

PSCI 657/GGOV 650: International Organization/s

Fall Term 2020

Remotely taught BSIA/U of W course, Wednesday: 10:30am – 1:20 pm

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Course Description: This course is an elective course in the Global Governance program at BSIA and the University of Waterloo Political Science Department. It is also designed to allow graduate students a better understanding of the conceptualization and practice of International Organizations (IO) with special attention to the dynamics of formal and informal institutions. In the first part of the course, we examine some major conceptual debates related to the motivation, formation and effectiveness of International Organizations (IOs). In the second part of the course, we apply this knowledge into specific areas of IOs. Although the embedded nature of a wide variety of IOs is visible, the context of their existence has come under considerable stress: The challenge of the Trump administration on the UN and specialized agencies, the IFIs, and the WTO; the shift of some ‘rising’ countries mainly

Pre-Requisites: This is a course for graduate students only. It is intended for those students specializing in International Relations and Global Governance.

University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance.

Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes> for the Faculty of Arts' grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

Academic Integrity website

(Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Texts:

Thomas Weiss and Rorden Wilkinson, *International Organizations and Global Governance*, Routledge, 2nd Edition 2018. This text remains valuable in offering a comprehensive overview of the core topics for the course.

Given the problems of access, I have uploaded the Introductory sections.

These core text will be supplemented by a wide variety of Readings, mainly from journals, aimed to help students prepare for classes and assignments.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments:

Assignment #1:

CRITICAL ASSESSMENT of the World Health Organization and the United Nations more generally: 20% (with 5% participation/short presentation and 15% 3-page CRITICAL ASSESSMENT of specific topics (as below). This is a free-flow assignment, with ample space for your own views. Frontloaded: CRITICAL ASSESSMENT due on the day of presentation.

Assignment #2:

CRITICAL REVIEW: 30% (with 15% for one-page outline, overall participation, and class presentation and 15% for critical review itself) Students will submit a one page OUTLINE (core themes/findings) and CRITICAL REVIEW 4-5 pages (12 font, 1.5 line spacing) on one of the

core conceptual chapters in the assigned text, WITH application to any formal organization beyond the WHO (other specialized agencies of the UN or the IMF/World Bank or the WTO among formal institutions OR ANY informal institution (G20, BRICS, SCO, BRI ETC). the OUTLINE should be submitted via email to the class by NOON the day before the class it is to be presented. The CRITICAL REVIEWS will be handed in a week after the PRESENTATION.

- 1 or 2 pages on the strengths of the conceptual framework for examining IOs
- 1 or 2 pages on the weaknesses of the conceptual framework for examining IOs
- 1 or 2 pages as a ‘snapshot’ (not a long analysis) of strengths/weaknesses of the conceptual framework for examining an International Organization in terms of structure or agency. This case can be drawn from the discussion in the first four weeks of the class, any of the institutions, focused on in chapters 16-31 OR equivalent sources. If desired you can use the cases focused on in chapters 32-54, OR equivalent sources, except for Ch. 52 (Harman). But if so it can’t be the same IO/issue area as the chapters used for the SEMINAR/RESEARCH PAPERS
- no more than 5 pages in total (the outline is an outline of 1 page, in sentence form, and in similar proportion to your final CRITICAL REVIEW on strengths/weaknesses and snapshot)

Assignment #3:

RESEARCH PAPER: 50 % (with 10% for in class presentation, 10% for participation related to other student’s presentations, and 30% for paper). DUE AS HARD COPY on December 9. Students will prepare one 10-12 pages RESEARCH PAPER for one class in Part II of the course. The RESEARCH PAPER is intended to move students from criticism about other peoples’ work (with arguments about a body of literature/debates) to giving students an opportunity to investigate specific issues related to IOs (ALTHOUGH UNRELATED TO YOUR WORK ON THE OTHER ASSIGNMENTS). The RESEARCH PAPER WILL USE AS A STARTING POINT some of the questions listed below.

Week 1– September 9: An Introduction to the course

Surveying the contours and trajectories of International Organization/s

Debates about formal institutions in the context of an advance to global governance (collective problem solving) and/or a retreat to geo-politics (rivalry between big powers and national self-help).

The shift to altered away from formal institutions to informal self-selective institutions

Differences between the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the 2020 COVID 19 crisis?

Reading 1: Weiss and Wilkinson – Introduction and Ch. 2 (Murphy)

A classic reading on the attractions of formal institutions, Abbott, Kenneth W., and Duncan Snidal. (1998) “Why States Act Through Formal International Organizations.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 42 (1): 3-

32. <http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/tmp/15474324461416273656.pdf>

Readings on the challenge of informality: Alan Alexandroff and Don Breaun, Defining global summitry: its meaning and scope. *Global Summitry: Politics, Economics and Law in International Governance* 1, no. 1 (2014)

< https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280295549_Global_Summitry_Its_Meaning_and_Scope_Part_One

Reading 2: Felicity Vabulas and Duncan Snidal, “Organization without delegation: Informal intergovernmental organizations (IIGOs) and the spectrum of intergovernmental arrangements,” *Review of International Organizations*, 8, 2 2013

< <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11558-012-9161-x>> ACCESSED U OF WATERLOO/LAURIER FOR FULL TEXT

Week 2– September 16: Connections/disconnections between the United States and formal/informal organizations

Surveying the motivations and modalities for why the US – as the hegemon or dominant power – supported formal organizations in post-1945 Order

Differences and similarities between previous Orders: legitimacy and efficiency?

Weiss and Wilkinson Ch 22 (Knight)

US frustration, to abandonment?

< Patrick, Messy Multilateralism < <http://valdaiclub.com/files/11399/>>

Support for the Trump agenda < <http://www.heritage.org/global-politics/report/eleven-priorities-international-organizations-the-trump-administration>>

President Trump’s speech at the United Nations*, September 2018

< <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KIpnPapquY>>

The Test of the WHO?

Background on Health in Global Politics, Ch. 52 (Harman),

Chow, 2010. “Is the WHO Becoming Irrelevant?,” *Foreign Policy*, December. Older articles

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/12/08/is_the_who_becoming_irrelevant

Sridhar, Devi, Sanjeev Khagram and Tikki Pang (2008) “Are Existing Governance Structures Equipped to deal with Today’s Global Health Challenges—Towards Systematic Coherence in Scaling Up,” *Global Health Governance*, Vol. II, No.2 (Fall 2008/Spring 2009).

Fidler, David. “Architecture amidst Anarchy: Global Health’s Quest for Governance,” *Global Health Governance*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (January 2007) ≤

<https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1329&context=facpub>>

Week 3– September 23: Aspirations, Challenges of a ‘Rising/Risen’ China

Is the role of China in International Organizations completely different from earlier powers?

Background, Weiss and Wilkinson Ch 23 (Breslin and Ren)

Motivations and Modalities in Diverse Organizations: Formal and Informal

Between socialization and an institutional take over!

< <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/04/15/its-not-just-the-who-how-china-is-moving-on-the-whole-un-189029>>

< <https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/04/17/trump-s-actions-allowed-china-to-gain-huge-global-influence.-but-coronavirus-has-gifted-him-opportunity-pub-81589>>

Choosing *Assignment #3*: The RESEARCH PAPER

Preparing for the 1st Assignment: Critical Assessment over the WHO

As noted this is a free-flow assignment, with ample space for your own views. Just give the core points in 2/3 minutes. Only give sources in the written 3 pager that are direct quotes or core reference.

Possible Topics (TBC):

Week 4– September 30: Presentation of 1st assignment

Week 5–October 7: Presentation of 1st assignment (if needed)

Preparation for 2nd Assignment: Do Conceptual Frameworks help, and how?

You can get foundations on the main conceptual frameworks in the Weiss and Wilkinson book, OR use core readings

The mainstream conceptual frameworks

Realism John Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” *International Security*, 19.3 (1994-95): 5-

49. http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/journals/international_security/v019/19.3.mearsheimer.html

John Goldsmith and Stephen D. Krasner, “The Limits of Idealism,” *Daedalus*, 132.1 (2003): 47-63. <http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/openurl?volume=132&date=2003&spage=47&isn=00115266&issue=1>

Liberalism

Stein, Art liberal Internationalism, *Oxford Handbook of International*

Relations. <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199219322.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199219322-e-11>

Robert Keohane and Lisa Martin, “The Promise of Institutional Theory,” *International Security* 20.1 (1995): 39-

51. http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/journals/international_security/v020/20.1.keohane.html

Constructivism

Ruggie, “What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge,” *International Organization* 52.4 (1998): 855-

85 http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/details-sfx.xqy?uri=/00208183/v52i0004/855_wmtwhtnatscc.xml

Johnston (2001) “Treating International Institutions as Social Environments.” *International Studies Quarterly* 45(4), p. 487-

515. <http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/tmp/12048007356299171242.pdf>

Reus-Smit, “The Constitutional Structure of International Society and the Nature of Fundamental Institutions,” *International Organization* Vol. 51 No. 4, 1997, pp. 555-

89. http://journals2.scholarsportal.info.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/details-sfx.xqy?uri=/00208183/v51i0004/555_tcsoisatnofi.xml

Rational Design

Back to articles

Abbott, Kenneth W., and Duncan Snidal. (1998) “Why States Act Through Formal International Organizations.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 42 (1): 3-

32. <http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/tmp/15474324461416273656.pdf>

Felicity Vabulas and Duncan Snidal, “Organization without delegation: Informal intergovernmental organizations (IIGOs) and the spectrum of intergovernmental arrangements,” *Review of International Organizations*, 8, 2 2013

< <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11558-012-9161-x> > ACCESSED U OF WATERLOO/LAURIER FOR FULL TEXT

Alternative conceptual frameworks outside of the mainstream

Critical Analysis; Post-Colonial; Feminism; Marxism etc

If you want to focus on these framework – hopefully so – either reply on the chapters in the Textbook or in consultation for other sources

Week 6: October 14

Break to prepare for 2nd assignment

Possible virtual Guest Speakers

Practice in terms of Formal/Informal Institutions

Week 7: October 21: Presentation of 2nd assignment

Note: (more than one student can do the conceptual framework, although with different snapshots). These are short presentations no more than 10 minutes

Week 8: October 28: Presentation of 2nd assignment

Week 9: November 4: Assignment #3: The RESEARCH PAPER

Note: (more than one student can do one topic)

MODE OF OPERATION: Using the chapters 32 to 54 in the Weiss and Wilkinson book, OR OTHER SOURCES, address at least three of the major clusters of questions below:

In the issue area/IO domain you are examining:

1/Is there a dominant institution? Is this dominance challenged, by whom/what and on what grounds?

2/ Is there competition between formality and informality in terms of institutional design?

2/If there are many institutions, is there competition or cooperation with a division of responsibilities?

3/Is there a regime or general set of architectural rules/norms? Are these rules/norms contested? On what basis?

4/Does the institutional architecture/regime reflect the power of a specific state or states? Is this power challenged by other actors?

5/ Does the institutional architecture/regime have a geographic or functional scope? Is this scope contested? On what basis?

6/If the institution or more general architecture/regime has a degree of independence or autonomy, is this a reflection of some particular bureaucratic features (leadership/specialized ability)?

7/Has the agenda of the institution changed in recent years? Under what conditions? And with any impact on the legitimacy or effectiveness?

8/What is the impact of non-state actors on the institutional architecture/regime? If this reflects a new role, is this shift challenged and by whom?

9/Is there a distinctive feature that stands out conceptually (relating back to Critical Reviews) or animates the practice (with respect to intensity, mode of operation, or outcome) with respect to the institution or general architecture/regime?

Week 10: November 11: Assignment #3: The RESEARCH PAPER

Week 11: November 18: Assignment #3: The RESEARCH PAPER

Week 12: November 25: Assignment #3: The RESEARCH PAPER

