

PSCI 3600A
International Institutions
2:35 p.m. – 5:25 p.m. Mondays
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Course description:

This course examines international organizations in world politics since 1914. The emphasis is placed on the United Nations. In the first part of the course, we shall review some definitions and the historical development of international organizations to establish a shared foundation on which to build. From there, we will consider some of the leading theoretical approaches to international organizations: liberalism institutionalism, realism, and constructivism. The main part is issue-orientated. Among other topics, we will discuss international peace and security, regional organizations, international organizations and accountability, human rights, global management and international justice, and international organizations and the promotion of economic welfare and development.

Who should take this course and why?

This course should appeal to students interested in international organizations (especially the United Nations) and how they function in the state system. A range of theories and topics will be covered, providing students with opportunities to stretch themselves in several directions. For example, our study of the development and evolution of international organizations may well appeal to the historians among us. Conflict analysis specialists and students concerned about the global economic system and the sometimes related question of equality between states will gravitate to the specific classes on those subjects. Debate in the classroom may well swing to evaluation of the effectiveness of international organizations, which will attract students interested in policy-relevance.

Students who will profit most from this course include those:

- Who want to satisfy their interest in or gain a fuller understanding of the functions, roles and development of international organizations;
- Interested in theory, especially liberalism, realism and constructivism, as they inform the study of international organizations; and
- Seeking to broaden their study of international relations by shifting attention from nation state power and unilateralism to a more multilateral framework of analysis.

Learning objectives for the course:

Participants in this course will be expected to achieve a number of objectives:

- Acquire a conceptual and practical understanding of international organizations, most particularly the United Nations, in the state system;

- Read and comprehend readings on theory and the evolution and roles of international organizations;
- Participate regularly in class discussions and group work, especially in the second half of classes when such activities are scheduled;
- Demonstrate critical thinking and writing ability in the group presentation, the individual mini-essay, mid-term and final exam.

Class meeting format:

Most of our classes will begin with a lecture based on the readings lasting an hour to an hour and a half. About an hour and a half will be allocated for the mid-term exam. The lecture will be delayed and shortened that day.

The final hour of each class will be reserved for class debate on aspects of that day's lesson or group meetings. During our peace and security class, we will watch a twenty-five minute video (a fictional crisis simulation) involving NATO during the final hour.

Course text:

Our textbook is *International Organizations: Principles and Issues* (7th ed.) by A. LeRoy 'Lee' Bennett and James K. Oliver. Readings will range beyond the text, but it is still recommended because it is strong and will serve as a reference point.

Assigned readings are listed below; see 'Readings.' Students are expected to have done their readings before coming to class. The instructor reserves the right to change the list.

Class evaluation:

Participation in class:	10% of total grade
Group presentation:	10%
Mid-term exam:	25% (3 November)
Individual report drawn from group work:	15% (1 December)
Participation in groups:	5%
Final exam:	35% of total grade

The final exam will be scheduled during the formal exam period, December 4-20th.

Participation in class: students who receive the most points will be those who not only attend, but also demonstrate willingness to grapple with the course materials. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and engage in the discussions.

The groups:

- Students will be placed in groups of 4-5 people. The groups will be semi-moderated (the instructor can only briefly visit with each during class), but sign-in sheets will be used to facilitate the group participation grading process. Groups will have at least an hour of class time to meet on three successive days.

- The groups will select a topic. They will be expected to develop a **central argument** about their topic and a **short** (no more than 20 minutes) presentation explaining their stance. Each group will present their case to the class. A wrap-up Q & A session will take place after each day's presentations.

- Each member of each group will prepare a mini-essay on some aspect of the group topic for submission. The mini-essay should be 750-1000 words, be double-spaced, written in normal essay-paragraph style, cite three or more times per page, and have a works cited page. The mini-essay should have a central argument (a thesis) near the top that can be an elaboration of your contribution to the group presentation but should not simply repeat what your entire group said. You can disagree with your group. The rest of the mini-essay makes a case for the thesis. Individual reports will be handed-in on the last presentation day.

Mini-essays should be dropped off during class or the office hours before class. If you are unable to submit this way, use the Department drop-off box. *This box is emptied every weekday at 4 p.m. and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with that day's date.* Late assignments will be deducted 1 letter-grade category / day [ex., a B+ paper 2 days late will be reduced to a B-]. The weekend counts as two days. If you finish on Saturday and do not want it to appear you submitted the following Monday, hand-write Saturday's date on it before using the drop-off box.

The mid-term exam: will be an hour and a half long. The format will be 'short answer / state the significance of.' Note that 'state the significance' implies analysis. You are being asked to take the term / concept and analyse it – what does the term / concept, as a type of political activity, say about international institutions? Students will be presented with a choice of six broad terms / concepts and be asked to write on three. The answers are worth roughly the same: answer 1 = 34%, answer 2 = 33%, answer 3 = 33%.

The final exam: the date, time and location of the final exam have yet to be determined. It will be scheduled during the formal final exam period, December 4-20th. The exam will be two hours and in the 'short essay question' format. The final exam will probe understanding of the core course concepts / themes. The instructor will be most interested not in memorization, but in the quality of student analysis.

The mid-term exam and the final exam will be graded by the TA. The instructor is responsible for the rest of the grading / evaluation.

Other considerations:

Remember that you are expected to be available to write during the entire final exam period.

It is not acceptable to submit the same assignment for two or more courses.

You are welcome to works published on-line by institutions, scholars or academic networks. Examples are papers by authors on personal websites and documents from NATO, the UN, and Columbia International Affairs Online. Everything from the Carleton Library databases is acceptable. Be wary of other Web sources. Check with the professor if uncertain. When citing from the Internet, reflect the most applicable paper format and provide the Web address and date of last access in the note.

Readings and Schedule:

Week 1 (8 September): Introductions and outline of the course

- No readings assigned. The instructor and students introduce themselves. We will discuss the course outline, the group work, and the expectations.

Week 2 (15 September): Definitions, History, Context

- Peter Katzenstein, Robert Keohane, and Stephen Krasner, "International Organizations and the Study of World Politics," *International Organization* 52.4 (1998): 645-685 [web]
- Clive Archer, *International Organizations*, 3rd ed., (2001): 1-34 [reserve]

Optional (will be discussed by the prof.):

- Course textbook, chapters 2-3

Week 3 (22 September): Theory, Part I (realism and liberal institutionalism)

- John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, 19.3 (1994-95): 5-49 [web]
- Robert Keohane and Lisa Martin, "The Promise of Institutional Theory," *International Security* 20.1 (1995): 39-51 [web]

Optional (will be discussed by the prof.):

- Course textbook, chapter 7

Week 4 (29 September): Theory, Part II (constructivism)

- Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore, "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations," *International Organization* 53.4 (Autumn 1999): 699-732 [web]
- Martha Finnemore, "International Organizations as Teachers of Norms: the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and Science Policy," *International Organization* 47.4 (Autumn 1993): 565-597 [web]

Week 5 (6 October): Domestic Politics and International Institutions

- Judith Goldstein, "International Law and Domestic Institutions: Reconciling North American 'Unfair' Trade Laws," *International Organization* 50.4 (Autumn 1996): 541-564 [web]
- Andrew P. Cortell and James W. Davis, Jr., "How Do International Institutions Matter? The Domestic Impact of International Rules and Norms," *International Studies Quarterly* 40.4 (1996): 451-479 [web]

Week 6 (13 October): Statutory holiday. University closed.

Week 7 (20 October): Peace and Security [Movie Night!]

- Francis Kofi Abiew and Tom Keating, "Outside Agents and the Politics of Peace-building & Reconciliation," *International Journal* 55.1 (Winter 1999-2000): 80-106 [web]
- Ronald D. Asmus, "NATO's Hour," *Wall Street Journal*, (18 August 2008) [download from My Carleton course portal]
- Course textbook, chapter 7

Week 8 (27 October): International Organizations and Accountability [Group meetings]

- Matthias Basanisi, "Who Will Watch the Peacekeepers?" *New York Times* (23 May 2008) [download from My Carleton course portal]
- August Reinisch, "Securing the Accountability of International Organizations," *Global Governance*, 7.2 (2001): 131-149 [web]
- Robert O. Keohane and Ruth W. Grant, "Accountability and Abuses of Power in World Politics," *American Political Science Review* 99.1 (2005): 29-43 [web]

Week 9 (3 November): Mid-Term Exam: Regional Organizations [Group meetings]

- Muthiah Alagappa, "Regional Institutions, the UN and International Security: A Framework for Analysis," *Third World Quarterly* 18.3 (1997): 421-441 [web]
- Course textbook, chapter 10

Week 10 (10 November): Managing Globalization [Group meetings]

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, "The New Price of Hunger," *The Globe and Mail* (13 March 2008) [download from My Carleton course portal]
- Course textbook, chapters 11 and 13

Week 11 (17 November): Promotion of International Justice [Group Presentation Day]

- Editorial, "Finally, Nowhere to Hide," *New York Times* (23 July 2008) [download from My Carleton course portal]
- Craig Timberg, "Sierra Leone Special Court's Narrow Focus: Well-Funded but Selective War Crimes Probe Draws Resentment of Impoverished Victims," *Washington Post* (26 March 2008) p.A11 [download from My Carleton course portal]
- Course textbook, chapter 8

Week 12 (24 November): Human Rights, Economic Welfare and Development [Group Presentation Day]

- Course textbook, chapters 12 and 15

Week 13 (1 December): Course Review [Group Presentation Day]

- Course review in anticipation of final exam

- Remaining group presentations
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Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008 for December examinations**, and **March 6, 2009 for April examinations**.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at:
<http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.