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PSCI 433.R01: International Law and Organization

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Political Science 433
Fall 2021
Tues 3:30-5:50
On Zoom

Professor Karen Ruth Adams
karen.adams@umontana.edu
Office hours on Zoom
Office Hours: Thurs 2-4, & by appt

International Law and Organizations

Course Description

In this course, we will examine global governance generally and in four issue areas: security, economics, human rights, and the environment. Global governance refers to political relations among states, both informal and formal (diplomatic, legal, and/or organizational). We will focus on the nature, functioning, and effectiveness of international law (IL) and international organizations (IO). We will explore how IL & IO are supposed to work (from different perspectives), how they actually work (in specific times, places, and issue areas), and how well they work (from the point of view of achieving goals we care about).

The course has five parts. In Part I, we will discuss issues, goals, and challenges in global governance and consider the broad structure of global governance, including the relationship between international and domestic politics and law.

In Part II, we will consider the foundations of global governance. This section will include detailed analysis of international-legal and international-relations theories about the sources of IL and IO. In addition, we will examine the legal and political status of various actors, including states, individuals, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), international courts and tribunals, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The section will conclude with lessons on how to read a multilateral treaty and how multilateral treaties are developed, institutionalized, and enforced, including theoretical debates about what it would mean and what it would take to make IL and IO more effective.

Part III addresses the history of IL and IO from ancient times to the present, with emphasis on the League of Nations, the United Nations, and contemporary regional arrangements and challenges.

In Part IV, we will explore the nature, functioning, and effectiveness of IL and IO in four issue areas: security, economics, human rights, and the environment. Each student will make a presentation during this section.

In Part V, we will discuss our overall conclusions about international governance and strategies for improving legal and organizational outcomes on multiple issues. Guest speakers will discuss their work on particular issues and in particular organizations.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the structure, foundations, history, functioning, and effectiveness of IL and IO.
2. Identify a contemporary issue that matters to you, and develop and present a goal and strategy for yourself and other international actors to work in or with international law and organizations to improve outcomes on this issue.
3. Develop written and oral arguments about the nature and future of international governance in general and in particular issue areas.
4. Support your arguments with reference to international-legal and international-relations theories and the history, structure, and effectiveness of:
 - a. particular international treaties, norms, rules, and decision-making procedures, and
 - b. particular IGOs, NGOs, states, and leaders.
5. Increase your understanding of career options in international relations.
6. Improve your reading, writing, speaking, and presentation skills.

Prerequisites

To enroll in this course, you must be at least a junior, and you must have taken PSC 230 (Introduction to International Relations).

Course Communications

Throughout the course, I will communicate with you by email and by posting announcements and materials on Moodle, which you can access [here](#).

I will also email you from time to time. To ensure that you receive my emails, please check your UM email account on a regular basis or have your UM email forwarded to an account you check often.

Required Reading

To do well in this class, you must complete all of the assigned reading before each class. The required readings include:

1. Readings related to each lecture (see course schedule). There are about 80 pages per week. These readings will be posted on Moodle.
2. News articles and opinion pieces related to international law and organization in the daily *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com>. To complete this assignment, you will need to read more than the 20 free articles per month allowed on the site. Thus you should either sign up for a 3-month student subscription, which is a few dollars a month, or read the daily NYT for free by logging in on the Mansfield Library website.
3. News articles related to international law and organization on [UN News](#).

There are no required books for the class, but two books are recommended. Both are available in paperback and electronically:

1. Shirley V. Scott, *International Law in World Politics: An Introduction*, 3rd edition (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2017).
We will read some selections from this book (posted on Moodle). If you are considering a career in international law, you may wish to purchase the book. A hard copy of the book is on reserve at Mansfield Library.
2. Anne Greene, *Writing Science in Plain English* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 2013).
This book explains how to write essays in the 5 paragraph format required in this class. This book is often available at the UM Bookstore. I highly recommend getting a copy, doing the exercises, and referring to it often.

Other Ways to Keep Up with Current Events

Whenever possible I encourage you to consult these and other additional sources:

- National daily newspapers such as the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*, as well as international papers such as the *London Times*, *Guardian*, and *Le Monde*, international news services such as Reuters, and compilations of international news such as <http://worldpress.org/>
- Weekly news magazines such as *The Economist*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *US News and World Report*.
- Monthly and quarterly journals such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The National Interest*, and *International Security*.
- National Public Radio programs such as “Morning Edition,” BBC World Service,” and “All Things Considered” on KUFM 89.1 (for schedule, go to <https://www.mtpr.org/>).
- Nightly and weekly television news programs. On PBS, these include “PBS NewsHour,” “BBC

World News,” “Amanpour,” and “Frontline,” which you can watch on your television KUFM Channel 11 (<http://www.montanapbs.org/>) or stream on your computer from their websites. The ABC, CBS, and NBC evening news, as well as ABC’s “Nightline,” can also be helpful.

Please note that these news sources will not substitute for the *New York Times*. Because it offers the broadest range and greatest depth of international news and opinion, current event discussions and questions on quizzes and exams will be based on the *New York Times* and UN News.

Course Requirements and Study Tips

You are expected to attend class regularly, participate actively in discussions, and complete all of the assigned reading, including the previous day’s *New York Times* and UN News, before each class. To encourage you to do so, 20% of your grade will be based on participation including: attendance; active, informed and respectful participation in class discussions; and performance on occasional short assignments and quizzes on current events and readings.

The remainder of your grade will be based on:

- An in-class midterm exam on 10/26 (25%) with multiple choice, short answers, and an essay
- A take-home writing assignment (25%) and in-class presentation (5%) on a global governance goal of your choice. You will develop an argument over the semester. As shown in the schedule below, final due dates vary by topic; all will be in November
- A take-home final exam (25%) with multiple choice, short answers, and essay due by 5:20 pm on Thursday 12/16 (the end of our final exam time slot)

Detailed instructions and assignments will be provided. The exams and assignments will test your understanding of and ability to analyze material from the readings, lectures, discussions, and current events (*New York Times* and UN News). Be prepared to recall and apply what you have learned and to write clear, thoughtful, and well-supported answers to challenging questions.

In class, you should take notes on the lectures and discussions. After class, take a few minutes to write down your overall impressions of the session and the questions and insights it raised for you. These notes will provide you with leads to follow in reviewing for and writing the exams and assignments. For additional study tips, see “Reading Questions” and “Essay Grading” below.

The plus/minus grading system will be used. Grades may be curved, but the following distribution is the lowest I will use (*i.e.*, if you earn 93% of all possible points you are assured of an A in the course):

93-100	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	0-59	F

Academic Honesty

Students must practice academic honesty and should be familiar with [UM’s Student Conduct Code](#). Students who engage in academic misconduct such as plagiarism (representing another person’s work as their own) will receive a 0 for the assignment in question and may be subject to a disciplinary sanction by the university.

Zoom link and video

The Zoom link is posted on Moodle. Please note that class will be recorded. Occasionally I will post a class video on the Moodle website to help students review the material. Do not post or share class videos. Thank you.

Disabilities

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity. If you think you may have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, please contact the [Office for Disability Equity](#). Once you provide me with a letter from them, I will work with you and the ODE to provide a reasonable modification. “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. Students with disabilities should apprise me of their needs as soon as possible, well before the due date of an assignment on which they wish to be accommodated.

Make-Up Policy

In general, I excuse absences and accept late papers only from students directly involved in serious, documented emergencies. This year, I will also consider requests from students whose lives are strongly affected by the coronavirus. If you find yourself in the midst of an emergency or strongly affected by Covid-19, please notify me as soon as possible (in advance of the seminar or due-date if possible) that you will be unable to attend class or submit work on time. To do so, send me an email explaining the circumstances of your emergency or other situation, and provide me with your phone number and relevant documentation. Please note that I may deny make up requests, and I may assign makeup work that differs from the regular assignment. If you fail to submit work for any other reason you will receive a 0 for the class session or assignment. That may put you at risk of failing the course.

Drop Policy, Grading Options, and Incompletes

The 15th day of the semester is the last day to drop the class or change the grading option without my signature on an override form. If you wish to drop or change the grading option after that, you must provide documentation of an emergency or other serious situation in which you are directly involved that has made it impossible for you to complete the course. For UM’s policy on incompletes, see UM’s [Academic Policies and Procedures](#).

PSCI 400

Political Science majors may use this course to complete PSCI 400 (the upper-division writing requirement in the major). The requirements for doing so are as follows:

1. You must have finished your Intermediate writing requirement (Gen Ed approved Intermediate writing course).
2. Send me an email asking to be added to my section of PSCI 400. Please include your 790 number. It is best to do this before the add deadline (15th day of semester).
3. You will revise and expand your answers in the writing assignment and presentation into a comprehensive essay. The essay will answer the same questions and must be improved by editing your work according to my feedback and expanding it to refer to concepts, theories, readings, examples, and current events through the end of the semester.
4. The revised essay is due in my email inbox by 11:59 pm on the Friday of finals week.
5. Your grade in PSCI 400 and your final essay grade for the assignment you revise will be the average of your grades for the two essays. (*Students not in PSCI 400 who wish to increase their grade on writing assignment may do so by following the instructions in Item 3 and 4.*)

Graduate Students

Graduate students, please note the following:

1. Readings: you are responsible for the required UG readings plus your choice of 2-3 recommended readings per week (posted on Moodle).
2. Individual Meetings: See me at least once a month during my office hours or by appointment for in-depth discussion of the readings. It is up to you to keep on this schedule.
3. In the exams and writing assignment, write short answers and essays that are about 1.5 to 2 times the length required of undergraduates, and refer to both required and recommended reading.

4. Optional professional paper (enroll in additional 1 credit course): Propose, write, rewrite, and present a 15-18 page research paper on some aspect of global governance that interests you. See me for detailed instructions and due dates.

Reading Questions

In assignments and quizzes, you will be asked to compare and contrast the arguments of various scholars and schools of thought. Doing so requires critical reading skills. To develop and practice these skills, consider the following questions for each item you read:

- A. Overview
 1. What is the central question or problem addressed by the author? In particular, what is their argument about global governance, IL, IO, and other course concepts?
 2. What is their answer or argument?
- B. Evaluation of the Argument
 3. What is the logic of this answer or argument? What school of thought, if any, does it represent?
 4. Do you understand the author's argument? Do you agree with it? Why or why not?
- C. Evaluation of the Evidence
 5. What evidence does the author use to support their argument?
 6. Does the evidence support the argument? Are you aware of other evidence that would support or weaken the argument?
- D. Significance
 7. Which of the authors we have read would agree and disagree with this argument, and why?
 8. How does this article fit into the themes and arguments developed in class?

Essay Grading

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 100 | Superb. Develops an extremely well-written, clear, and convincing argument that answers the question and substantiates the answer with facts and other information from readings. |
| 90-99 | Excellent. Develops a generally well-written, clear, and convincing argument that answers the question and refers well to readings. Omissions or inaccuracies are few and detract little from the overall quality of the argument. |
| 80-89 | Good. The argument is generally good and answers the question, but the answer is disorganized, unclear, inaccurate, or unsupported in several important respects -- OR -- The argument is well-written, clear, and convincing but doesn't fully answer the question or has few and/or insubstantial references to readings. |
| 70-79 | Marginal. The answer has numerous shortcomings in organization, clarity, accuracy, or support -- OR -- The argument is fairly well-written, more or less clear, and somewhat convincingly but doesn't really answer the question AND has few and/or insubstantial references to readings. |
| 60-69 | Unacceptable. The answer is very vague, completely wrong, has nothing to do with the question, and/or provides no evidence of reading. |

Course Outline and Schedule

For weekly schedule and readings, see Moodle. If a reading link is not working, please send me an email. Once you have accessed a reading, print and/or download it so you can highlight and make notes on the text. At the end of the semester, you will lose access to course readings unless you download them to your computer. Doing so on a daily basis will enable you to build a library you can consult later.

PART I: INTRODUCTION: ISSUES, GOALS & CHALLENGES IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
8/31	A. Course Overview; Issues & Goals in Global Governance	Begin ASSIGNMENT 1: Participation
9/7	B. The Structure of Global Governance <i>See Moodle for readings</i>	

PART II: FOUNDATIONS OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

9/14	A. Theoretical Foundations: Nature and Sources of IL and IO	
9/21	B. Actors	
9/28	C. International Political Structures and International Legal Processes and Outcomes	

PART III: HISTORY OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

10/5	A. From Ancient Empires to the League of Nations	
10/12	B. The United Nations	
10/19	C. Regional Issues	
10/26		In class MIDTERM

PART IV: IL & IO IN PARTICULAR ISSUE AREAS

11/2	A. Security, part 1	
11/9	B. Security, part 2	Security ASSIGNMENTS & PRESENTATIONS due
11/16	C. Prosperity/Economics	Prosperity/EconomicA assignments & presentations due
11/23	D. Human Rights	Human Rights assignments & presentations due
11/30	E. Environment	Environment assignments & presentations due

PART V: CONCLUSIONS AND STRATEGIES

12/7	A. Conclusions and Careers in International Law & Organizations	
12/16 (finals week)		Take-home FINAL due by 5:20 pm on Thurs 12/16 <i>PSCI 400 students:</i> Submit revised paper by 11:59 pm on Fri 12/17