

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
POLI 375, SPRING 2013
Tuesday & Thursday 10:50 am-12:05 pm
1042 Duncan Hall

INSTRUCTOR:

Professor Ashley Leeds
Department of Political Science
119 Herzstein Hall, (713) 348-3037
leeds@rice.edu
www.ruf.rice.edu/~leeds
Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00-5:00 pm, Wednesday 2:00-3:30 pm

COURSE CONTENT:

This is an international relations course focusing on the development and role of international organizations in world politics. It is recommended that students complete POLI 211 (Introduction to International Relations) or the equivalent before enrolling in this course. We will begin the course with a review of the history of our current international system, paying particular attention to the evolution of norms of sovereignty and the establishment and roles of international institutions. In the second portion of the course, we will consider how and why international organizations may be useful to states, and how these international organizations may influence the behavior of states and international outcomes. In the final portion of the course, we will discuss a number of current issues facing international organizations and state leaders. As part of this effort, each student will research one topic area and will prepare a class presentation and researched policy memo on that issue. You should leave this course with an increased understanding of international politics and policy as well as improved skills in analytical thinking, writing, and oral presentation.

EVALUATION:

Grades will be determined in the manner described below. The Rice University Honor Code applies to all assignments for this course. The grading scale for this course is as follows:

97-100	A+	83-86	B	70-72	C-
93-96	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	60-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	0-59	F

15% -- *Class Participation*

Much of this course will involve class discussion of the assigned readings. The readings listed for each day on the syllabus should be completed before class begins. Class discussion is designed to clarify the material and its implications, not to introduce it. Student participation in class discussions is one of

the primary factors influencing the quality of a course; your comments help to create the course. Participating in class discussions by asking questions, answering questions, and offering opinions is one of your responsibilities as a student in this course, and this is reflected in your final grade.

Your participation grade will be based both on your attendance and the quality of your contribution to discussion. You cannot participate in discussion if you are not present. Thus, regular attendance is expected and does not raise your participation grade. If you do not attend, however, your participation grade will be reduced; consistent attendance is a prerequisite for effective participation. I encourage you to discuss any circumstances with me that will preclude you from attending class for any prolonged period. I also expect you to arrive on time.

In preparation for class participation, it will be helpful to think about answers to the following questions as you complete the assigned reading:

- What is the author's main argument?
- What evidence does the author use to support his or her claim?
- How is this argument similar or different from other ideas we have discussed in class?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the author's analysis?
- Do you agree or disagree with the author?
- Can you think of an alternative explanation for the author's evidence?
- Is there additional evidence that will lend support to or cast doubt upon the author's conclusions?
- Do the author's policy prescriptions make sense?
- What advice would you give to policy makers based on this reading?

I hope that we will engage in vigorous academic debate, but during these class discussions, classroom etiquette is vital. Please work to ensure that you make comments in ways that invite discussion. Our classroom contains members with various life experiences, divergent perspectives, varying levels of experience with political science research, and different strategies for defending their views. Please state your opinions constructively and respectfully, listen carefully when your colleagues are speaking, and speak to me if you are offended by something that is said in class.

Once during the semester, I will inform each student of his or her current class participation grade. Final participation grades will be assigned at the end of the semester, but you should feel free to discuss your performance in class discussions with me and ask for feedback at any time during the semester.

50% – Exams (2 @ 25% each)

There will be two take-home exams in this course. The first is scheduled to be distributed on Thursday, January 31, and is due on **Tuesday, February 5**. The second is scheduled to be distributed on Thursday, March 7, and is due on **Tuesday, March 12**. Any changes to these dates will be communicated via OWL-Space. The exams will require you to write one or more analytical essays based on class material. More information about the structure of the exams will be conveyed during the semester. Extensions on the take-home exams will be granted only in the case of medical excuse or verified emergency. Late exams will be penalized a full letter grade per 24 hour period.

25% – *Researched Policy Memo*

Each student is required to write a researched policy memo on one of a selection of topics that will be provided to the class. Students will be given an opportunity to express their preferences over their research topic, but in order to make sure all topics are covered, the instructor will assign a certain number of students to each general topic area. The topics will correspond to the debates surrounding current issues facing international organizations that we will discuss during the third portion of the course. The goal of the researched policy memo will be to make an informed and well documented argument to the leader of an organization, state, or group about how he/she should address a particular policy issue. The memo should be approximately ten pages, and more information about this assignment will be conveyed during the semester. Extensions will be granted only in the case of medical excuse or verified emergency, and late papers will be penalized a half letter grade per 24 hour period.

10% -- *Group Presentation to Class*

During the third portion of the course, we have six class periods devoted to discussing debates surrounding current issues facing international organizations. Each student will be writing a researched policy memo related to one of these general issues with 3-5 students working in each general topic area. The 3-5 students working on a particular topic will be responsible for giving a presentation to the full class for approximately the first thirty minutes of the class period. They will offer some background on the issue and lay out the most important current issues under debate. In conjunction with the instructor, the students will select one to three articles (depending on their length) for the full class to read in preparation for the discussion. (These must be posted on OWL-Space at least one week before the relevant class meeting.) The remaining 45 minutes of class will be devoted to general discussion of these issues and policy alternatives.

Each student in the presentation group must speak during the presentation. The group will receive a single grade that will apply to all group members. (Appeals to this policy will be allowed in the event that one or more members of the group fail to meet their responsibilities, but appeals are more likely to be successful if students raise concerns before the due date so that there is time to attempt to address the problem before the date of the presentation.) More information about this assignment will be conveyed during the semester.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

Students with documented disabilities who require special accommodations should meet with the instructor and express their needs during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities must also contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT:

Please feel free to arrange to see me any time you think discussion on an individual basis would be helpful-- about the course readings or assignments, about your research project, or about political science and school in general. It is important to me that this course enriches your educational

experience. My scheduled office hours are 4:00-5:00 Tuesday and 2:00-3:30 Wednesday. If you cannot attend office hours, I am happy to make an appointment to meet with you at another time.

REQUIRED READING:

There is one book required for this course, listed below. It should be available for purchase at the campus book store. It is also available through a variety of online retailers, both new and used. Amazon offers a kindle edition at significant savings that Amazon claims can be read on a PC or Mac as well as a variety of other devices. Make sure you purchase the third edition (2004), which should be the newest edition available.

Armstrong, David, Lorna Lloyd, and John Redmond. 2004. *International Organisation in World Politics*, 3rd edition. New York: Palgrave-MacMillan. ISBN 978-1-4039-0303-7.

The remaining readings are primarily articles drawn from scholarly journals available online through Fondren Library. The urls for the assigned reading are posted on OWL-Space, and you can access them from any Rice computer or from any other location through Rice Proxy or a VPN connection.

OWL-SPACE:

Many course materials and course announcements will be posted through OWL-Space, so students are expected to check the course site frequently. In addition, you are required to turn in your exams and papers through OWL-Space.

DISCUSSION AND READING SCHEDULE:

Readings should be completed *before* the class meeting for which they are listed. It is possible that additional readings will be added during the semester. If so, you will be notified via OWL-Space.

Tuesday, Jan. 8: Introduction to Course

No reading assignment, but please review the syllabus thoroughly.

Part I: Historical Development

Thursday, Jan. 10: Development of the Nation State and the State System

Spruyt, Hendrik. 1994. *The Sovereign State and its Competitors*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pages 3-7 and 153-194.

Philpott, Daniel. 2001. "Westphalia as Origin" in *Revolutions in Sovereignty*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapter 5 (pages 75-96).

Tuesday, Jan. 15: Sovereignty—Its Meaning and Practice

Krasner, Stephen D. 2001. Abiding Sovereignty. *International Political Science Review* 22 (3): 229-251.

Thursday, Jan. 17: Early International Institutions: The League of Nations

ALR chapters 1-2

Tuesday, Jan. 22: The United Nations

ALR chapters 3-5

Thursday, Jan. 24: The United Nations, cont.

ALR chapters 6-7

Tuesday, Jan. 29: The European Union and Regional Integration

ALR chapters 8-11

Thursday, Jan. 31: Regional Integration and Global Governance

ALR chapters 12-14

Take Home Exam Distributed

Tuesday, February 5: No class

Take Home Exam due by 11:59 pm

Part II: The Utility and Influence of International Organizations

Thursday, Feb. 7: Rule of Power or Power of Rules?

Mearsheimer, John J. 1995. The False Promise of International Institutions. *International Security* 19 (3): 5-49.

Keohane, Robert O. and Lisa L. Martin. 1995. The Promise of Institutional Theory. *International Security* 20 (1): 39-51.

Tuesday, Feb. 12: Why Use IOs?

Abbott, Kenneth W. and Duncan Snidal. 1998. Why States Act Through Formal International Organizations. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42 (1): 3-32.

Thursday, Feb. 14: Do International Organizations Affect Behavior?

Downs, George W., David M. Roake, and Peter N. Barsoom. 1996. Is the Good News About Compliance Good News About Cooperation? *International Organization* 50 (3): 379-406.

Kelley, Judith. 2004. International Actors on the Domestic Scene: Membership Conditionality and Socialization by International Institutions. *International Organization* 58 (3): 425-457.

Tuesday, Feb. 19: Designing Rules for Monitoring and Enforcement

Milgrom, Paul R., Douglass C. North, and Barry R. Weingast. 1990. The Role of Institutions in the Revival of Trade: The Law Merchant, Private Judges, and the Champagne Fairs. *Economics and Politics* 2 (1): 1-23.

Mitchell, Ronald B. 1994. Regime Design Matters: Intentional Oil Pollution and Treaty Compliance. *International Organization* 48 (3): 425-458.

Thursday, Feb. 21: Are Powerful States Constrained by IOs?

Steinberg, Richard H. 2002. In the Shadow of Law or Power? Consensus-Based Bargaining and Outcomes in the GATT/WTO. *International Organization* 56 (2): 339-374.

Voeten, Eric. 2001. Outside Options and the Logic of Security Council Action. *American Political Science Review* 95 (4): 845-858.

Spring Break

Tuesday, Mar. 5: The Influence of Weak Institutions

Dai, Xinyuan. 2007. "The Power of Weak International Institutions" in *International Institutions and National Policies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapter 5 (pages 100-139).

Thursday, Mar. 7: IOs as Independent Actors

Barnett, Michael N. and Martha Finnemore. 1999. The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations. *International Organization* 53 (4): 699-732.

Nielson, Daniel L. and Michael J. Tierney. 2003. Delegation to International Organizations: Agency Theory and World Bank Environmental Reform. *International Organization* 57 (2): 241-276.

Take Home Exam distributed

Tuesday, Mar. 12: No class

Take Home Exam due by 11:59 pm

Part III: Debates Surrounding Current Issues Facing International Organizations

Thursday, Mar. 14: Meetings regarding group presentations

Tuesday, Mar. 19: Meetings regarding group presentations

Thursday, Mar. 21: Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

Readings TBA (selected by students)

Tuesday, Mar. 26: International Courts

Readings TBA (selected by students)

Thursday, Mar. 28: No class, midterm recess

Tuesday, Apr. 2: Human Rights

Readings TBA (selected by students)

Thursday, Apr. 4: No class, research day

Tuesday, Apr. 9: Currency Bail-outs

Readings TBA (selected by students)

Thursday, Apr. 11: Debt and Development

Readings TBA (selected by students)

Tuesday, Apr. 16: Trade

Readings TBA (selected by students)

Thursday, Apr. 18: Course Wrap-Up

Researched Policy Memos due by 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday, May 1