International Organizations & Regimes

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POLI165: International Organizations & Regimes SPRING 2011
Class Time: MWF 12:00-12:50
Class Location: COB 265
Instructor: Dr. Jon D. Carlson
Office: AOA Trailer, #157
Office Hours: MWF 1-2, & by app’t
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Course Description:

International Organizations and Regimes is an upper-division survey course on international organizations (IOs) with special emphasis on the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU). This course is designed to be an advanced investigation of the emergence and rise of international organizations and the network of regulation and international governance that they facilitate. International Organizations, explores the institutional structures, political processes, and impact of international organizations within three broad issue areas: international peace and security, human rights and humanitarian affairs, and global trade and development.

The first few weeks of the course will be dedicated to acquiring a basic understanding of the history and role of IOs in world politics and the different theoretical approaches to understanding IOs. The remainder of the course will focus on how effectively IOs like the United Nations and European Union “govern” certain issues in world politics according to international rules and law.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):
1. Understand the history of international organizations, means of governance and institutional policy implementation (Per PLO #1).
2. Use appropriate research methods to analyze at least one major international organization and the emergence of international law or regulation related to that organization (Per PLO #2, 3).
3. Develop concise argumentation and writing skills, while displaying critical thinking in discussion (written and verbal) of complex and contentious issues related to course material (Per PLO #4).
4. Comprehend main theoretical approaches to understanding international organizations and political behavior regulated by them, including functionalism and neo-functionalism, in context of existing data and research (Per PLO #5).

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for Political Science:
1. An understanding of the processes, theories, and empirical regularities of political institutions and political behavior in the student’s chosen emphasis area: American politics, comparative politics, or international relations.
2. An ability to employ critical thinking and demonstrate social scientific literacy, including basic quantitative literacy.
3. A capacity to utilize contemporary social science research methods to conduct rigorous research on political phenomena.
4. Effective written communication skills, especially the ability to convey complex concepts and information in a clear and concise manner.
5. An ability to apply abstract theory and research methods to understand contemporary political events and public policies.
READINGS
4. Additional Readings as assigned.

STUDENT ACTIVITY & EVALUATION
Most of us, if not all, know how to ride a bicycle. Think about how you learned to ride a bike – you did not attend lectures on bike riding. Rather, with the assistance of a parent, sibling or friend you got on the bike and started riding. You may have had learning wheels, you may have fallen off the bike many times, but in the end you learned how to ride the bike and you can still do that today! This is a good example of all learning. First, it was active, not passive. You did things rather than taking notes. Second, you were motivated to learn bike riding because your friends did it, it gave you greater freedom, or for any number of other good reasons. This course is like learning to ride a bike. We will be discussing and analyzing readings relating to political economy and development. You will also have to be ready to respond to my questions about my lectures that I may ask at any time. You will have to write mini-essays, and a research essay based on your individual effort and outside research.

Another way to think about learning at UC Merced is that it is like taking out a membership in a Health and Fitness Club. Your tuition at UC Merced gives you the right to attend a certain number of classes each semester. It also gives you the right to use the Library, the computer system, and other University facilities. Similarly, your Club membership fee allows you to use the exercise machines, swimming pool, and other Club facilities. However, if you never visit the Club and work out, your membership money is wasted. In the same fashion, if you just come to class most of the time without preparing and without participating, without being active in class, your tuition money is wasted too! So, as your teacher I am like a personal fitness trainer. It’s my job to exercise your mind -- no pain, no gain!

Your performance in POL 165 will be based on the following learning activities:

1) CLASS ATTENDANCE (15%): This is easy. I expect that you will attend all meetings of this class. By the third meeting of the class, you must have a ‘permanent’ seat that you will occupy throughout the semester. I will make a seating chart on that day. I will take roll 15 times at random throughout the semester. To avoid being marked absent you must be in your seat by the beginning of class. (SLO 1-6).

2) COURSE PARTICIPATION (20%): This may be new to some of you and will be worth a significant portion of your grade. We will have regularly scheduled discussion topics and questions; you will be responsible for preparing thoughtful responses and questions of your own. We will then have an insightful critique, commentary and exchange of fact-based views. Note: this does not mean that opening your mouth to spout random opinion constitutes a positive contribution to class discussion. How will your discussion be evaluated? Positive case discussion contributions will receive a point. If your contribution is indifferent or undeveloped, no mark will be made. If your contribution is factually wrong, illogical, incoherent, unrelated to the discussion or disruptive a point may be deducted. Most of

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1 Learning metaphors courtesy of Patrick McGowan.
the time I will call on students who raise their hands. However, I will also call upon students whose hands are not raised in order to see what they have to say. Remember, no pain, no gain! Please note: a positive contribution requires more from you than merely stating correctly a fact from the material or quoting from the text. Facts and quotes are evidence supporting your argument, they are not arguments themselves. (SLO 3, 5, 6, 7)

3) MINI-ESSAYS (15%): You will write three mini-essays, each at least three double-spaced pages long on subjects related to the text, lectures, and discussions. Each essay should comprise a well-written analysis of the assigned questions with a thesis, a body of the essay that develops the thesis, and a conclusion. The essays should include references and, when appropriate, quotations from text material. You do not need to do any outside research for your mini-essays. Please take these instructions seriously, as experience shows that students do not do their best work on their first essay. Use the Writing Center for review and revision suggestions. Topic questions for your essays will relate to your course project, and be announced in class and posted on the course website. (SLO 1,2,7)

4) RESEARCH ESSAY & PRESENTATION: (30%) Your essay is worth 20 points and your presentation worth 10 points toward your final grade. Essays are due WEDNESDAY 4/27. Presentations begin 04/06. You will need to select an IGO by the third meeting of the class. You will be responsible for a 10-12 page research essay on the IGO, as well as a brief in-class presentation. This is a good list of potential IGOs – only one person per IGO (no duplicate presentations): http://www.library.northwestern.edu/libraries-collections/evanston-campus/government-information/international-documents/list-igos (SLO 4,5,8)

5) MIDTERM EXAM (20%): There will be an in-class midterm exam worth 20 percent of your grade. Exams will likely consist of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions (SLO 1-4).

GRADING SCHEME

Final course grades will follow the pattern:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>925 – 1000</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>900 – 925</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>867 – 899</td>
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<td>Below 600</td>
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Academic Dishonesty/Cheating

Cheating on any quiz, exam, or written assignment will result in an automatic failing grade for that assignment and possibly an ‘F’ for the entire course. Extreme cases may also result in expulsion from the university, as discussed in college guidelines for academic dishonesty. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying any part of a classmate’s work and plagiarism – inadequately citing published material or using material without permission. Furthermore, plagiarism will be taken extremely seriously and any and all cases will be referred to the Dean for administrative action and will result in appropriate notation on your transcript.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1—Jan 19: Course Intro and Overview
  Review of POLI5 – IOs;

Week 2 – Jan 24:
  Seating Chart, IGO Selection
  Karns Ch1- Challenges, Ch 2 – Theoretical Foundations
Week 3 – Jan 31
   Karns Ch 3 – States & Multilateralism, Ch 4 -UN

Week 4 – Feb 7*
   Karns Ch 5 – Regional Orgs  MiniEssay #1 – Due Monday
   Weiss Ch 1

Week 5 – Feb 14
   Karns Ch6 – Nonstate Actors, Ch 7 – States & Governance
   Weiss Ch 2

Week 6 – Feb 21
   Karns Ch 8 – Peace & Security  MiniEssay #2 – Due Monday
   Weiss Ch 3, Ch 4

Week 7 – Feb 28
   Karns Ch 9 – Human Development
   Weiss Ch 9

Week 8 – March 7
   Karns Ch 10 – Human Rights
   Weiss Ch 6-8 (Human Rights)

Week 9 – March 14 *** Research & Prep
   In class projects & Lecture ‘catch-up’

Week 10 – **SPRING BREAK**

Week 11 – March 28 *
   Mini #3 Friday (04/01) -Mailbox
   Karns Ch 11 – Environment
   Weiss Ch 11, Conclusion

Week 12 – April 4  MIDTERM 04/04
   Presentations start 04/06, 04/08

Week 13 – April 11, 13, 15
Week 14 – April 18, 20, 22
Week 15 – April 25, 27, 29
   RESEARCH ESSAY DUE Wednesday 04/27

Week 16 – May 2, 4, 6

Week 17 – NO FINAL EXAM – Officially Scheduled Time: Wednesday, 8 am. – 11 am. = presentations (if needed)