“Since the strength and effectiveness of an organization has depended upon the continuing support of a large majority of its members, including all the more powerful ones, the successful organization has been one whose performance has coincided broadly through time with the national interests of its member states. Phrased another way, the success of an international organization has depended upon the existence of a consensus among member states about the underlying idea or objective of the organization. Broad or universal consensus has meant a strong organization. A narrowing of the consensus, especially when coupled with militant opposition, has meant weakness and relative ineffectiveness. This result has been more pronounced, regardless of the nature or form of the organization, when the opposition has included one or more great powers, or coalitions of lesser states whose collective decision is critical in the world community.”


“The fall of international organization as a field of study reflects not only the crisis of confidence experienced by international institutions but also a crisis of confidence experienced by the scholarly community in its ability to develop and disseminate useful knowledge for improving the human condition.”... If “the world has let many of us down” in that “it simply has not conformed to our expectations” we need to sharpen our analytical tools.


“All international organizations, including the United Nations and the Security Council, are dead and are being exploited,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi said on 23rd July 2006 (mehrnews.com), in reference to the failure of world bodies’ to respond adequately to the Zionists’ atrocities in Lebanon. The belief that the tendency of states to rely too heavily on international organizations creates more problems than it has been able to solve has also been rampant. These critics of IO’s argue, that states, especially the United States of America must be aware of this fact, or it may lose its sovereignty and power to organizations whose interests do not reflect their own. Amidst talk that international organizations are dead, why bother studying them?

Before we discuss the answer to the question, what are IO’s? Typically, when we refer to IO’s, we tend to think of the United Nations. However, examples of IO’s include, and are not limited to the African Union (AU), The Commonwealth, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Community of Portuguese Speaking Nations (CPLP), European Free Trade Association, European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), EUTELSAT (European Telecommunications Satellite Organization), European Union. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Organization Internationale de La Francophonie, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), International Bureau of Education, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Coffee Organization, International Copper Study Group (ICSG), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Fund for Agricultural Development, International
Hydrographic Organization, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), League of Arab States, North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Organization of the Islamic Conference, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Universal Postal Union, United Nations, International Red Cross, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Birdlife International, Christian Aid, European Union, Human Rights Watch, Médicins Sans Frontières, Motion Picture Association…The list is endless and their tasks and success record varied. Of course, in this list, there are inter-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations of both regional and global scope. Can we generalize about IO’s being dead or passé in world politics and as a subject of inquiry? No, not without researching the subject!! That’s why you’re in this class!

The international system has seen an increase of the number and kinds of international organizations. These IO’s may be intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, global or regional covering several domains namely the legal, economic, military, social, etc. In addition to the proliferation in the number and types of IOs, they have assumed an important role in the day-to-day lives of individuals and in the regulation of interstate relations. The vital role of various types of international organizations (IOs) in the international system is often disregarded and widely misconstrued. The goal of this course is to re-open up the door for discussion revolving IO’s and their role in the past, present and future in order to dispel myths and adopt a defendable standpoint (Of course, if thesis ideas emanate from this course, tant mieux!!).

In an anarchical international system in which states pursue their national interests, how and why is it that IO’s abound? The question at the heart of the course is whether IO’s contribute to the resolution of transnational problems where norms of international interaction can be created and reinforced. Or are IO’s merely another venue in which states pursue their national interests?

The broad objectives of this course are as follows:

✔️ To uncover the historical background and trends in the growth of international organizations,
✔️ To identify the various types of international organizations and discuss the key characteristics of each,
✔️ To master the various alternative theoretical perspectives and concepts used to study international organizations,
✔️ To describe the structure and activities of the certain IO’s
✔️ To evaluate the past and present performance and forecast the future of international organizations in the world community.

Books/Readings

Readings on Class account. Details of account and password will be given to you in class.
Course Requirements

Attendance, Discussion Leading and Class Participation (10+10% =20%): Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to come to class having read all the materials assigned for the class session. Regular attendance as well as class preparedness in terms of discussion and comments in class is crucial to your success in this class. Each student must bring a comment card (index card or fiche cartonnée A5, approximately half a page – 15 X 21 cm) with a comment on it for the day’s reading. Students may be asked to read their comment in class to fuel discussion. Comments should NOT be mere summaries of the reading but an argument/position/standpoint/hypothesis based on the materials for the day.

This exercise (attendance+comment cards+discussion leading) will constitute 20% of your class grade. Details for discussion leading will be discussed in class.

Note on Attendance: Each student is expected to come to class on time and stay for the entire class period. However, if you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to catch up on notes and materials covered in class. If you miss class on a day when an exam or presentation is scheduled, you will NOT be allowed to re-take the exam unless you have a doctor’s certificate or other valid reason justifying your absence.

Note on Comment Cards: Scraps of paper will not be accepted, nor comment cards of smaller sizes (even if you turn in multiple cards). You do have the option of typing your comment cards on a paper the same size as the required card. NO Late Comment cards will be accepted except in the case of an excused absence for MEDICAL reasons. If you would like to turn in comment cards for days that you miss class, make sure you have someone else turn it in for you. NO EMAIL COMMENT CARDS will be accepted!

An IO Report (5 %): Each student is required to submit a 3-5 page IO report in which you will assess any one aspect of an IO. This assignment is due on Friday 11 December before the Christmas break. This assignment can be a preliminary inquiry into the IO that you plan to work on in your research paper.

Take-Home Mid Term Exam (25%): The mid-term exam will be given on 30 October and is due on 6 November.

Final Exam (25%): The take home final exam is scheduled for the last week of the semester (22 January). Details about the exams will be discussed in class.

Outline + Research Paper (20%), Presentation (5%) Students are expected to turn in a research paper (details to be discussed in class) on a topic of international organizations to be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. Since the duration of the course is short, students must decide their topics by Friday, 6 November, when the paper topic & outline are due (5%). The research paper (20 %) is due on Friday, 22 January and the in-class presentations (5%) will be scheduled on 8, 15 and 22 January.

Academic Dishonesty: Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a ‘failing grade’ in the class and possible expulsion from the Program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as copying of materials from sources, without acknowledging having done so, claiming other’s ideas as one’s own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams.

Newspaper Reading: Students are encouraged to read the newspaper every day.
Help and Assistance: If you require extra guidance and support to meet the high standards of the class, please feel free to meet with me to discuss your questions or concerns. I will try to schedule an appointment with students who need help.

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, if needed.*
COURSE CALENDAR  
(as of 17 September 2009)

International Organizations - An Introduction  
International Organization: An Assessment of the Field

18 September – Introduction

Read: Karns and Mingst, Chapt. 1, The Challenges of Global Governance  
The Rise and Fall of International Organization as a Field of Study  
J. Martin Rochester  

The Classification of International Organizations, I  
Pitman B. Potter  

The Classification of International Organizations, II  
Pitman B. Potter  

International Organization and World Politics  
Charles Easton Rothwell  

"Science" in the Study of International Organization: A Rejoinder  
Robert W. Cox  

International Organizations: Then and Now  
José E. Alvarez  

Theoretical Foundations of Global Governance: Liberalism v. Realism

25 September – Liberalism and IOs

Read: Karns and Mingst, Chapt 2, The Theoretical Foundations of Global Governance  
Theories of International Regimes  
Stephan Haggard; Beth A. Simmons  

Regime Dynamics: The Rise and Fall of International Regimes  
Oran R. Young  

The Demand for International Regimes  
Robert O. Keohane  

Consensus and Conflict in Functionalism: Implications for the Study of International Integration  
A. J. Miller  

The Functional Approach to World Organization  
David Mitrany
International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-), Vol. 24, No. 3. (Jul., 1948), pp. 350-363.

A Functional Approach to International Organization
Michael Haas

Three Neo-Functional Hypotheses about International Integration
Philippe C. Schmitter

Why Collaborate?: Issue-Linkage and International Regimes
Ernst B. Haas

Collective Goods and International Organization
Bruce M. Russett; John D. Sullivan

2 October – **Realism and IOs**

Reflection, Evaluation, Integration
*Interests, Power, Knowledge: The Study of International Regimes*
Andreas Hasenclever; Peter Mayer; Volker Rittberger

Promises, Promises: Can Institutions Deliver?
The Promise of Institutionalist Theory
Robert O. Keohane; Lisa L. Martin

The False Promise of International Institutions
John J. Mearsheimer

A Realist Reply
John J. Mearsheimer

Dueling Realisms
Stephen G. Brooks

War and Strong States, Peace and Weak States?
Michael C. Desch

Perverse Institutionalism: NATO and the Greco-Turkish Conflict
Ronald R. Krebs

9 October – **Guest Lecture**

16 October – **International Organizations and Development**

Read: Karns and Mingst, Chapt 9, Promoting Human Development and Economic Well-Being

The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations
Michael N. Barnett; Martha Finnemore
Dependence, Dependency, and Power in the Global System: A Structural and Behavioral Analysis
James A. Caporaso

A World-System Perspective on Dependency and Development in Latin America
Christopher K. Chase-Dunn

The Success and Failure of Dependency Theory: The Experience of Ghana
James C. W. Ahiakpor

Enforcement and Countermeasures in the WTO: Rules are Rules-Toward a More Collective Approach
Joost Pauwelyn

The WTO as Linkage Machine
Jose E. Alvarez

NAFTA and the Legalization of World Politics: A Case Study
Frederick M. Abbott

UNCTAD’s Failures: The Rich Get Richer
Robert Ramsay

WTO NEWS: SPEECHES — DG PASCAL LAMY
http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/sppl_e/sppl12_e.htm
21 October 2005, Towards global governance?

23 October – Guest Lecture

30 October – The Pieces of Global Governance

Cross-Cutting Memberships, Integration, and the International System
John D. Mitchell

Global Governance: Poorly Done and Poorly Understood
Craig N. Murphy

Unraveling the Central State, but How? Types of Multi-Level Governance
Liesbet Hooghe; Gary Marks

Political Science and the 21st Century: From Government to Governance
William W. Boyer

Interpreting Trends in Global Environmental Governance
Matthew Paterson
*International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-)*, Vol. 75, No. 4. (Oct., 1999), pp. 793-802.
The United Nations
Read: Karns and Mingst, Chapt 4, The United Nations: Centerpiece of Global Governance

International Organizations and International Systems
Wolfram F. Hannieder

Judging the Security Council
Jose E. Alvarez

What Future for the UN Charter System of War Prevention?
Richard A. Falk

6 November – Regional Organizations

Read: Karns and Mingst, Chapt 5, Regional Organizations

Required
The Study of Regional Integration: Reflections on the Joy and Anguish of Pretheorizing
Ernst B. Haas

Regional Organization and the United Nations
Norman J. Padelford

Regional Organizations: A United Nations Problem
Gerhard Bebr

Regional Organizations in the United Nations: Is there Externalization?
Ernst B. Haas; Edward Thomas Rowe

United States Policy Toward Regional Organization
Joseph S. Nye

Recommended
ASEAN and the Management of Regional Security
Shaun Narine

Understanding ASEAN: Benefits and Raison d’Etre
Bilson Kurus

Regionalization in South Asia: Theory and Praxis
Ananya Mukherjee Reed

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations: "Security Community" or "Defence Community"?
Amitav Acharya

OPEC and the Problem of Collective Action
Raino Malnes
13 November – no class (Fall break)

20 or 26 November (Note possible change of day!) – Guest Lecture

November 27 – NGOs, Networks, and Social Movements: The Role of Non-State Actors

Read: Karns and Mingst, Chapt 6, Nonstate Actors: NGOs, Networks, and Social Movement

The Growth of International Nongovernmental Organization in the Twentieth Century
Kjell Skjelsbaek

Nongovernmental Organizations and International Law
Steve Charnovitz

Deliberation, Leverage or Coercion? The World Bank, NGOs, and Global Environmental Politics
Paul J. Nelson

States, NGOs, and International Environmental Institutions
Kal Raustiala

4 December – Guest Lecture

11 December – The Role of States in Global Governance

Read: Karns and Mingst, Chapt 7, The Roles of States in Global Governance
Read: Karns and Mingst, Chapt 8, The Search for Peace and Security
Read: Karns and Mingst, Chapt 12, Dilemmas of Global Governance in the Twenty-First Century

Why States Act through Formal International Organizations
Kenneth W. Abbott; Duncan Snidal

Global Interdependence and the Responsibilities of States: Learning from the Japanese Experience
Marvin S. Soroos

Leadership at Risk: The Perils of Unilateralism
Ralph G. Carter
Inequality in the World Polity: The Structure of International Organization
Jason Beckfield
The Limits of International Organization: Systematic Failure in the Management of
International Relations
Giulio M. Gallarotti
Hierarchies, Jobs, Bodies: A Theory of Gendered Organizations
Joan Acker
Gender and Society, Vol. 4, No. 2. (Jun., 1990), pp. 139-158
The Epistemology of the Gendered Organization
Dana M. Britton
The Limits of International Organization: Systematic Failure in the Management of
International Relations
Giulio M. Gallarotti

12 December 2009 – 3 January 2010  No Class

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010

✓ 8 January  Presentations
✓ 15 January  Presentations
✓ 22 January  Presentations
               Final Exam
               Research Paper Due

******************************************************************************

NB The Guest Lectures are expected to include: OECD, UNESCO, International Energy Agency,
UNEP, Human Rights Watch.
STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Name:

Program of Study:

Where are you from?

Email Address (that I can use to reach you):

Phone Number (where I can reach you):

General Areas of Interest:

Areas of Specific Interest Relating to IO’s:

When do you expect to graduate?

What do you expect from this course?

What are you willing to contribute to this class?

Something to remember you by 😊