

INTL 4240	International Organizations	Spring 2025
T, TR 11:10-12:25	501 Journalism Building	Prerequisites/Corequisites: None
Danny Hill	Dept. of International Affairs	dwhill@uga.edu
Office Hrs: By appointment	Office: 319 IA Building	

## Course Description

This course examines the role of international organizations and institutions, broadly defined, in facilitating cooperation between countries. We will read about and discuss formal international organizations, as well as international law. We will pay special attention to how IOs solve general problems of cooperation in international politics, and will also examine many different IOs intended to coordinate states' policies across a range of issues such as trade, security, and human rights. Topics covered include international courts, international trade, monetary policy, environmental agreements, military alliances, the laws of war, humanitarian intervention, and international human rights law.

## Course Objectives

This is not a history or current events course, though we will discuss historical and current events. The purpose of the course is not to trace the development of particular international organizations. Rather, the goal is to understand 1) the role of international institutions in facilitating cooperation between states across a broad range of policy areas and 2) how we can assess the impact international organizations have on states' policies. To accomplish this goal we will read and discuss a lot of material about specific IOs, and learn about general theories of cooperation from the social sciences and basic issues involved in research design.

## Required Reading

There will be no textbook in this class. During most weeks, we will read 1-3 academic articles/book chapters and some news articles. Most readings are available through the library's website. Readings that are not will be available on the eLC course site. Students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss it in class.

## Grades

Students can review their exams and other grades during office hours or by appointment. Your final grade will be determined by 2 exams, 2 response essays, and course attendance. Exams each count towards 30% of your final grade, response essays each count towards 15% of your final grade, and course attendance makes up 10% of your final grade.

Grade Distribution (note that I do not assign minus grades):

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90 - 100: A	
86 - 89: B+	80 - 85: B
76 - 79: C+	70 - 75: C
66 - 69: D+	60 - 65: D
below 60: F	

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## Examinations

There will be a midterm and final exam. Each exam will have the same format and length and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The exams will cover material from class as well as assigned readings.

## Response Essays

Students are required to submit two short (1-2 pages, single spaced) response essays. Each essay will be a response to a prompt related to course topics/readings. Essay prompts can be found on the eLC course site. Everyone must submit an essay in response to the first prompt by January 31st. After that, students will submit one more essay during a week of their choosing. Essay prompts will be available during the following weeks:

- February 3-7 (international trade)
- February 10-14 (international monetary institutions)
- March 10-14 (military alliances)
- March 17-21 (laws of war)
- April 7-11 (human rights law)

During these weeks, an essay prompt will be available on eLC beginning on Monday and responses must be submitted via eLC no later than 5 p.m. on Friday. When you submit your second essay you must respond to the prompt for that week (no going back to the old ones). Remember, after you submit your first essay on January 31st, you are only required to submit one more response essay (2 in total for the semester). Also remember that after April 11th there will be no more opportunities to submit response essays, so you must submit your second essay by April 11th.

## Attendance

Attendance will be taken at random 10 times throughout the semester. One point will be deducted from your final grade for each of these days you miss.

## Makeup Exams

An absence from any exam will result in a zero for that exam. *Makeup exams will not be given for any reason. However, the lowest exam grade will be dropped when calculating final grades.* This means that everyone may miss one exam and not be penalized.

## Course Website and Email

Can be accessed through <http://elc.uga.edu>. You will need to check this site regularly for any syllabus updates or for posted readings. Announcements may also be sent out via email. It is your responsibility to check blackboard for syllabus updates.

## Syllabus Change Policy

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

## Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.

## Well-being, Mental Health, and Student Support

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit [their webpage](#). They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources to support your well-being and mental health. Find out more [here](#).

[Counseling and Psychiatric Services](#) (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support. See also the [Therapy Assistance Online Support](#) site (TAOS), or call 706-542-2273 for 24/7 support . For crisis support see [this page](#). The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators. See [here](#) for more.

## University Honor Code/Academic Honesty Policy

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 [www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). 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.

## Withdrawal Policy

Students who withdraw from the class before the withdrawal deadline (Thursday, March 21st) are assigned a grade based on their performance (pass/fail) in the class up to the point of withdrawal. This means that students who are failing will be assigned a “WF” grade even if they withdraw before the deadline. Students who withdraw from the class after the withdrawal deadline are automatically assigned a “WF” grade upon withdrawal.

## Reading Schedule

Jan 7: Syllabus review, class overview. No reading.

### Cooperation in international politics

Jan 9: Shepsle, Kenneth, and Mark Bonchek. 1997. *Analyzing Politics*. W.W. Norton. pp. 198-215.

Jan 14: Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) [timeline of US-Iran relations](#)

CFR [explainer on the Iran nuclear deal](#) (JCPOA)

Jan 16: Mearsheimer, John. 1994. “The False Promise of International Institutions.” *International Security* 19: 5-49.

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

Jan 21: Fearon, James. 1998. “Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation.” *International Organization* 52: 269-305.

Jan 23: Putnam, Robert D. 1988. “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games.” *International Organization* 42 (3): 427-460.

Some contemporaneous news articles about the JCPOA:

- Goldberg, Jeffrey. April 13, 2015. [Tom Cotton: Obama’s Iran Deal May Lead to Nuclear War](#). *The Atlantic*.
- [“Iran’s Rouhani blames hard-liners for deadlock with US.”](#) June 25, 2021. *AI Monitor*.
- [“Zarif’s final defense for Iran deal infuriates hard-liners.”](#) July 13, 2021. *AI Monitor*
- Mead, Walter Russell. August 10, 2021. [Iran Nukes the Case for a Biden Deal](#). *Wall Street Journal*.
- Geoffrey Aronson. August 10, 2022. [Jerusalem Declaration Signals Demise of the JCPOA](#). *The National Interest*.
- Karnitschnig, Matthew. August 12, 2022. [EU proposes lifting pressure on Iran’s Revolutionary Guards to revive nuclear deal](#). *Politico*.
- Tirone, Jonathan, Golnar Motevalli, and Samy Adghirni. August 26, 2022. [US and Iran Close to Nuclear Deal but Final Push May Take Weeks](#). *Bloomberg*.

Jan 28: Chayes, Abram, and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. "On Compliance." *International Organization* 47: 175-205.

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

### **International Trade and the WTO**

Jan 30: Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics*. Chapter 13.

[Brief interview about US trade policy/tariffs](#)

Feb 4: Busch, Marc and Eric Reinhardt. 2003. "Developing Countries and the GATT/WTO Dispute Settlement." *Journal of World Trade* 37: 719-736.

Feb 6: No class

### **International Monetary Institutions**

Feb 11: No reading, excerpts from documentary "Life and Debt"

Feb 13: Przeworski, Adam, and James Raymond Vreeland. "The Effect of IMF Programs on Economic Growth." *Journal of Development Economics* 62: 385-421. Skim.

Discussion of "Life and Debt"

### **The UN Security Council**

Feb 18: CFR [timeline of US invasion of Iraq and subsequent events](#) (to 2011)

Bennett, Ronan. March 8, 2008. [Ten days to war](#). *The Guardian*.

Feb 20: Voeten, Erik. 2005. "The Political Origins of the UN Security Council's Ability to Legitimize the Use of Force." *International Organization* 59: 527-557.

Feb 25: No reading, review for Midterm Exam

Feb 27: Midterm Exam

Mar 4: Spring Break

Mar 6: Spring Break

### **Military Alliances**

Mar 11: Some news articles about NATO and Ukraine before the invasion:

- [Listen to Anne Applebaum](#) discuss the history of NATO.
- Frum, David. September 3, 2014. [Obama Just Made the Ultimate Commitment to Eastern Europe](#). *The Atlantic*.
- Sanger, David E. and Maggie Haberman. July 20, 2016. [Donald Trump Sets Conditions for Defending NATO Allies Against Attack](#). *New York Times*.
- Isachenkov, Vladimir. April 21, 2021. [What's behind the conflict in Eastern Ukraine?](#) *Associated Press*.

After the invasion:

- [Brief timeline](#) of war in Ukraine from NY Times. Follow links for more details.
- [Interview](#) with political scientist John Mearsheimer in which he blames this all on NATO countries.
- Charap, Samuel. June 1, 2022. "Ukraine's best chance for peace." *Foreign Affairs*. (available on ELC)
- Kramer, Andrew E. and Andrew Higgins. September 11, 2022. [Ukraine Routs Russian Forces in Northeast, Forcing a Retreat](#). *The New York Times*. (available on ELC if you hit a paywall)

Mar 13: Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes." *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 427-439.

### **The Laws of War**

Mar 18: Several short summaries of the history of humanitarian law:

- [From Cornell's law school](#)
- [From the Red Cross](#)
- [From NPR](#)

Morrow, James D. 2001. "The Institutional Features of the Prisoners of War Treaties." *International Organization* 55: 971-991.

Morrow, James D. 2007. "When Do States Follow the Laws of War?" *American Political Science Review* 101(3): 559-572.

Mar 20: Wisner, Mike. [Sidelining Geneva](#). *PBS Frontline*.

Hersh, Seymour M. April 30, 2004. [Torture at Abu Ghraib](#). *The New Yorker*.

Mar 25: Deutsch, Anthony and Stephanie van den Berg. 2023. "[What war crimes laws apply to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?](#)" *Reuters*.

["What international law has to say about the Israel-Hamas War."](#) Council on Foreign Relations.

["Israel Loosened Its Rules to Bomb Hamas Fighters, Killing Many More Civilians."](#) New York Times.

### **Humanitarian Intervention**

Mar 27: Kuperman, Alan. 2008. "The Moral Hazard of Humanitarian Intervention: Lessons from the Balkans." *International Studies Quarterly* 52: 49-80.

Apr 1: Fortna, Virginia. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep the Peace?" *International Studies Quarterly* 48: 269-292.

### **International Human Rights Law**

Apr 3: Moravcsik, Andrew. 2000. "The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe." *International Organization* 54 (2): 217-252.

Hathaway, Oona. 2002. "Do Human Rights Treaties Make a Difference?" *Yale Law Journal* 111: 1935-2042, skim.

Apr 8: Helfer, Laurence, and Erik Voeten. 2014. "International Courts as Agents of Legal Change: Evidence from LGBT Rights in Europe." *International Organization* 68: 77-110.

Read the European Court's press release on *Fedotova and others vs. Russia* concerning same-sex unions (on ELC)

["Russia rebuffs 'meddling' European court ruling on same-sex unions"](#). July 14, 2021. *Reuters*.

### **The International Criminal Court**

Apr 10: Chapman, Terrence L., and Stephen Chaudoin. 2013. "Ratification Patterns and the International Criminal Court." *International Studies Quarterly* 57: 400-409.

Jo, Hyeran, and Beth Simmons. 2016. Can the international criminal court deter atrocity? *International Organization* 70: 443-475.

Apr 15: Chaudoin, Stephen. 2023. "How international organizations change national media coverage of human rights." *International Organization* 77: 238-261.

News articles about ICC, TBD (we'll see what's happening in April).

Apr 17: Readings TBD.

Apr 22: Readings TBD.

Apr 24: Review for final exam

May 1: FINAL EXAM, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.