Course Description:

This course exposes students to seminal research on the role of international organizations in world politics. The first part of the course will seek to explain how, if at all, international organizations (IOs) obtain some measure of authority in international affairs. We will consider the legalization of world politics and ask why states delegate certain tasks to international organizations instead of dealing unilaterally or multilaterally outside of an institutional context. We will also consider the role of domestic politics, both as a source of international cooperation and as a limitation. The second part of the course focuses on the design and influence of IOs. We assess the rational design line of explanation and its critics and consider in detail enforcement and flexibility features of organizations. We also assess whether and how IOs influence state compliance with agreements and explore the conditions under which IOs have influence on political behavior.

The final part of the course explores organizational evolution and change and also the pathologies and complexities associated with growing legalization. Students will have the opportunity to select an area for more in-depth reading—either on human rights or environment—for class 9.

Requirements:

There are two assignments:

1. You will be responsible for several short in-class presentations (each 10 to 15 minutes followed by a 30-45 minute discussion of the material, which you will lead). You will submit a short paper (3-4 pages) summarizing the readings for your presentation. These short papers will be distributed to the class at least 24 hours ahead of the meeting time. The goal of the presentation is not simply to summarize the assigned readings as others in the class will already be familiar with the assignment. Rather, a good summary discusses the broader issues, themes and questions underlying the readings and identifies problems with theory, research design or other potential flaws in the particular readings. Your presentation and short paper should be organized around 2 to 4 central questions from the readings; you must clear those central questions with the professors by COB Thursday the
previous week. These questions will serve as a starting point for a more focused in-class discussion. A good presentation will encourage a lively discussion focused on controversies, debates and puzzles in the literature as well as foster critical thinking about the implications. The short papers will provide an opportunity to hone your skills in providing an analytical summary of a complex literature—a skill that will be quite useful for your dissertation and later writing of academic papers.

2. You will write a 15-20 page research paper which will be due at 5pm on June 3rd (last day of classes). The topic has to be cleared with us first. Do NOT wait until midterm to discuss the topic with the instructor(s). You have three options:

- You can write a research proposal that proposes to resolve some of the limitations of the literature we discuss in class. The proposal has to identify a question or puzzle, discuss how you would try to answer that question (theoretical argument, hypotheses, and research design), lay out the necessary steps of the project, and suggest how this project would advance the literature.
- You can empirically evaluate one of the theories we have discussed in class using one or multiple international organizations, or alternatively, compare theories using case studies or quantitative data analysis.
- You can use a conference paper you are currently writing or expand on a research paper from a previous class. In this case, you are required to give a 10 minute presentation in class and then submit the revised version including a discussion of how you addressed the recommendations you received in class. However, the paper MUST address international organizations (and the literatures discussed in this course) in some significant way.

The grade for your final research paper is 40% of your final grade. The remaining 60% of your grade will be based on class participation – including the short papers and discussions you will lead as well as your general participation in each session of class.

Most of the readings for the course are journal articles. The articles are available electronically on JSTOR or through the UCSD library home page. We will also provide you the articles on a CD (please note there are 7 books that you will need to purchase that are highlighted in the syllabus). Interests will vary and time is often scarce, but at a minimum you should read the assigned required readings each week. As most of you will build your profession in this area (and will take comprehensive in this or adjacent fields) the additional (highly recommended) reading will be of considerable interest as well.

It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any factor(s) that might interfere with class performance well in advance of any problems. Under all circumstances, plagiarism is a violation of your academic integrity. If you have questions about what constitutes original research, or how to reference the work of others, ask us.
PART I: COOPERATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Class 1. March 28. Introduction: Cooperation Under Anarchy

Required:

Theme 1: The emergence of cooperation


Theme 2: The roles of institutions in cooperation


Highly Recommended:


Class 2. April 4. Legalization

**Required:**


**Theme 1: The concept of legalization**


**Theme 2: Empirical applications**


**Theme 3: Alternatives to legalization**


**Highly Recommended:**


Class 3. April 11. Delegation and Pathologies

Required:

Theme 1. Delegation


Theme 2. Pathologies


Theme 3. Democratic Deficit


**Highly Recommended:**


Class 4. April 18. The Domestic Politics of International Organizations

**Required:**

**Theme 1. Two-Level games and other metaphors**


**Theme 2. Democracy**


**Theme 3. International norms and domestic politics**


Highly Recommended:


Politics.” IO (forthcoming).

PART II: DESIGN AND INFLUENCE


Required:

Theme 1. Rational Design: the debate


Theme 2. Size, depth and power


Highly Recommended:


Class 6. May 2. Design (Part II): Enforcement, Dispute Settlement and Flexibility

**Theme 1. Enforcement**


**Theme 2. Dispute Settlement**


**Theme 3. Flexibility**


**Highly Recommended:**


Class 7. May 9. Compliance and Influence

Required:

Theme 1. Three debates about compliance and law


Theme 2. Empirical applications


Highly Recommended:


Part III Change and Complexity


Theme 1. Complexity


Theme 2. Forum Shopping


Highly Recommended:


Class 9. May 23 Evolution and Change and ONE other topic (environment or human rights)

Required (evolution and change):


Highly Recommended:


Required (if the 'environment' option is selected):


**Required (if the ‘human rights’ option is selected)**


