Course overview
This course is an advanced graduate seminar in international cooperation and institutions. The course builds on the international relations field seminar (PS 857) but does not assume prior knowledge of its material. Our goal will be to develop an understanding of the key questions (and answers to them) asked by international relations scholars, including: Why do states engage in international cooperation? What explains variation in institutional design? What effects do international institutions have, and how do they influence state policy? What is the relationship between domestic politics and international cooperation? Why do international institutions have an impact, if they do so at all? How do international organizations operate, and what effects do differences in membership, decision-making rules, and designs have on outcomes? The ultimate purpose of this course is to generate ideas for your own research, including papers and dissertation topics.

The course will focus primarily on intergovernmental institutions and agreements. The course will be theory-driven, with the first few weeks devoted to studying theoretical frameworks used by international relations scholars to understand institutions. Then we will move into empirical applications of these theories. We will address most of the major issue-areas in international politics, including political economy, security, and human rights issues. My goal in this course is to encourage you to develop your own ideas for research and writing. To that end, the last two weeks of class are set aside for presentation of your research proposals/work in progress. The assignments for the course are also designed to move you toward identifying researchable topics for study, prepare a research proposal, and write a research paper.

Course requirements
Grades in the course will be based on the following (% of total grade):

1. Participation (40%). This is a graduate seminar, with the emphasis on careful reading and intensive discussion of the literature. I expect you to come to class having done all of the reading, which I have kept as manageable as possible for this reason. I highly suggest, in addition, that you take notes while you read, so that we can have a focused, detailed discussion class. We will not spend class simply summarizing the arguments in the material, nor will I be doing the majority of the talking. Rather, the goal of our discussions will be to analyze, critique, and compare the readings, with an eye toward identifying and discussing the major issues/themes of the week.
2. *Research paper (60%)* – A two-page prospectus is due by **March 8**. A 5-10 page research design is due **April 26**. The final paper is due on **May 11**.

**Background**
Some prior background in international relations is helpful. Students that have not taken PS 857 (IR Theory) are encouraged to consult the syllabus for that course and/or meet with me to discuss supplementary readings.

**Readings**
Nearly all of the journal articles are available online, either through public sources or UW’s library e-journals. Portions of the following books are assigned, and you may want to purchase them:

1/23 – Introduction


Theoretical foundations (1/30)

- Robert O. Keohane, *After Hegemony*, Chs. 1, 4-7 (5-17, 49-134)


Theoretical developments (2/6)


The compliance debate (2/13)


Delegation and agency in international organizations (2/20)


• Hawkins, Lake, Nielson, and Tierney, Chs. 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, & 12.


Institutional design (2/27)


Recommended


International trade institutions: effects (3/5)


Recommended


International trade institutions: design (3/12)


**International financial institutions: The IMF and World Bank (3/19)**


**Recommended**


**International security: alliances, treaties, and the UNSC (3/26)**


**Recommended**


**SPRING BREAK: 3/31-4/8**

**International human rights (4/9)**


April 16 – NO CLASS (tentatively – UW Founders’ Day in NYC)

The European Union (4/23)


Research paper presentations (4/30 & 5/7)
Research Design/Paper Template
(from Jeff Frieden)

I. Introduction. A clear, concise statement of the puzzle you are addressing, of your proposed resolution, and of the empirical work you will do.

II. The dependent variable. What you are trying to explain and why, as well as some sense of the range of variation in the dependent variable. Remember you are trying to convince others that this is a question worth asking (and answering).

III. Synthetic literature review. Develop an analytical summary of the existing attempts to explain your dependent variable or solve your puzzle. Do not catalog a "he said-she said" chronology; synthesize the existing literature (5).

IV. Your proposed explanations. Present a coherent logical case for each proposed explanatory variable, going step by step (formalized, if such is your wont) and leading up to working hypotheses.

V. Operationalization. Explain how you will measure your dependent and explanatory variables, and how you will evaluate the relationship among them.

VI. Methodology. Describe in some detail the ways in which you will gather data (statistics, interviews, archives, secondary reading, etc.), perform data analysis (econometrics, counterfactuals, historical analysis, focused comparisons, etc.).

VII. Implications. Explain what you expect the completed dissertation to add to our understanding of some broader set of analytical or empirical issues in Political Science.

Append a bibliography, and a preliminary chapter outline with a one or two-sentence description of each chapter.

Remember:
- Be concise, be precise.
- Ask only questions to which there may be answers.
- Provide logical underpinnings to all hypotheses.
- Illustrate your puzzle and proposed resolution with a few choice examples.
- Demonstrate the feasibility of your research design.
- Indicate the broader relevance of your research