

International Organizations

PS 1503

Cathedral of Learning 304, Tuesday-Thursday, 11:00-12:15

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Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00-5:00 or by appointment

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Course Description

International organizations, like the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the European Union are prominent features of international relations. How do they affect the policies of sovereign nations? How do they help solve global problems? Why are the rules and membership of organizations similar and different? This course answers these questions by analyzing organizations in a wide variety of issue areas. We will study the theoretical arguments and empirical evidence for how and why international organizations “matter.” The goal is to equip students with the tools to answer these questions for contemporary organizations like those designed to deal with war criminals, carbon emissions, and international trade and finance.

Suggested Text: Hurd, Ian. 2011. *International Organizations: Politics, Law, and Practice*. Cambridge University Press.

Evaluation

The assignments for the class include class participation, group and individual assignments, and two exams. Grades will be distributed in the following manner:

Assignments: 10%

Short Paper: 20%

Midterm Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

Assignments

There will be a few (approximately 2-4) assignments throughout the semester. These will consist of short response writing (1-2 pages). On certain days, either marked on the syllabus or announced during the semester, we will complete in-class assignments which you can only get credit for if you are in attendance. Attendance at in-class activities falls into this grading category.

Short Paper and Presentation

Towards the end of the semester, you will write a short paper on a research question regarding a particular international organization. This will be accompanied by a medium length (8-10 page) paper describing your topic. Additional information will be provided further into the semester.

Mid-Term and Final Exams

The mid-term exam will cover material from the beginning of the semester until the point of the exam. The final exam will focus more heavily on material covered after the mid-term exam, but I will also ask you to address and incorporate material from the entire semester, so it is technically cumulative. All material presented in readings and class discussion is fair game for exams.

Course Policies

- Absence: I do not take attendance. You do not need to alert me to the fact that you will be absent or bring me any official excuse letter. However, missing class means missing information. Many of these readings are demanding and may need clarification in class. Additionally, the lectures contain important supplemental information not found in the readings, and you are responsible for this information in exams and papers. If a medical or other emergency

causes you to miss an in-class assignment, we will arrange for you to complete the assignment (or approximate equivalent) outside of class. To take advantage of this, you *must* email me to make appropriate arrangements within two days of missing the in-class assignment.

- Late Assignments: Assignments are due at the end of class on the days indicated on the assignment. I will *not* accept assignments that are more than two days late. Within the two day window, assignments are penalized a letter grade per day.
- Assignment Review: I am willing to review any graded assignment or exam. However, I will not hear any concerns until 48 hours after the assignment has been returned to you. You must express your concern with the grade in an email and support your argument as to why it should be changed. If you bring me an assignment to regrade, I will regrade the entire assignment, and I reserve the right to raise your grade or lower it on any part of the assignment. In other words, be careful in your use of review.
- Cell Phones, Laptops, Tablets: Laptops and tablets are allowed in class, provided they are used for class related purposes. Abuse of this privilege may cause us to re-evaluate this policy. Cell phones should be off.
- Academic Integrity: Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed. For the full Academic Integrity Policy, go to <http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity>.
- Disability Services: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, (412)648-7890 or (412)383-7355 (FTY), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

- Statement on Classroom Recording: To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.
- Email Communication Policy: Each student is issued a University email address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This email address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read email sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an email forwarding service that allows students to read their email via other service providers (e, g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their email from their pitt.edu address 'to another address do so at their own risk. If email is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University email address. To forward email sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policv109/09-i0-01.html.)
- Feedback: I am very interested in what you're getting from the course and how I can make the course better. Periodically, I'll solicit anonymous feedback in class about what you find most or least useful.
- Readings: Some of the readings are very technical, involving game theoretic or econometric models. Both of these are mathematical tools that political scientists use extensively in research. However, students may not have had training in these methods. When a reading is marked "technical" on the syllabus, do not worry about the math or techne of the articles. You are more responsible for the arguments contained in the readings, which we will focus on "translating" in class where necessary.

1 Schedule

Students are expected to complete the readings prior to the course meeting on the listed date... Again, students are expected to complete the readings *prior* to the course meeting on the listed date. All readings are available electronically or on the course website. The most up-to-date syllabus will always be found on the course website, since the schedule may change.

A note on the Hurd textbook: This text is useful because it provides background information on particular international institutions. This information could also be gleaned from some focused Google searches and Wikipedia reading. Since the course focuses on the theoretical and empirical analysis of particular institutions, we will not focus extensively on the techne of particular institutions. You should use the Hurd text or outside readings to supplement your own knowledge on this front.

The Basics

Class 1: Syllabus and Scientific Method

- **Required:** The syllabus.
- **Suggested:** Hurd, Chapter 1.

Class 2: Scientific Method cont.

- **Required:** Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2003. "Chapter 2: Evaluating Arguments about International Politics." Principles of International Politics: People's Power, Preferences, and Perceptions.

Class 3: I³ and Rational Choice

- **Suggested:** Hurd, Chapter 2.

Class 4: Prisoner's Dilemma, *** Required In Class Activity***

- **Required:** Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-54. (Emphasis on Ch. 1)
 - This reading has some technical parts, but *do* try and work through some of the math. We will also focus on these models in class.

Class 5: Institutions

- **Required:** Milgrom, Paul R., North, Douglass C. and Barry R. Weingast. 1990. “The Role of Institutions in the Revival of Trade: The Law Merchant, Private Judges, and the Champagne Fairs.” *Economics and Politics* 2(1): 1-23. (technical)

Class 6: Compliance

- **Required:** Downes, Locke, and Barsoom. 1996. “Is the Good News About Compliance Good News about Cooperation?” *International Organization* 50(3): 379-406. (technical)
- Suggested: Hurd, Chapter 7.

Institutions and War

Class 7: Paradox of War

- **Required:** Fearon, James. 1995. “Rationalist Explanations for War” *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.
 - This reading has some technical parts, but *do* try and work through some of the math. We will also focus on these models in class.

Feb 5: Alliances

- **Required:** Frieden, Lake, and Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, Chapter 5, pp. 174-189.

Feb 7: NO CLASS

Feb 12: United Nations

- **Required:** Frieden, Lake, and Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, Chapter 5, pp. 189-211.
- Suggested: Hurd, Chapter 5.

Feb 14: United Nations cont.

- **Required:** Voeten, Erik. 2005. "The Political Origins of the UN Security Council's Ability to Legitimize the Use of Force." *International Organization* 59(3): 527-557.
- Suggested: Hurd, Chapter 6.

Feb 19: Civil War

- **Required:** Fortna, Page. 2003. "Inside and Out: Peacekeeping and the Duration of Peace After Civil and Interstate Wars." *International Studies Review* 5(4): 97-114. (technical)

International Law and Norms

Feb 21: Intro

- **Required:** Simmons, Beth. 2009. “Chapter 2: Why International Law? The Development of the International Human Rights Regime in the Twentieth Century.” *Mobilizing for Human Rights International Law in Domestic Politics*. Massachusetts: Cambridge University Press.
- **Required:** Simmons, Beth. 2009. “Chapter 4: Theories of Compliance.”

Feb 26: International Criminal Court

- **Required:** Simmons, Beth and Allison Danner. 2010. “Credible Commitments and the International Criminal Court.” *International Organization* 64(2): 225-226. (technical)
- Suggested: Chapman, Terrence and Stephen Chaudoin. 2013. “Ratification Patterns and the International Criminal Court.” *forthcoming International Studies Quarterly*.” (technical)
- Suggested: Hurd, Chapter 9.

Feb 28: Norms

- **Required:** Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change.” *International Organization* 52(4): 887-917.

March 5: Midterm

Institutions and the World Economy

March 7: The WTO

- **Required:** Douglas A. Irwin. 1995. “The GATT in Historical Perspective.” *The American Economic Review* 85(2): 323-328.

- Suggested: Hurd, Chapter 3.

March 19: The WTO cont.

- **Required:** Rose, Andrew. 2004. “Do We Really Know the WTO Increases Trade?” *The American Economic Review* 94(1): 98-114. (technical)
- **Required:** Tomz, Michael, Goldstein, Judith, and Douglas Rivers. 2007. “Do We Really Know That the WTO Increases Trade? Comment” *The American Economic Review* 97(5): 323-328. (technical)
- **Required:** Rose, Andrew. 2007. “Do We Really Know That the WTO Increases Trade? Reply” *The American Economic Review* 97(5): 2019-2025. (technical)

March 21: The IMF and World Bank

- **Required:** Beth Simmons. 2000. “The Legalization of International Monetary Affairs.” *International Organization* 54(3): 573-602. (mildly technical)
- Suggested: Hurd, Chapter 4.

March 26: Foreign Aid

- **Required:** Thad Dunning. 2004. “Conditioning the Effects of Aid: Cold War Politics, Donor Credibility, and Democracy in Africa.” *International Organization* 58(2): 409-423. (technical)

NGO’s, Networks, and Transnational Politics

March 28: Naming and Shaming

- **Required:** Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2008. “Sticks and Stones: The Efficacy of Human Rights Naming and Shaming.” *International Organization* 62(4): 689-716. (technical)
- **Suggested:** Lebovic, J. and E. Voeten. 2009. “The Cost of Shame: International Organizations and Foreign Aid in the Punishing of Human Right Violators.” *Journal of Peace Research* 46(1): 75-97. (technical)

April 2: TANs

- **Required:** Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics.” *International Social Science Journal* 51(159): 89-101.

April 4: Networks + Mandatory In Class Activity

- **Required:** Sageman, Marc. 2004. *Understanding Terror Networks*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Ch 5.

Institutions and the Environment and Side Topics

April 9: Environment

- **Required:** Browne, John. 2004. “Beyond Kyoto.” *Foreign Affairs* 83(4): 20-32.
- **Required:** Biermann, Frank, and Philip Pattberg. 2008. “Global Environmental Governance: Taking Stock, Moving Forward.” *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 33(1): 277-294.

- **Required:** “Containing Climate Change: An Opportunity for U.S. Leadership.” *Foreign Affairs*. September/October 2008.

April 11: No class!

April 16: Democracy Enhancing Multilateralism + Mandatory In Class Activity

- **Required:** Keohane, Robert O., Macedo, Stephen, and Andrew Moravcsik. 2009. “Democracy Enhancing Multilateralism.” *International Organization* 63(1): 1-31.
- **Required:** Gartzke, Eric and Naoi, Megumi. 2011. “Multilateralism and Democracy: A Dissent Regarding Keohane, Macedo, and Moravcsik.” *International Organization* 65(3): 589-598.
- **Required:** Keohane, Robert O., Macedo, Stephen, and Andrew Moravcsik. 2011. “Constitutional Democracy and World Politics: A Response to Gartzke and Naoi.” *International Organization* 65(3): 599-604.

April 18: Review and Further Topics

Final Exam: To Be Announced