



Political Science Dept., Lyon College

# POL 346

## INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ORGANIZATIONS

SPRING 2024

Lyon Building 200 — MWF 11-11:50

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### Course Description

This is an advanced undergraduate course for students seeking to gain a better understanding of the basic principles, norms, rules, and organizations that structure **global governance** in world politics. The course draws from theory, history, and quantitative empirical research to answer a series of fundamental questions:

- Why is cooperation so difficult to achieve at the global level?
- *Does* international law really shape state behavior and, if so, through what mechanisms?
- How should we assess and verify the *effectiveness* of international regimes?
- What explains differences in the *form* and *design* of international organizations?
- What are the *norms*, *rules*, and *organizations* that comprise global governance in 2023?
- How can global governance be *improved* upon moving forward?

Class sessions will be predominately lecture-driven. However, some classes will also consist of discussion, group activities, and question-and-answer periods. In addition, all students will create and formally present their own international organization during the final week of class.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students understand core theories and empirical work driving research on international organizations, law, and cooperation.
2. Students possess an in-depth understanding of real-world international organizations, including but not limited to, the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the European Union.
3. Students can apply their knowledge of international law and international relations (IR) theory to design international organizations from scratch.
4. Students can think critically and fairly consider both sides of an argument based on empirical evidence prior to forming answers to a research question.
5. Students can conduct original and creative research in the political science discipline.
6. Students can communicate their ideas effectively through writing.
7. Students can communicate their ideas orally and through visual presentation (such as PowerPoint).

## Required Materials

- **There are no required textbooks for this course.** All reading materials are posted on Canvas and can be found under the “Files” tab.

## Grading

Letter grades for the course are computed as follows: **A** = 90-100; **B** = 80-89; **C** = 70-79; **D** = 60-69; **F** = < 60.

Your grade for the course is comprised of the following criteria:

<b>1) Exams</b> .....	<b>45% Total</b>
Midterm Exam (Fri, Mar 1) .....	20%
Final Exam (Date TBA) .....	25%
<b>2) Participation, Attendance, and Quizzes</b> .....	<b>20% Total</b>
<b>3) Reading Response Papers</b> .....	<b>10% Total</b>
Response Paper 1 .....	5%
Response Paper 2 .....	5%
<b>4) Designing an IO</b> .....	<b>25% Total</b>
Paper (due May 8th) .....	20%
PowerPoint Presentation (Weeks 16-17) .....	5%

**Exams (45% Total).** The midterm and final exam are both non-cumulative exams that count as 20% and 25% of your final grade, respectively. Both exams will consist of two parts. For the first part, you will be given a set of terms and be asked to define them in 2-3 sentences. For the second part, you will be given a choice of short response questions to answer in a few paragraphs. Generally speaking, the exams will test your knowledge of key concepts as well as your ability to relate the concepts and course material to real-world problems. I will distribute a study guide one week prior to each exam. The study guide will contain a complete list of terms and questions that may show up on the exam.

**Attendance/Participation/Quizzes (20% Total).** Attendance and participation are essential for doing well in this course. I take attendance at the beginning of each class. More than two *unexcused* absences will result in a lower grade. In addition, I assess the quality of your attendance by recording the frequency of your participation and issuing “pop” quizzes based on the required readings for the day. Your compliance with the course technology policy (see below) also affects this portion of your grade.

**Response Papers (10% Total).** At two different points in the semester, students are required to write a response to one of the assigned readings on the syllabus. Students will sign up for which readings they would like to respond to on the second day of class. While you are given some flexibility for this assignment, you should aim to structure your response papers as follows:

1. Write a paragraph summarizing the author’s research question, their main argument and, if applicable, the evidence they use to support their argument.
2. Then, write whether you find the author’s argument and evidence convincing. Why or why not?
3. If you still have space in your paper, write a paragraph describing some ideas for future research. This might include proposing your own argument to the author’s research question. Or it might include writing out a better idea on how the author can test their argument. You are welcome to be creative for this portion of the response paper.

**Response papers must be no longer than 500 words.** You will be graded on the accuracy of your summary, the thoughtfulness of your response, as well as grammar/spelling/organization.

**Designing an IO (25% Total).** Throughout the course of the semester, students will design their own original international organization (IO) to address a real-world issue in international relations. All students must describe their IO in an approximately 8-page double-spaced paper. Please refer to the separate assignment sheet for complete instructions on how to write the final paper. During the final week of the semester, students will present their papers in a 7-8 minute PowerPoint presentation to the entire class. Complete instructions for the PowerPoint presentations will be handed out during Week 15.

## Course Technology

In the interest of creating an optimal environment for learning, **the use of laptops and cell phones are banned during class time**, barring exceptional circumstances. Please plan to bring paper and something to write with in order to take notes. Noncompliance with this policy will result in a lower attendance/participation grade while perfect compliance with this policy will push your attendance/participation grade upward.

The learning management system (LMS) we will utilize throughout the semester is Canvas. All course material (e.g., syllabus, assignment instructions), non-textbook readings, grades, and class slides will be posted on Canvas. Students will also use Canvas to submit all writing assignments. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing Canvas at any point throughout the semester.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**Note:** Readings for the day should be completed before class begins.

### **Week 1 (Jan 17-19) — Introduction to International Regimes**

Key Questions: *What are international regimes? What is cooperation and can it exist in the absence of a hegemon?*

🌐 Wednesday:

- Course Syllabus

🌐 Friday:

- Keohane, Robert. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton University Press: Chapter 4.

### **Week 2 (Jan 22-26) — Optimistic and Pessimistic Takes on International Law**

Key Questions: *Do IOs and international law exert independent effects on state behavior? And if so, when and how?*

🌐 Monday:

- No Reading

🌐 Wednesday:

- Mearsheimer, John. 1994/1995. “The False Promise of International Institutions.” *International Security* 19 (3): 5-49.

🌐 Friday:

- Keohane, Robert O., and Lisa L. Martin. 1995. “The Promise of Institutional Theory.” *International Security* 20 (1): 39-51.

### **Week 3 (Jan 29-Feb 2) — Assessing the Effectiveness of International Law**

Key Questions: *Are high rates of compliance really indicative of high rates of cooperation? Why do states choose to comply or not comply with international law?*

🌐 Monday:

- Chayes, Abram, and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. “On Compliance.” *International Organization* 47 (2): 175-205.

🌐 Wednesday:

- Downs, George W., David M. Rocke, and Peter N. Barsoom. 1996. "Is the Good News About Compliance Good News About Cooperation?" *International Organization* 50 (3): 379-406.

🌐 Friday:

- No Reading

#### **Week 4 (Feb 5-9) — Global Norms and Behavioral Perspectives**

Key Questions: *How powerful are international norms in shaping state behavior? Where do norms come from?*

🌐 Monday:

- Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52 (4): 887-917.

🌐 Wednesday:

- No Reading

🌐 Friday:

- Acharya, Amitav. 2004. "How Ideas Spread: Whose Norms Matter? Norm Localization and Institutional Change in Asian Regionalism." *International Organization* 58 (2): 239-275.

#### **Week 5 (Feb 12-16) — Institutional Design**

Key Questions: *Why are some international regimes more legalized than others? What explains differences in the design of IOs?*

📖 Monday:

- Abbott, Kenneth W., and Duncan Snidal. 2000. "Hard and Soft Law in International Governance." *International Organization* 54 (3): 421-456.

📖 Wednesday:

- Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. "The Rational Design of International Institutions." *International Organization* 54 (3): 761-799.

📖 Friday:

- No Reading

**Week 6 (Feb 19-23) — Pathologies of IOs**

Key Questions: *Are IOs autonomous actors or merely servants of state interests? Why do IOs and international law sometimes become counterproductive or dysfunctional?*

 Monday:

- NO CLASS (Mental Health Day)**

 Wednesday:

- Barnett, Michael N., and Martha Finnemore. 1999. “The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations.” *International Organization* 53 (4): 699-732.

 Friday:

- No Reading

**Week 7 (Feb 26-Mar 1) — Pathologies of IOs (Cont’d) and Exam Week**

Key Questions: *Why do some IOs thrive while others die out? What is going to be on the exam?!*

 Monday:

- Gray, Julia. 2018. “Life, Death, or Zombie? The Vitality of International Organizations.” *International Studies Quarterly* 62 (1): 1-13.

 Wednesday:

- Exam 1 Study Guide

 Friday:

- Midterm Exam in Class on Friday, March 1st**

**Week 8 (Mar 4-8) — United Nations**

*\*\*\*No Classes on Friday, Mar 8 (Away at ArkPSA Conference)\*\*\**

 Monday:

- The UN Charter

 Wednesday:

- Blum, Yehuda Z. 2005. “Proposals for UN Security Council Reform.” *American Journal of International Law* 99 (3): 632-649.

 Friday:

**NO CLASS (Away at ArkPSA)**

**Week 9 (Mar 11-15) — The Bretton Woods Institutions**

 Monday:

- Reinhart, Carmen M., and Christoph Trebesch. 2016. “The International Monetary Fund: 70 Years of Reinvention.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30 (1): 3-28.

 Wednesday:

- No Reading

 Friday:

- Ravallion. 2016. “The World Bank: Why It Is Still Needed and Why It Still Disappoints.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30 (1): 77-94.

**Week 10 (Mar 16-23) — SPRING BREAK**

No Classes

**Week 11 (Mar 25-29) — Collective Security and NATO**

 Monday:

- The North Atlantic Treaty

 Wednesday:

- Brzezinski, Zbigniew. 2009. “An Agenda for NATO.” *Foreign Affairs* 88 (5): 2-20.
- Mearsheimer, John. “Why the West is Principally Responsible for the Ukrainian Crisis.” *The Economist*. March 19, 2022.

 Friday:

- NO CLASS (Easter Break)**

**Week 12 (Apr 1-5) — European Integration**

 Monday:

- Staab, Andreas. 2013. *The European Union Explained: Institutions, Actors, Global Impact*. Indiana University Press: Chapter 1.

 Wednesday:



No Reading

 Friday:

Marsh, David. 2016. *Europe's Deadlock: How the Euro Crisis Could be Solved—and Why It Still Won't Happen*. Yale University Press: Chapters 2, 5 and 11.

### **Week 13 (Apr 8-12) — The World Trade Organization and Trade Law**

 Monday:

Baldwin, Richard. 2016. “The World Trade Organization and the Future of Multilateralism.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30 (1): 95-116.

 Wednesday:

No Reading

 Friday:

Busch, Marc L., and Krzysztof J. Pelc. 2010 “The Politics of Judicial Economy at the World Trade Organization.” *International Organization* 64 (2): 257-279.

### **Week 14 (Apr 15-19) — Human Rights and the International Criminal Court**

 Monday:

No Reading

 Wednesday:

Bosco, David. 2013. *Rough Justice: The International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics*. Oxford University Press: Introduction; Chapter 1; and Chapter 3.

 Friday:

No Reading

### **Week 15 (Apr 22-26) — International Refugee Law**

 Monday:

Chimni, Bhupinder Singh, ed. (2000). *International Refugee Law: A Reader*. New Delhi: Sage Publications: Chapter 1.

 Wednesday:

No Reading

 Friday:

Hathaway, James C. 2016. "A Global Solution to a Global Refugee Crisis." *European Papers* 1 (1): 93-99.

### **Week 16 (Apr 29-May 3) — Nongovernmental Organizations**

 Monday:

Gereffi, Gary, Ronie Garcia-Johnson, and Erika Sasser. 2001. "The NGO-Industrial Complex." *Foreign Policy* (125): 56-65.

 Wednesday:

No Reading

 Friday:

No Reading

**Student Presentations Begin**

### **Week 17 (May 6-8) — Student Presentations**

 Monday:

No Reading

 Wednesday:

No Reading

**Designing IO Papers Due by Wednesday, May 8th (Class Time)**