POL 550: International Organization

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30-4:00

Course Description

The number and scope of international organizations continues to expand so that there are few areas of international politics that are not regulated in some way by an international institution, whether informal norms or a formal organization. Why do states establish institutions and what determines their shape and impact? Do these institutions merely reflect underlying power and interests? How do states use institutions as tools of diplomacy and power politics? What determines the effectiveness of international institutions? Why do states join international institutions, and what are the reasons they comply with international rules and norms, to the extent they do? To what extent do multilateral forms of institutional cooperation depend on the leadership of a powerful – that is, hegemonic – state? How have international institutions evolved over historical eras? The “golden age” of multilateral institutions has occurred during the era of American and Western dominance of the global system. How are non-Western rising states making choices about joining new and old international institutions? These are some of the question we will be asking in this course. It is a survey and research seminar that will introduce theories of international institutions, evaluate critical perspectives, and examine the role and significance of international institutions across security, economic, and environmental policy areas.

Course Requirements

1) Participation in seminar discussion. 20 percent.

2) For three weeks in the course, you are expected to write a 1-2 page review of an article or book, due in the box outside my office door on noon Friday prior to seminar discussion of the article or book. These papers should discuss the theoretical contribution of the article or book to the literature, assess its empirical strategy and quality of evidence, and offer specific suggestions for how the article or book could be improved. The idea is to get you to identify ways in which theoretical debates and research can be advanced. 30 percent.

3) Choice of two 8-10 page papers on themes from the main topic area with the first due by the start of the sixth week of the term and the second due by Dean’s date; or a 20-30 page research
paper, due on Dean’s date (those who choose the second option should discuss their topic with me and submit a 1 page proposal by the beginning of the sixth week of the semester). 50 percent.

Books Recommended for Purchase


Simmons, Beth, Mobilizing Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009).


Week One: Introduction


Keohane, Robert, After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984), Chapters 1, 4-6 (pp. 5-17, 49-109).


Supplemental:


**Week Two: Theories about the Creation and Character of International Institutions**


Supplemental:


Historical Origins of Multilateral Institutions:


Murphy, Craig, Global Governance and Industrial Change: Global Governance since 1850 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994).


Iriye, Akira, Cultural Internationalism and World Order (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997).


Week Three: International Organizations as Social Environments and Networks


Supplemental:


**Week Four: Theories of Compliance**


Supplemental:


**Week Five: International Organizations as Actors**

Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, Rules for the World: International Organizations in
Global Politics (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004), Chapters One, Two and Six.


Supplemental:


**Week Six: Alliances and Hegemonic Strategies**


Supplemental:


Pressman, Jeremy, Warring Friends: Alliance Restraint in International Politics (Ithaca: Cornell
Week Seven: Collective Security and the UN


Supplemental:


Week Eight: Human Rights Regime


Supplemental:


**Week Nine: International Finance and the World Economy**

Stone, Randall, Controlling Institutions: International Organizations and the Global Economy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011). Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-48; Chapter 4, pp.51-79; Chapter 7, pp.133-153; Conclusion

Barnett, Michael, and Martha Finnemore, “Expertise and Power at the International Monetary Fund,” Rules for the World, Chapter Three, pp. 16-44.


Supplemental:

**Week Ten: International Trade**


**Supplemental:**


**Week Eleven: Cooperation to Protect the Environment**


(2009), pp. 281-308.

Week Twelve: Rising States and Counter-Hegemonic Multilateralism

Foot, Rosemary, and Andrew Walter, China, the United States, and Global Order (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), chapters 1-2, pp 1-78; chapters 5-6, pp.175-228.


Supplemental:


