Mass Destruction.

IO of the Day 18: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Quiz 15 due

Nov 10: Humanitarian Interventions

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 38 – Humanitarian Intervention and R2P and Chapter 39 – Crisis and Humanitarian Containment.

IO of the Day 19: UN Peacekeeping

Quiz 16 due

Nov 15: Global Health

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 52 – Global Health Governance.

IO of the Day 20: The World Health Organization (WHO)

Quiz 17 due

Nov 17: Migration

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 53 – Refugees and Migrants.

IO of the Day 21: The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Quiz 18 due

Nov 22 & 24: No Class

Part 4: The Future of IOs

Nov 29: The Limits of IOs

- Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore. 1999. “The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations.” *International Organization* 53(4): 699-732.

IO of the Day 22: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Dec 1: The Future of IOs

- Mark Copelovitch and Jon C. W. Pevehouse. 2019. “International Organizations in a New Era of Populist Nationalism.” *Review of International Organizations* 14: 169–186 (skip section 6).

Dec 6: Review Session

Bring questions!

Dec 8: Take-Home Exam Distributed on Canvas

Due Monday, Dec 12 at 9 pm