Overview

International politics is often characterized as anarchic, and scholars primarily focus on the interactions among states. Since World War II, however, the number of international organizations (IOs) has increased considerably, and IOs have become more prominent players in the international arena. Why do IOs such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, or the European Union exist? What role, if any, do they play in solving global problems states face in their interactions with each other?

In this course, we will analyze these questions from a theoretical as well as practical perspective. We will begin with a broad overview of the characterization of the international system, incentives for cooperation under anarchy, controversies surrounding IOs in the context of international relations theory, the success of IOs in solving global problems as well as the major challenges they face in meeting their mandate. We will then apply our knowledge to the analysis of various IOs which have a profound effect on patterns of international cooperation and conflict in contemporary politics.

There are two substantive objectives for this course: to develop students’ knowledge of (i) the basic patterns and facts of global governance, and (ii) the major theories and arguments developed by scholars of IOs to explain these patterns, and to understand their claims and predictions.

There are also two skills-based objectives for this course: (i) to develop students’ ability to think analytically and critically about issues and events, applying theories to facts to generate stronger understanding and make more persuasive argument, and (ii) to strengthen their verbal communication, problem solving, and research skills.
Assignments and Grading

Grades for the course will be assigned according to completion of all course assignments.

Grading:
- Section Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Simulation Participation (including policy memo): 15%
- First Exam: 25%
- Final Exam: 40%

Scale of Letter Grades:
- 93 and above: A
- 92-88: AB
- 87-83: B
- 82-78: BC
- 77-70: C
- 69-69: D
- 59 and below: F

Section Attendance and Participation: Active participation in our section discussions is an important and required element of the course and will be critical to successfully learning the material. Hence, students should be prepared to answer questions that are posed, ask questions about concepts that are not clear, challenge viewpoints expressed in the reading or class discussion, and be involved in the conversations. These discussions must always be conducted with an air of respect for differing viewpoints and the people who present them, and with an open mind (e.g., arguing for positions even if you are not yet certain of them, and being willing to consider new arguments or information). Participation grades will be based not just on regular attendance but on active involvement. In addition, class participation may also be taken into account to adjust final grades for students near the borderline between grade ranges. There will be no make-up for missed section meetings. If, therefore, you will miss MORE THAN 4 SECTION MEETINGS during the course of the semester, you should consider dropping the course before it is too late.

UN Simulation: Toward the end of the semester, you will act as part of a delegation representing an individual country in the United Nations Security Council during a simulated political crisis. The group simulation activities will take place during lecture and section (and also during any additional secret negotiations you might wish to carry out on your own). Each delegation will give a 5-minute policy speech on one of the first two days of the simulation (April 22 or April 24). In addition, each delegation will submit a 1500-word (double-spaced) “policy memo” explaining their respective countries’ position regarding the given issue. An electronic copy of the memo is due in the appropriate Learn@UW Dropbox on April 18 at 23:59PM. A hard copy should also be submitted to your TA on April 22 BY THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade (e.g., from a B to a BC) for each day or fraction of a day late. Each delegation will provide a single memo.

The ultimate goal of the simulation is for delegates to come up with a written solution (i.e., a resolution) to the problem they are trying to solve. All the speeches, debate, negotiation, and teamwork are supposed to lead up to a resolution which contains all the proposed solutions to the issue. A draft resolution will be negotiated and voted upon on the last day of the simulation (May 6). There will be no make-up for the simulation exercise. If, therefore, you will not be able to attend BOTH lecture AND section in the weeks of April 21, April 28, and May 5, you should consider dropping the course before it is too late. Detailed information about the simulation (including a sample policy memo) will be provided in lecture on March 6.

Exams: There will be two exams during the term. The first exam will take place on Tuesday, March 4 in class and will cover all material up to that point. It will consist of 6-8 short answer questions and one essay. The final exam is scheduled for Sunday, May 11 (10:05AM-12:05PM). It will include 8-10 short answer questions from the material since the first exam and one or two essay questions integrating the cumulative course material as a whole. Both exams will be closed-book and closed-note exams.
Missed Exams: Please take note of all exam dates and make plans around them. Except in extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances, makeup exams will NOT be offered. Any requests for accommodations must be made at least one week in advance to be considered.

Re-grading Policy: If you feel that any assignment has been graded incorrectly, you may request that it be regraded. However, you must wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints. Following such “cooling-off” period, you must provide a 1-2 page double-spaced memo indicating the reason for your concern and why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work (i.e., it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students). Upon receiving your memo, we will regrade the ENTIRE assignment in question within 72 hours. This means that the revised grade may be higher or lower than what you originally received. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes; this is not a risk-free process!

Academic Integrity and the Honor Code

Plagiarism and cheating are very serious offenses that will get you in great trouble. There are now thoroughly reliable software programs to check if plagiarism has occurred. In all your classes, please use proper citation form for all materials obtained from primary and secondary sources.

If you are caught cheating, you will receive a failing grade for the class. Generally the matter will then be referred to the Dean of Students for a formal hearing at the Student-Faculty Committee on Student Conduct. Depending on the circumstances, the committee may suspend or expel a student that behaves dishonestly. This will make it extremely difficult for you to gain entrance to graduate schools and will jeopardize your opportunities with a large number of employers in the future.

Special Accommodations

We will make every effort to enable full participation in this course by all students. Students needing special accommodations should contact your TA or me as early as possible (within the first two weeks of the semester, or as soon as those needs arise) to discuss how they can be met within the structure of the course. Every effort will be made to maintain the confidentiality of personal information.

A note to McBurney students: Please present your McBurney Visa to your TA or me by February 4, 2014. Your exams will be administered by Testing and Evaluation Services at the same time as the regular exams. You are responsible for the scheduling of exams at Testing and Evaluation Services. This is done through an online scheduling system (for details, please see [http://testing.wisc.edu](http://testing.wisc.edu)). Please feel free to let me or your TA know if you have any questions and/or concerns.

Contacting Me

I strongly encourage you drop in to my office hours (no need to set up an appointment) or set up a meeting if there is anything you would like to discuss about the course. I generally answer emails very quickly (e-mail me again if you do not hear within 24 hours). However, please do consult the syllabus or other course materials first to see if the answer to your question is there, and recognize that broader substantive questions will probably be best addressed at in-person meetings.

Course Resources and Readings

Readings for each week are indicated on the syllabus and should be completed prior to the class meeting for which they are assigned. Students are strongly encouraged to have taken at least the introduction course to international relations and be familiar with the major theories of international relations.
The main textbook for this course is Ian Hurd’s *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice* (Cambridge, 2013, 2nd edition, ISBN: 9781107612617), which is available for purchase online and at the college bookstore. (Hereafter referred to as “Hurd.”) The first edition of the text is generally fine to use since there will invariably be a large amount of overlap between the two editions. However, IOs evolve very quickly over time, and you will be responsible for the information in the second edition of the text.

Our course website is available via Learn@UW. Please check the course website frequently for announcements, information about assignments, and to access the additional required readings. (Hereafter referred to as “E-Reserve.”)

Lecture slides will also be posted on Learn@UW prior to each lecture. These will be sparse outlines intended to facilitate your note-taking. These outlines will allow you to anticipate the topics discussed and to “fill in” the information provided in lectures. Please note, however, that the lecture outlines should not be seen as a substitute for attending class, doing the readings, or taking notes.

In addition, you are expected to read a major daily newspaper (online or print) with coverage of international events, such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Financial Times*. These and others are available at the library or online. Lectures and discussion sections will frequently reference relevant current international events, and being conversant with what is going on in the world will be important to contribute to discussions and do well on exams. Be prepared to talk about how these events fit into the substantive concepts we are learning, and how we can apply the analytic tools we are using to understand them more fully.

**Course Schedule**

I. Analytical and Theoretical Foundations

**January 21:** Course Overview and Levels of Analysis

**January 23:** Collective Action and IOs
- *Hurd,* Chapter 1 and Chapter 2.

**January 28:** Do IOs Matter? (Realism)

**January 30:** Do IOs Matter? (Liberalism and Constructivism)
II. Institutional Design and Institutional Effects

February 4 and February 6: Why do IOs look the way they do?

February 11: The Compliance Debate

February 13: Institutional Effects: Convergence vs. Divergence

III. Providing Collective/Regional Security

February 18: The United Nations (Introduction)
- Hurd, Chapter 5.

February 20: The United Nations (Governance)

February 25: The United Nations (PKOs)
- Hurd, Chapter 6.

February 27: Wrap-up and Review
- Bring your questions!!!

March 4: FIRST EXAM (in class)

March 6: Overview of the UN Simulation
- Model UN Security Council Meeting: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIDKSbUobVM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIDKSbUobVM)
- UN Security Council Meeting (February 4, 2012) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSEoH_KZP2k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSEoH_KZP2k)

March 11: NATO (Introduction)

March 13: NATO (Relations with Russia)
March 18: No class (Spring Recess)

March 20: No class (Spring Recess)

IV. Achieving Regional Integration

March 25: The European Union (Introduction)
- *Hurd*, Chapter 10 (pp. 251-262)

March 27: The European Union (EMU and Enlargement)

V. Managing International Finance and Trade

April 1: The International Monetary Fund (Introduction)
- *Hurd*, Chapter 4.

April 3: The International Monetary Fund (Effectiveness)

April 8: The World Bank (Introduction)
- *Hurd*, Chapter 4.

April 10: The World Bank (Effectiveness)

April 15: The World Trade Organization (Introduction)
- *Hurd*, Chapter 3.

April 17: The World Trade Organization (Effectiveness)

April 18: Electronic Copy of Policy Memo Due in Learn@UW Dropbox at 23:59PM

April 22: Hard Copy of Policy Memo Due at the Beginning of Class
April 22: UN Simulation (Presentations)
  • No Reading

April 24: UN Simulation (Presentations)
  • No Reading

VI. Protecting Human Rights

April 29: The UN Convention Against Torture
  • Hurd, Chapter 9.

May 1: The Genocide Convention [*Guest Lecturer: Dacil Keo*]

May 6: UN Simulation (Final Vote)
  • No Reading

May 8: Wrap-up and Review
  • Bring your questions!!!

May 11: FINAL EXAM (10:05AM-12:05PM)