

INTL 4240: International Organizations

University of Georgia

Spring 2026, WF 11:35 OR 2:55

Instructor:	Dr. Jeff Auerbach
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Office:	Baldwin 305E
Office Hours:	W & Th: 12:00 - 1:00
Classroom:	Baldwin 307 OR MLC 247

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 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
Attendance	10%
Group Presentation	10%
Final Group Project	25%
Midterm	25%
Group Check-Ins 2 @ 5% each	10%
Peer Evaluation	10%
Mission Statement Critiques 2 @ 5% each	10%

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.

Learning Outcomes

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.

UGA Well-being Resources

UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit sco.uga.edu. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

- Well-being Resources: well-being.uga.edu
- Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu
- University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
- Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu
- Disability Resource Center and Testing Services: drc.uga.edu

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken most days. Your grade is simply calculated by dividing the number of days you signed the roll by the number of days the roll was passed around. It is YOUR responsibility to sign the roll.

Group Projects/Presentations

The final project in this class is a group project where you use what you have learned over the course of the semester to build an international organization that solves some problem you identify in the world around you. This organization can cover a new area, or an area that exists, but where you hope to do things differently than the existing organizations. You will as a group produce a single final project that will be handed in to me as a hard copy at the assigned due date.

During the group presentations, you will give a short presentation on the IO that your group is creating. This will allow your group a time to get feedback from me and the rest of the class to strengthen your paper.

The check-ins will be used to make sure that your group is all on the same page and that you have begun work before the last minute.

Lastly, the peer evaluations will give you the chance to let me know if all of the group members were pull their weight.

Exam

There will be a single midterm exam that consists of a combination of multiple choice and short answer. 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.

Mission Statement Critiques

You will be asked to critique the mission statement of two international organizations over the course of the semester. You will look at how clear the statements are and if they convey a clear sense of purpose. These will be turned in on eLC and should be between 200 and 250 words.

Course Schedule

Week of January 12

- Wednesday: Syllabus
- Friday: Gutner - Chapter 1 & Skim Chapter 2

Week January 19

The United Nations

- Gutner - Chapters 3 & 4

Week January 26

The World Bank

- Gutner - Chapters 5 & 6
- Mission Statement Critique 1 Due at 5pm on Friday

Week of February 2

The IMF

- Gutner - Chapter 7 & 8

Week of February 9

The IMF Continued

- Vreeland - Whole book (Skim the empirical parts)

Week of February 16

The WTO

- Gutner - Chapters 9 & 10

Week February 23

Regional Organizations

- Gutner - Chapters 11 & 12
- Mission Statement Critique 4 Due at 5pm on Friday

Week of March 2

Group Work Begins

- Wednesday: Assign Groups and Group Work in Class
- Friday: No Class

Week of March 9

- Spring Break

Week of March 16

- Wednesday; Midterm
- Friday: No Class

Week of March 23

Understanding NGOs

- Yaziji & Doh Part I

Week March 30

NGOs and Advocacy

- Yaziji & Doh Part II

Week April 6

NGO Corporate Relations

- Yaziji & Doh Part III

Week April 13

- Group Presentations

Week of April 20

- Group Presentations

PAPERS DUE - 4/27 by 5PM