

University of Georgia
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Fall 2018

Course ID: INTL 4240
Units: 3

Location: Park Hall, 145
Day/Time: TR 2:00pm – 3:15pm

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Just
Email: thomas.just@uga.edu

Location: TBA
Office Hours: T 3:30pm-4:30pm
W 10:00am-1:00pm

COURSE SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

International politics is often characterized as anarchic, and scholars primarily focus on the interactions among states. Since World War II, however, the number of international organizations (IOs) has increased considerably, and IOs have become more prominent players in the international arena. Why do IOs such as the United Nations, NATO, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, or the European Union exist? What role, if any, do they play in solving global problems states face in their interactions with each other? In this course, we will analyze these questions from a theoretical as well as practical perspective. We will begin with a broad overview of the characterization of the international system, incentives for cooperation under anarchy, controversies surrounding IOs in the context of international relations theory, the success of IOs in solving global problems as well as the major challenges they face in meeting their mandate. We will then apply our knowledge to the analysis of various IOs which have a profound effect on patterns of international cooperation and conflict in contemporary politics.

There are two substantive objectives for this course: to develop students' knowledge of (i) the basic patterns and facts of global governance, and (ii) the major theories and arguments developed by scholars of IOs to explain these patterns, and to understand their claims and predictions.

There are also two skills-based objectives for this course: (i) to develop students' ability to think analytically and critically about issues and events, applying theories to facts to generate stronger understanding and make more persuasive

***Note:** The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

REQUIRED TEXT

Margaret P. Karns, Karen A. Mingst, and Kendall W. Stiles, *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*, 3rd edition - ISBN: 9781626371514

REQUIRED: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

As this course deals with a number of contemporary themes and issues, students are required to read about and pay attention to current international events. Students should regularly read a number of international media sources, such as BBC World, the New York Times, Al-Jazeera, etc.

TEACHING METHODS

This course will be taught in a participatory lecture format. Participatory lecture format includes class discussion, presentations, and outside course work. The course requires student completion of readings, active participation in discussions during class, and written analysis and research of assigned topics.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

1. Coming to class on scheduled days and being prepared to learn is extremely important. A great deal of what happens during the course is interactive; thus cannot be made up.
2. Please arrive on time for class; lateness is not only disruptive but will also have a negative effect on your class participation grade.
3. You will need to keep up with the readings, even if the class coverage is either faster or slower than the scheduled list of topics as specified on the class syllabus.
4. I encourage you to use the writing centers.
5. No extra-credit assignments will be granted on an individual or ad hoc basis.
6. Academic honesty is of utmost importance and failure to comply will result in a failing grade.
7. Cell phones – turn them off or place on silent mode when you enter the class.
8. Food and Beverages – please use common sense and show courtesy to your fellow classmates at all times.
9. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed during the course.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Disability Resource Center (DRC - <https://drc.uga.edu/>). All accommodations MUST be approved through the DRC.

COURSE COMMUNICATION AND QUESTIONS

Do not hesitate to ask if you have questions or problems. If you email me, I will respond to questions about the readings, assignments, or just about anything related to the content of the course.

WEB RESOURCES

The internet can be an excellent source for data, basic background information, contemporary news, and government documents relevant to the study of international relations. With that being said, there is also a lot of inaccurate information available on the internet. Please be careful and use the same rigorous standards that should be applied to printed materials in your evaluation of online information.

COURSE EVALUATION

The final grade for each student enrolled in the course will consist of the instructor's evaluation of the following components:

Attendance and Participation	15 points
Debates	15 points
Simulation	20 points
Midterm Exam	25 points
Final Exam	25 points
<hr/>	
Total	100 points

GRADE SCALE

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

ASSIGNMENTS

All work is expected to be completed on time. Assignments must be submitted to the instructor electronically and hard copy (paper) by the designated due date and time.

All assignments must follow a consistent citation format (i.e. MLA, APA, Chicago). Students are encouraged to use in-text parenthetical citations.

Your grades will be based upon the quality and clarity of the content, organization, discussion, grammar, and proper use of citations.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (15 points)

Class sessions will focus on the readings and lectures, and responsibility for discussing these readings will fall heavily on students. Active involvement during discussions is essential to your success in this course. Participation means that you join in class

discussion, but also that you listen to your classmates and give them opportunities to speak. Therefore, every student is expected to attend all class meetings and be prepared to discuss the readings since you will be asked to summarize the readings as a prelude to class discussion and analyze current events in light of the reading.

Classes may also begin with a brief quiz on the assigned reading for that week which will be a part of your participation grade. Should you miss a class, it is your responsibility to determine and verify whether any announcements have been made in your absence regarding a change in the syllabus or assignments. In the event that a class must be cancelled, you are still responsible for the assigned readings. If you are not participating, this will affect your participation grade.

DEBATES (15 points each)

Select Thursday class sessions will feature a debate about a topic relevant to the readings for that week (*Note – a debate may be moved, in the event that a Thursday class is cancelled*). Students will be divided into teams and will be tasked with defending their position on that particular issue. Each student will participate in a debate during the semester and earn a score of up to 15 points for the debate. In some cases, students may disagree with the position they are asked to defend. This will help students better understand these opposing viewpoints. The topic for each debate will be made available to the class at least 48 hours preceding the debate. Students should refer to that week's readings in crafting their arguments.

Each group will make an opening statement then a debate will commence moderated by the instructor. The questions for the debate will be unknown to the groups beforehand. The audience will also have the opportunity to ask questions. The debate will conclude with a closing statement from each team. How each team divides the work and speaking time will be left to the group's members. Students will be evaluated based on their demonstration of understanding of the readings, respectfulness shown toward others, as well as the persuasiveness, structure, and creativity of their arguments.

Consider the Following:

What possible counterarguments might refute, weaken or otherwise undermine your argument?

SIMULATION (20 points) – During Weeks 12 & 13

Toward the end of the semester, you will act as part of a delegation representing an individual country in the United Nations Security Council during a simulated political crisis. The group simulation activities will take place during lecture (and also during any additional secret negotiations you might wish to carry out on your own). Each delegation will give a 5-minute policy speech on the first day of the simulation (October 29). In addition, each delegation will submit a 1,500-word (double-spaced) "policy memo" explaining their respective countries' position regarding the given issue. Both electronic and hard copies of the memo are due on October 29 at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade (e.g., from a B to a B-) for each day or fraction of a day late. Each delegation will provide a single memo. The ultimate goal of

the simulation is for delegates to come up with a written solution (i.e., a resolution) to the problem they are trying to solve. All the speeches, debate, negotiation, and teamwork are supposed to lead up to a resolution that contains all the proposed solutions to the issue. A draft resolution will be negotiated and voted upon during the simulation. Detailed information about the simulation will be provided in lecture the week of October 15. There will be NO MAKE-UP for the simulation exercise

MIDTERM EXAM (25 points) - Due Thursday October 4 by 2:00pm ET

Students will be required to take a midterm examination during the eighth week of the semester that will cover the course readings and lectures to that point. The midterm will consist of a series of essay questions, in which students will need to critically analyze and demonstrate a clear understanding of the course material from the first eight weeks. The exam questions will be made available to students at least five days in advance of the due date. Students may use their own notes and the texts to help them in crafting their essay answers; however, each student must write their answers in their own words and independently. Each student's responses will be evaluated based on their ability to critically analyze the readings, apply concepts discussed in class lectures, and organize their thoughts in an effective and persuasive manner.

FINAL EXAM (25 points) – Due Thursday December 6 by 2:00pm ET

The final exam will consist of a series of essay questions that will require students to demonstrate a clear understanding of the course material since the midterm exam. The final will be in a similar format to the midterm consisting of a series of essay questions, in which students must synthesize the lessons learned from the readings, course lectures, and other activities related to the course. The questions for the final will be made available to students at least five days prior to the final exam due date. Each student's responses will be evaluated based on their ability to critically analyze the readings, apply concepts discussed in class lectures, and organize their thoughts in an effective and persuasive manner.

Note---Late assignments will not be accepted, except in emergency cases at the discretion of the instructor.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (August 13) – Introduction and the Challenges of Global Governance

- Introduction & Syllabus
- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 1

Week 2 (August 20) – The Theoretical Foundations of Global Governance

- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 2

Week 3 (August 27) – IGOs and the United Nations

- Karns & Mingst, Chapters 3, 4

Week 4 (September 3)– Regional Organizations

- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 5
- Mearshimer, John – “The False Promise of International Institutions

Week 5 (September 10) – Non-State Actors: NGOs, Networks, and Social Movements

- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 6

Week 6 (September 17): The Search for Peace and Security

- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 7

Week 7 (September 24): Global Economic Governance

- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 8
- Miller, Lynn – “The Idea and Reality of Collective Security”

Week 8 (October 1): Mid-Term Exam

Take-Home Midterm Exam Due October 4 by 2:00pm

Week 9 (October 8): Promoting Economic Well-Being and Human Development

- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 9

Week 10 (October 15): Protecting Human Rights

- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 10
- Tharoor, Shashi. (2000). “Are Human Rights Universal?” *World Policy Journal*, Vol. 16, No. 4 <http://tembusu.nus.edu.sg/docs/Shashi%20Tharoor.pdf>

Week 11 (October 22): Protecting the Environment

- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 11

Week 12 (October 29): The European Union and Russia

Simulation Exercise

Week 13 (November 5):

Simulation Exercise

Week 14 (November 12): Dilemmas in Global Governance

- Karns & Mingst, Chapter 12

Week 15 (November 19):

No Class – Thanksgiving

Week 16 (November 26):

Take-Home Final Exam Review

Final Exams are due Thursday December 6 by 2:00pm ET