PS 703: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND LAW

Summer 2014
IPPC Capstone Certificate Program

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Course overview
This course examines the politics of global governance, also known as the study of international organizations and international law. It focuses on the fundamental problems of cooperation among states that international organizations (IOs) are designed to address. It begins with a general overview of approaches to studying IOs and international law, highlighting the role of international and domestic political considerations. It then turns to examining the role of IOs in various issue-areas in international politics, ranging from international trade and investment to security and conflict to human rights and the environment. Through our study of these issues, we will learn about both the design and influence of IOs in each and the underlying politics of each issue. We will learn about the major IOs that influence global politics, including the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations. We will also look at some less well-known IOs such as the International Labor Organization and the International Olympic Committee.

Prerequisites
1 course in international relations at the undergraduate level. If you have not fulfilled this requirement, please speak with me before enrolling in the course.

Class format
This class is an ONLINE CLASS, offered as part of the UW International Politics and Practice Capstone Certificate Program. Given that not everyone is resident on campus, the course will be conducted virtually. All of the instruction and material (lecture slides/audio, readings, assignments, discussion groups, “office hours”) will be provided via the LearnUW course website for PS 703. Please take time the first week of the course to familiarize yourself with the LearnUW site. It will be essential for completing the course successfully.

Lectures
As you will see from the syllabus, you will be expected to view three video lectures per week, along with required readings. You will do this on your own time, and you will be able to work a day or two ahead, but you will NOT be able to leave everything until the last minute and then cover the entire course in a limited period of time. In other words, while we will not be meeting
physically, you will be expected to complete the lectures “as if” you were taking a regularly scheduled, in-person course.

Discussion groups/office hours
In addition to the lectures, my teaching assistant and I will be moderating an online discussion group each week. This will take the form of an online “chat room” via the LearnUW site. Each week, we will post questions related to the lectures and readings, in order to get discussion started. We will then reply to your responses, keep discussion going, and answer questions that you might have. This is a unique feature of the online format, as it allows us to get discussion going on the class material, but also to have it branch out to cover current events, topics that arise in the news, as well as topics that relate to your own professional experience. **NOTE: in order to generate discussion, you will NOT be able to view others’ responses to the discussion questions until you have provided at least one response of your own.**

Course requirements
Students are expected to view all online lectures, to participate actively in the online discussion groups, to complete the assigned readings prior to class, and to complete all written assignments and exams on time.

Grades for this course will be based on a midterm exam, a mock op-ed essay, a final examination, and participation in the online discussion groups.

- **First midterm examination (25%)**: An exam will be distributed at the end of Module 3, which will cover material from the readings and lectures. It will be due one week later, on **July 14**. Late papers will be penalized with a **full letter grade deduction** for every day of lateness (NOTE: a paper will be deemed a **full** day late immediately following the due date/time). Collaboration with other students is not permitted, and university regulations about plagiarism will be strictly enforced.

- **Op-ed Assignment (25%)**: Students will write an 800-1000 word op-ed on an international organization of their choice. The op-ed should make an argument about why the international organization is achieving or not achieving its stated goal(s). Grading will be based on the clarity of the position taken, concise writing, well reasoned support of the argument, and inclusion of concepts from the relevant literature covered in the course. **All work must be original.** Because this is a “mock” op-ed for an academic assignment, all sources must be properly documented using endnotes. Please ask for assistance if you are not familiar with endnotes.

  The written assignment must be submitted electronically on **July 25**. Please use a 12 point standard font such as Times New Roman or Arial, and at least one inch margins.

- **Final examination (30%)**: The final exam will be a similar in format to the first midterm exam. It will have three parts. The first part will consist of short-answer identification terms and will ask you to identify and discuss the significance of important concepts,
events, and processes covered in the second half of course. The second part will be a short essay on a topic related to the material covered in the second half of the course. The final part will be a longer essay asking you to discuss broader themes and questions covered over the entire semester. We will discuss more details as the exam approaches. The exam will be distributed at the end of Module 7 (August 1), and due one week after distribution (August 8). Late exams will be penalized with a full letter grade deduction for every day of lateness (NOTE: a paper will be deemed a full day late immediately following the due date/time). Collaboration with other students is NOT permitted, and university regulations about plagiarism will be strictly enforced.

- Participation (20%): Viewing of lectures and participation in the online discussion groups is a significant part of your grade and essential for doing well in the class. Discussion groups will focus closely on the readings and on clarifying points from lectures.

Readings
The following book is required for the course and is available at the University Bookstore and via online sellers:


Please note that the Hurd book is also available as a Kindle ebook at a reduced cost. If you find a used copy of the first edition of the Hurd book for a lower price, that should also be acceptable.

In addition, there are a number of articles available on LearnUW or online via the links in this syllabus. Reserve readings are marked with an asterisk (*). Please note that these readings are also required and will be of equal importance.

Important notes/class policies
- Anything covered in lectures or in the readings is fair game for the exams. So just doing the reading on the last night before the exam means an almost certain failing grade. View lectures and do your readings carefully and on time. Note that even readings that have not been explicitly addressed in lecture or discussion groups may be covered in the exams!

- The best way to reach me is via email at llmartin3@wisc.edu.

- “Attendance”: If you know that you will be unable to view the week’s lectures or participate in the online discussion sections for religious or other reasons that can be known in advance, please let me know. If you have to miss a significant portion of time, due to sickness, family emergencies, or active-duty military service, please keep me informed as possible. We can make arrangements, in exceptional circumstances, for you to access materials in advance of the scheduled calendar.

- Time requirement: Set aside time in your weekly schedule to work on this course. Plan on spending around 6 hours per week. This is a 3-credit online course and each weekly “module” of this course will contain a weekly overview, 3 lectures, readings, and discussion. Also, plan
to access the course website daily to keep up with course activities, announcements,
discussions, etc.

- **Slides and notes:** The LearnUW site contains full copies of my lecture slides (Powerpoint) in
tandem with the audio recordings of the lectures. **Your best strategy is to listen carefully to
the lectures and take selective notes on things mentioned that are important but not
necessarily on the slides already. Then, go back to review the printed slides later on as
needed.** Please note, also, that the slides alone are not a substitute for listening to the lectures
AND doing the readings. Much of the material is unlikely to make complete sense if you do
not complete listening to the lectures.

- **Communication:** You have all been assigned a @wisc.edu email address. **Please use this
address for all correspondence regarding the course.** All messages sent to you regarding
the course will go to your @wisc.edu address. **All documents that you upload to the course
website must be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.**

- **Grading:** My policy for re-evaluating grades is the following:
  o You have to wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any
    complaints. You then have to draft a 1-2 page double-spaced memo outlining 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.
  o Your grade will then be fully re-evaluated. This means that I may revise the grade
downward as well as upward. 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!

- **Accommodations:** Students needing special accommodations to ensure full participation in
this course should contact me as early as possible. All information will remain confidential.
You also may contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center regarding questions about
campus policies/services.

Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses that will not be tolerated in the course. You will
receive a failing grade for the class, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript.

**Module 1, Background (Lecture 1): Introduction**

- Hurd chp. 1

**Module 1, Background (Lectures 2 and 3): International Law and Norms**

- Hurd chp. 2
  Organizations.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42: 3-32

**Module 2, Money (Lectures 1 and 2): Monetary Regimes**

- Hurd chp. 4, pp. 71-80

**Module 2, Money (Lecture 3): Regional Monetary Arrangements**


**Module 3, Development and Labor (Lecture 1): The World Bank**

• Hurd chp 4, pp. 81-100  

**Module 3, Development and Labor (Lecture 2): The Asian Development Bank**

  [ezproxy.library.wisc.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/821850490](http://search.proquest.com/docview/821850490)

**July 4: Happy Independence Day! *No lecture.***

**Module 3, Development and Labor (Lecture 3): The International Labor Organization**

• Hurd chp. 7  

  • *FIRST TAKE-HOME EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED – DUE ONE WEEK LATER (July 14)*

**Module 4, Security Institutions (Lecture 1): Alliances**


Institutions, and Foreign Policy, ed. Randolph Siverson (University of Michigan Press): 143-68.

Module 4, Security Institutions (Lecture 2): Collective Security

- Hurd chp. 6

Module 4, Security Institutions (Lecture 3): Influence and Reform in the UN Security Council

ezproxy.library.wisc.edu/login?url=http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/world_politics/v065/65.1lim.pdf

Module 5, Human Rights (Lecture 1): Human Rights Conventions

- Hurd chp. 8

Module 5, Human Rights (Lecture 2): The ICC and European Conventions

- Hurd chp. 9

Module 6, The European Union (Lectures 1 and 2): EU Institutions

- Hurd chp. 10

Module 6, The European Union (Lecture 3): EMU


• OP-ED ASSIGNMENT DUE

Module 7, International Trade (Lecture 1): The GATT/WTO

• Hurd chp. 3

Module 7, International Trade (Lecture 2): Regional Trade Organizations


Module 7, International Trade (Lecture 3): Preferential Trade Arrangements

• FINAL EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED – DUE ONE WEEK LATER

Module 8, Global Civil Society (Lecture 1): The Global Environment

Module 8, Global Civil Society (Lecture 2): The Olympic Games

  

Module 8, Global Civil Society (Lecture 3): The Future of Global Governance

- No required reading