Purpose: Much interaction among states in the contemporary world, whether they are dealing with security issues, economic issues, or social issues, is organized by international institutions and organizations. This research seminar is intended to familiarize you with some of the major international organizations (IOs) that have a profound effect on patterns of international cooperation and conflict in these issue-areas. The seminar is intended for advanced undergraduate students, and will provide you the chance to develop your own research project. The focus of this seminar will be both theoretical and empirical. You will learn about the origins, characteristics, and functions of IOs including the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank. My goal for this course is to provide you with an understanding of how IOs operate and how they influence patterns of conflict and cooperation.

Grades and requirements: Grades will be based on class participation and a research paper.

1. Participation – 50%. The quality and effectiveness of a seminar depends on the efforts of its participants. Generally, be prepared to share your thoughts, critiques, and questions on the readings. The discussion questions at the end of each Hurd chapter provide a good idea of issues you should be thinking about and prepared to discuss in class. At the end of the semester you will make a brief presentation about the research question you will discuss in your final paper.

2. Research paper – 50%. Your final paper will be due on Friday, May 11, at noon. You can email it to me, turn a hard copy into my mailbox, or use the dropbox in learn@uw. This paper should identify a research question about global governance; present a literature review of work relevant to this question; and present original research that addresses the central question. This paper should be approximately 25 pages long.
You will be working on this paper throughout the semester, and should start thinking about it early. A draft of your research question is due on February 22; please use the learn@uw dropbox to get this to me before class that day. This draft should be 2-3 pages long. A revised draft of your research question, plus a literature review, is due on March 21. This draft should be 8-10 pages long. This draft should summarize your major argument and provide some ideas about how you will carry out the rest of your research.

Readings: The main textbook for this course is Ian Hurd, International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice (Cambridge University Press, 2011). This book has been ordered at the University Bookstore and also should be available through Amazon or your favorite online bookseller. Each week we also have supplemental readings assigned. These readings will be posted on learn@uw.

Course schedule:

January 25 Introduction

February 1 Theory
Hurd, chapters 1 and 2
Chapter 4

February 8 The World Trade Organization
Hurd, chapter 3

February 15 The International Monetary Fund
Hurd, chapter 4, pp. 66-76 and 92
Axel Dreher, Jan-Egbert Sturm, and James Raymond Vreeland. 2009. “Global Horse Trading: IMF Loans for Votes in the United

February 22  The World Bank

Hurd, chapter 4, pp. 77-90 and 93


***Draft of research question due***

February 29  The United Nations I

Hurd, chapter 5


March 7  The United Nations II

Hurd, chapter 6


March 14  The International Labor Organization

Hurd, chapter 7


March 21  The International Court of Justice
Hurd, chapter 8

***Revised research question plus literature review due***

March 28  *No class – work on your research paper*

April 11  The International Criminal Court
Hurd, chapter 9

***Draft of research question due (2 pages)***

April 18  Regional organizations and the European Union
Hurd, chapter 10

April 25  Conclusion
Hurd, chapter 11

May 2 and 9  Research presentations
May 11, noon    Final paper due