

POL S 328
Michael Strausz

International Organizations
Summer 2007

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Course Description and Objectives: Why do states form international organizations? How do international organizations influence the behavior of states? What is the role of non-state actors in international organizations? This course will address these questions both theoretically and in light of the recent experiences of a variety of international organizations. This course aims to introduce students to the major theoretical approaches to international organizations, as well as the history and contemporary status of international organizations formed around security, economic, humanitarian, and environmental issues.

Expectations:

1. Prepare for each class by carefully reading the assigned materials and a newspaper with good international coverage (the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, etc.). If it appears that substantial numbers of students are not doing the readings, I reserve the right to give pop quizzes that will be considered as a part of the participation grade.
2. Come to class on time.
3. Participate actively in class, both by making verbal contributions to discussions and by listening to your classmates. If you do not attend class regularly, you will not be able to participate in discussions.
4. Be respectful of others. I expect each student to pay attention to the views of your classmates.
5. Papers (including the annotated bibliography) should be made up entirely of your original work. Copying or paraphrasing a source without acknowledging that source is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Allowing another student to copy your work is also cheating and likewise will not be tolerated. Students determined to have committed plagiarism will be treated in accordance with the University of Washington's policy on academic honesty (<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm>).

Course Materials: The following materials are required. The books are available at the UW bookstore, but feel free to buy copies at other bookstores or online.

The United Nations and Changing World Politics, by Thomas G. Weiss, David P. Forsythe, and Roger A. Coate

Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics, by Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore

A newspaper with good international coverage (the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, etc.).

The rest of the readings are available on the university library webpage as electronic reserves.

Disabled Student Services: If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 543-8924 (V/TDD). If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to the professor so accommodations you might need for class can be discussed.

Grading: Grades in this course will be determined as follows:

Midterm Exam (**July 3**): 20%

Final Exam (**July 18**): 25%

Presentations (**July 13, July 16 and July 17**): 25%

Annotated Bibliography (**July 18**): 10%

Participation: 20%

Makeup exams and paper deadline extensions will not be allowed except in the cases of university-excused absences or illnesses, and proper documentation is required.

The presentations will address an important issue related to international organizations. Each member of each group will have distinct responsibilities, and a student's grade will reflect the degree to which that student has fulfilled his or her responsibilities. In addition to the group presentation, students will also be asked to individually write an annotated bibliography of sources used to research the presentation. Groups will be assigned on **June 21**, and on the same day specific instructions for the presentation assignment and the annotated bibliography will be distributed in class. The presentations are scheduled for **July 13, July 16 and July 17**. Your annotated bibliography is due on **July 18**.

If you feel that you have been graded unfairly, please wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned and then contact me with a written statement about why you believe you were graded unfairly. The statute of limitations for grading complaints is five working days after the return of the assignment.

Office Hours: I encourage students to take advantage of my office hours in order to ask questions about course materials or to chat about issues related to the course or political science more generally. Also, if you have any comments about or problems with the course itself I encourage you to share them in my office hours.

If you would like to get in touch with me to ask a question or schedule an appointment, I encourage you to e-mail me. I check my e-mail very frequently.

Schedule:

6/18 *Introduction*

Unit 1: Theories of International Organizations

- 6/19 *The Promise of International Organizations?*
Mearsheimer, John J. 1994/95. The False Promise of International Institutions. *International Security* 19 (3): 332-376, (electronic reserve).
Keohane, Robert O. and Lisa Martin. 1995. The Promise of Institutional Theory. *International Security* 20 (1): 39-51, (electronic reserve).
Wendt, Alexander. 1995. Constructing International Politics. *International Security* 20 (1): 71-81, (electronic reserve).
- 6/20 *Theories of Compliance*
Chayes, Abram, and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. On Compliance. *International Organization* 47 (2): 175-205 (electronic reserve).
- 6/21 *Pathologies of International Organizations*
Barnett and Finnemore, pp. 1-15.

Unit 2: International Organizations and National Security

- 6/25 *UN Collective Security and the Cold War World*
Weiss, Forsythe, and Coate, pp. 3-43.
- 6/26 *Pathologies of Peacekeeping in Rwanda*
Barnett and Finnemore, pp. 121-155.
- 6/27 *Is Peacekeeping Effective?*
Luttwak, Edward N. 1999. Give War a Chance. *Foreign Affairs* 78 (4): 36-44 (electronic reserve).

Unit 3: International Organizations and Human Rights

- 6/28 *International Criminal Court*
Mayerfeld, Jamie. 2003. Who Shall Be Judge? The United States, the International Criminal Court, and the Global Enforcement of Human Rights. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 25 (1): 93-129, (electronic reserve).
- 7/2 *The UN High Commission on Refugees*
Barnett and Finnemore, pp. 73-120.
- 7/3 *In-class midterm exam. Bring bluebook.*

Unit 4: International Economic Organizations

- 7/5 *International Organizations and the Bretton Woods System*
Barnett and Finnemore, pp. 45-72.
- 7/9 *The European Union*
Pierson, Paul. 1996. The Path to European Union: An Historical Institutional Account. *Comparative Political Studies* 29 (2): 123-164 (electronic reserve).

Unit 5: International Organizations and the Environment

- 7/10 *Sustainable Development*
Weiss, Forsythe, and Coate, pp. 269-301.
- 7/11 *Whaling on Whaling*
Mitchell, Ronald. 1998. Forms of Discourse, Norms of Sovereignty: Interests, Science, and Morality in the Regulation of Whaling. In *The Greening of Sovereignty in World Politics*, edited by K. Litfin. Cambridge, MA: MIT (electronic reserve).
- 7/12 *Presentations*
- 7/16 *Presentations*
- 7/17 *Presentations, Conclusion and Final Exam Review*
- 7/18 *Final Exam*