

INTL 4240: International Organizations

University of Georgia

Spring 2020, MWF 11:15 - 12:05

Instructor:	Jeff Auerbach
Email:	auerb001@gmail.com
Office:	Hunter Holmes 320G
Office Hours:	M & W: 1:00 - 3:00
Classroom:	MLC 147

Welcome!

The central goal of this course is to understand why international organizations exist, what they do, how they work, and how they do not work. In this course we will seek to understand three specific subsets of international organizations: traditional IOs (UN, WTO, IMF), international agreements and non-governmental organizations, and finally multinational corporations. This course will heavily focus on the political economy of international organizations with the remainder being devoted to human rights.

This course is going to be in many way structured differently from most other courses you have taken. This is course is heavily based on discussion and is also strongly tangent based. What I mean by this is that time is built into every class to explore the part of the day's material that you find most interesting. You are encouraged to ask questions and question how things relate to each other and to things you have noticed in the outside world.

Required Materials

- Gutner, Tamar. International Organizations in World Politics
- Vreeland, James. The IMF and Economic Development
- Yaziji & Doh. NGOs and Corporations: Conflict and Collaboration
- Reading on eLC

Make-up policy: It is your responsibility to attend all scheduled class meetings, including the times when exams are offered. I will offer make-up exams only in extreme cases.

How will you be graded?

Table 1: Components of Final Grade

Component	Prop. of grade
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	30%
Case Studies	40%

This class does use the $+/-$ system.

Ground rules

You are responsible for being self-motivated, self-directed, active learners. I expect you to comply with university policy and use common sense. You should complete all of the course assignments and participate fully in all of our activities. In this class we will be discussing politics which can be a sensitive topic. Offensive language, personal attacks, and harassment WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. On a technical note, close of business is 5pm; when something is due by close of business, that is what is expected. Also, if you are a parent and your childcare falls through and you need to bring your kid, you can.

Goals and teaching philosophy

When this course is finished, you should:

- Understand the logic of international organizations
- Understand how international organizations interact with domestic politics
- Understand the role that international organizations interact with NGOs and corporations

My goal in this class is to foster an environment where learning and discussion can be carried out. ¹

Case Studies

There will be four written case studies over the course of the semester. They do not have to be on the organizations covered in that week and this is a time for you to really be creative. The goal of these case studies is for you to be able to connect the actions and activities of international organizations to real world events and issues. You will be expected to identify some action by an international organizations and tell what happened. What was the issues they were trying to solve? Did it work? What would have happened if they had not stepped in? How the the IO action effect the people/country/industry effected by the problem?

In the case studies you will be expected to provide not simply a history of what happened, but an analysis. Some level of subjectivity is not just acceptable, but necessary. The case studies should be between two and three pages (12 point type, double spaced, don't dick around with borders) and include what lessons there are to be taken away from this. Being able to succinctly analyze the case and pass along the information is part of the goal of this exercise. Failure to adhere to the page restrictions will be penalized.

The case studies are due the FRIDAY of the due week BY 5PM. FRIDAY: 5PM! 5PM on FRIDAYS! The week that has a case study due, it is expected to be recieved by that FRIDAY at 5pm Eastern Time (GMT -5).

Exams

There will be a midterm and a final exam that both consist of a combination of multiple choice and short essays. The goal of the exams is for there to not be any surprises. These exams will be designed to be taken during a standard class period. There will be no make up tests except in extreme circumstances.

¹A note about my name: Feel free to call me Jeff or Mr. Auerbach.

Course Schedule

Week of January 7: Start at the Beginning

- Wednesday: Syllabus
- Friday: Jeff Travels

Week of January 13: Start at the Beginning

- Gutner Chapters 1 & 2: Introduction and such

Week January 20

The United Nations

- Monday: No Class
- Gutner Chapters 3 & 4

Week January 27

The World Bank

- Case Study 1 Due
- Gutner Chapters 5 & 6

Week of February 3

The IMF

- Gutner Chapter 7 & 8

Week of February 10

The IMF Continued

- Case Study 2 Due
- Vreeland - Whole book (Skim the empirical parts)

Week of February 17

The IMF Continued... Continued

- Life and Debt Movie and Discussion

Week February 24

The WTO

- Case Study 3 Due
- Gutner Chapters 9 & 10

Week of March 2

Regional Organizations

- Gutner Chapters 11 & 12

Week of March 9

- Spring Break

Week of March 16

- Monday: Review Session
- Wednesday: Midterm Exam
- Friday: No Class

Week March 23

October 21: Understanding NGOs

- Yaziji & Doh Part I

Week March 30

NGOs and Advocacy

- Case Study 4 Due
- Yaziji & Doh Part II

Week April 6

Week of November 4: NGO Corporate Relations

- Yaziji & Doh Part III
- Wednesday: No Class

Week of April 13

The Euro & Regional Trade Agreements

- Readings on ELC
- Friday: No Class

Week of April 20

Human Rights Agreements

- Monday & Wednesday: Readings on ELC
- Friday: Final Exam Review

Week of April 27

Final Exam Week

- Monday: Final Exam
- Tuesday: Course Required Self-Care