GOVT E-1750

International Organization

Thursdays, 7:40-9:40 pm, Emerson 101

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Content

This course analyzes the potentials and limitations of international organization in the modern global system. The major questions to be explored are four-fold:

1. Why do states create international organizations? More generally, why do they organize internationally?

2. What is the role of international organizations—and, more generally, of international institutions—in the performance of collective tasks?

3. What is the overall impact of international organization on world order?

4. What are the transformational consequences of international organization and how can they be explained?

These questions will be addressed through an examination of the activities of international organizations in a variety of issue areas, including conflict management, human rights, world trade, economic development, and environmental protection. Both global and regional institutions will be considered.

Some background in international relations would be helpful. However, there are no pre-requisites for this course.

Requirements and grading

Evaluation will be based mainly on three components:

1. Class participation. An active role in weekly discussions by everyone enrolled in the course is expected, as is the completion of reading assignments before each session. [10 per cent]

2. A brief (about 7 to 10 pages in length) analytical essay dealing with any aspect of the theoretical material addressed in Section II of the syllabus. Due date: March 10. [20 per cent]
3. A take-home exam consisting of two essays based on a pool of questions to be handed out at the penultimate class meeting. Advanced students with a background in international relations may petition to submit a research paper in lieu of the exam. If you are considering this option, you will need to obtain the instructor’s approval no later than Feb. 11. You will be expected to consult on a regular basis with the instructor on the paper’s empirical focus, theoretical approach, bibliographic material, and research methods. Depending on the number of students writing research papers, an extra session may be held toward the end of the semester for presentations of progress reports. The deadline for both the take-home exam and research paper is May 12. [70 per cent]

There will also be several “one-minute” and “five-minute” papers. Although these will not be formally graded, superior answers will receive extra credit.

Except for cases of documented emergencies, late papers will not be accepted.

Academic Integrity

It is essential that every student taking this course be aware of and abide by the rules governing the use of sources used in written assignments. Proper acknowledgement of source material is not only a time-honored scholarly convention; it is also a matter of intellectual integrity, one that is of utmost importance in any academic setting. Using another author’s words or ideas without proper citation is a serious offense that may result in a failing grade and suspension from the Extension School. If you are unfamiliar with the rules and procedures in this regard, refer to Writing with Sources: A Guide for Harvard Students, a publication prepared by Harvard’s Expository Writing Program and available online at http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page35768 or on reserve at Grossman Library. Should you have any doubts or questions about these policies, you are urged to consult with the instructor.

Texts

Paperback editions of the following books have been ordered and should be available for purchase at the Harvard Coop:


With the exception of material available online through Harvard’s e-resources, all other assigned readings are on reserve at the Grossman Library, Sever Hall. It would be best to do the reading assignments in the order in which they appear on this syllabus.
Lecture/Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments

I. Introduction (Jan. 28)


- Karns and Mingst, chs. 1, 2, 6.
- Frederking and Diehl, chs. 3, 5.

III. The United Nations System: Structures, Processes, Functions (March 3, 10, 24)

A. Historical Origins, Organizational Issues

- Karns and Mingst, chs. 3, 4.
- Weiss et al., Introduction, Appendix C (Charter of the United Nations).
- Diehl and Frederking, chs. 4, 20.

B. Conflict Management

- Weiss et al., chs. 1-4.
- Karns and Mingst, ch. 7.
- Frederking and Diehl, chs. 6, 7, 9.
C. Nuclear Nonproliferation


D. Human Rights and Humanitarian Activities

Weiss et al., chs. 6-8.
Karns and Mingst, ch. 10.
Frederking and Diehl, chs. 18, 19.

IV. International Organizations and Economic Management (March 31, April 7, 14)

A. Overview

Karns and Mingst, ch.8.

B. The Management of Money and Trade

Keohane and Nye, part II. (Note: since the discussion of monetary regimes in chs. 4-6 is interwoven with that of ocean regimes, passages on the oceans issue area may be skipped at this point. These chapters are reassigned in section V.B.)


Frederking and Diehl, ch. 12.

C. International Development Policy

Weiss et al., chs. 9-11.


Frederking and Diehl, ch. 10.
V. **International Organizations and Resource Management** (April 21, 28)

A. **The Environment**

   Karns and Mingst, ch. 11.

B. **Ocean Space**

   Keohane and Nye, part II. (See note in IV.B.)

VI. **Regional Organizations: Beyond the Nation-State?** (May 5)

   Karns and Mingst, ch. 5.
   Frederking and Diehl, ch. 15.