POSC 357

Fall 2017

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The study of international institutions involves more than looking into the daily workings of bodies such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. It involves considering the fundamental questions states and other actors face when they try to cooperate with one another: Who decides what the rules of the game will be? Who bears the costs of collective action? How much sovereignty do states have to give up? What are the implications for the existing world order of a simultaneous tilt toward populist “globophobia” in the West and rise of new power centers elsewhere in the world?

This course explores these questions within a broader study of how we understand international institutions. It proceeds in three stages. First, we’ll examine different types of international institutions and theoretical interpretations of their possibilities and pitfalls. Second, we’ll explore a range of international institutions—including those in the areas of security, economy, and the environment, among others—with an eye to how effective they have been. We’ll conclude by considering the declining capacity and willingness of Western states to uphold the post-World War II they built and the implications for peace, prosperity, and justice in the world.

In this course, you will be evaluated both on your command of the substantive material and on your capacity to make strong arguments in your class participation and written assignments. The only path to truly understanding political issues is through acknowledging that competing claims might both have good arguments, and that superior logic and evidence is what makes one argument better than another.

Course format. In our two weekly meetings, Mondays will generally be lectures and Wednesdays will combine lecture and discussion of the readings.

Course requirements include attending and actively participating in class meetings, reading assigned materials, and completing all class assignments.

Readings include an assigned textbook, Margaret Karns, Karen Mingst, & Kendall Stiles’ International Organizations, as well as articles and other materials on the course’s Moodle site. The book is available for purchase at the bookstore and on two-hour reserve at library.

Also, I expect everyone to keep up with international news. Reliable, high-quality outlets include NPR, BBC News, the Economist, Financial Times, New York Times, Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. I will often post topical news articles on Moodle, which you should read before the appropriate class.
Grades will be based on class participation, two essays, and a final exam. The breakdown:

- Participation: 20%
- Short essay: 20%
- Research paper: 30%
- Final exam: 30%

Effective participation involves first and foremost coming to class ready to discuss the readings and lecture materials. Regular attendance is expected and repeated absences will hurt your grade. Students will lead discussion in groups twice during the semester, and submit answers to discussion leaders’ questions every week.

There will be two essays, one short and one longer; details to come.

The final exam will be a quasi-cumulative test of your comprehension of the course material.

Additional logistics

Course information and documents—including the syllabus, some readings, lecture outlines, handouts, and assignments—will all be available on the class’s Moodle site.

Getting into the class. The course is full. The only way to get in is to monitor course enrollments online and gain a spot vacated by a student who has dropped.

General policies:
- Be here on time. Turn off your phone.
- If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get the notes or assignments from a classmate.
- I don’t give extensions on papers or other assignments.
- I have a zero-tolerance policy toward academic dishonesty.

NB: It’s YOUR responsibility to properly observe course rules and meet course requirements. If something comes up that hinders your ability to do so, contact me right away. The earlier you deal with things, the kinder I’ll be.

* reading available on Moodle

**INTRODUCTION: CONCEPTS, THEORIES, DEBATES**

- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 1-35, 53-55
- *Murphy, “The last two centuries of global governance”
- *Young, “Regime dynamics: the rise and fall of international regimes”
- *Ruggie, “Multilateralism: anatomy of an institution”
- *Niblett, “Liberalism in retreat”
Sept. 11 & 13: The effectiveness and legitimacy of international institutions
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 35-40, 587-92
- *Hirschman, Exit, Voice, and Loyalty, chapter 1
- *Keohane, “Global governance and legitimacy”
- *Scholte, “Toward greater legitimacy in global governance”

Sept. 18 & 20: Debating the impact of international institutions
- *Mearsheimer, “The false promise of international institutions”
- *Olson, The Logic of Collective Action, selection
- *Keohane & Martin, “The promise of institutionalist theory”
- *Cooper, The Breaking of Nations, chapters 1 & 2
- *Barnett & Finnemore, “The power, politics, & pathologies of international organizations”
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 43-49, 55-61 (recommended)

ESSAY #1 DUE FRIDAY, SEPT. 22 AT 5PM (VIA EMAIL)

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

Sept. 25 & 27: The United Nations and the promise of postwar collective security
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, chapters 3 (pp. 81-88 only) & 4 (all), pp. 366-76
- *UN Charter: Preamble, Chapters 1-7
- *Kupchan & Kupchan, “The promise of collective security”
- *Hurd, “The politics of legitimation in UN Security Council reform”

Oct. 2 & 4: Cold War (and beyond) security institutions—NATO and arms control
NATO (Monday)
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 170-77
- *Menon & Welsh, “Understanding NATO’s sustainability”
Arms control (Wednesday)
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 354-366
- *Miller, “The secret success of nonproliferation sanctions”
- *Mousavian, “The solution to the Iranian nuclear crisis and its implications for the Middle East”

Oct. 9: FALL BREAK—NO CLASS

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS

Oct. 11: The Liberal International Economic Order and the advent of globalization
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 382-84
- *Ruggie, “International regimes, transactions, and change
Oct. 16 & 18: International trade and FDI—the WTO and investment treaties
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 396-403, 421-22
- *Jackson, “The case of the World Trade Organization”
- *Aslund, “The world needs a multilateral investment agreement”

Oct. 23 & 25: The IMF, money, and finance in the LIEO
Money (Monday)
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 387-94, 415-16
- *Gilpin, “The international monetary system”
- Hawley talk (time TBA)—attendance required
Financial regulation (Wednesday)
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 379-82, 385-6, 394-96, 405-8
- *Geithner, “Are we safe yet?”

Oct. 30 & Nov. 1: Development—the IFIs and WTO
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, chapter 9
- *Zoellick, “Why we still need the World Bank”
- *Gallagher, “Understanding developing country resistance to the Doha Round”
- *Joshi & Odell, “Global governance and development ideology”

Nov. 6 & 8: The European Union and regionalism
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, chapter 5 (skim)
- *Crum, “Saving the euro at the cost of democracy?”
- *Matthijs, “Europe after Brexit”
- *Hobolt, “The Brexit vote: a divided nation, a divided continent”

TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES INSTITUTIONS
Nov. 13 & 15: International environmental institutions
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. chapter 11
- *Najam, “The case against a new international environmental organization”
- *Keohane & Victor, “Cooperation and discord in global climate policy”

Nov. 20 & 22: THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASS

Nov. 27 & 29: Human rights, humanitarian intervention, and international courts
Human rights (Monday)
- Karns, Mingst, & Stiles, pp. 467-99, 515-26 (skim all)
- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- *Sikkink, “Human rights, principled issue-networks, and sovereignty in Latin America”
- *Acharya, “Who are the norm makers?”
Humanitarian intervention and the ICC (Wednesday)
- *ICC site: “About the court,” “Structure of the court,” “Situations and cases”
- *Valentino, “The true costs of humanitarian intervention”
- *Foreign Affairs, “A conversation with Fatou Bensouda”
- *Roach, “How political is the ICC?”

ESSAY #2 DUE FRIDAY, DEC. 1 (VIA EMAIL)

THE DEMISE OF THE POSTWAR LIBERAL ORDER?
Dec. 4 & 6: “Wexit”? The waning Western commitment to its own world order
- *Nye, “Will the liberal order survive?”
- *Zakaria, “Populism on the march”
- *Buruma, “The end of the Anglo-American order”
- *Ecker-Ehrhardt, “Cosmopolitan politicization”

Dec. 11 & 13: Can international institutions cope with a changing distribution of power?
- *Feigenbaum, “China and the world”
- *Li, “Rising from within”
- *Hofmann et al., “Investing in international security”
- *Haass, “World order 2.0”

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 19, noon-2pm