

# PLSC 380D: International Organization

Fall 2015

Tue & Thu 11:40am – 1:05pm

Student Services Wing 321

Instructor: Prof. Katja Kleinberg  
Email: [kkleinbe@binghamton.edu](mailto:kkleinbe@binghamton.edu)  
Office: LN-G 55

Office Hours: Thu & Fri 9-10:30am  
and by appointment

## Course Information

This seminar is designed for students who are interested in international organizations and their role in world politics. The course is designed around the following questions: What types of problems do societies face in the international state system? What solutions have societies come up with to address those problems? And what determines the effectiveness of these solutions? To answer these questions, we will first examine the theoretical foundations of international organization. We will discuss why cooperation between societies is inherently difficult and what forms this cooperation can take. To this end, we will look at intergovernmental organizations at the regional and global level, paying particular attention to the implications of institutional design. We will then examine in more detail how societies are using different forms of international organization to address problems of security, economic welfare, human rights, and environmental protection.

By the end of the semester, students will have acquired (1) an introduction to political science scholarship on the causes and consequences of international cooperation; (2) an overview of the organizational forms of international cooperation; and (3) an understanding of the challenges of international cooperation across different policy areas. Finally, students will have had an opportunity to develop research, analysis, and writing skills which will be of benefit beyond the confines of this course. The format of the course will be class discussions and short lecture segments combined with question-and-answer segments.

## Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. The primary readings are articles drawn from scholarly journals and will be available on the course website on Blackboard. In the syllabus, they are marked as **[BL]**. The URL is <http://blackboard.binghamton.edu>.

Over the course of the semester, I may post additional readings for in-class discussions of current events related to the weekly topics. Students are advised to check the Blackboard course website and their email regularly.

Class discussions in this course are designed to facilitate learning by linking our theoretical understanding of international organization to current events in world politics. Students are strongly encouraged to follow current events, such as the evolving civil war in Syria, the negotiation and implementation of regional trade agreements, and debates about international cooperation on climate change. Examples of useful sources include major daily newspapers (New York Times, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal) and weekly journals (e.g., The Economist). Keeping up with current events will enrich class discussions by allowing us to draw parallels to historical events and developments. Moreover, it will allow students to participate in public life as informed citizens.

## Course Requirements

Successful participation in this course requires active participation in class including short written assignments you will complete in-class, short research assignments to be completed at home, reading quizzes, discussion participation, and three exams. For purposes of assigning a final grade, the following weighting factors will be applied:

Research Assignments (homework)	15%
Written Assignments & Quizzes (in-class)	15%
Discussion Participation	15%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	15%

**Grading scale.** Your semester grade for the course will be computed on a 100-point scale as follows:

94-100 A	84-87 B	74-77 C	0-64 F
91-93 A-	81-83 B-	71-73 C-	
88-90 B+	78-80 C+	65-70 D	

**Research assignments (15%).** You will be asked to complete a short research tasks over the course of these semester, related to the readings and/or in-class discussion for a particular week. These assignments have two purposes. (1) They will provide you with additional information on particular international organizations. (2) They are intended to teach you best practices for conducting research using online resources.

**Written assignments (15%).** There will be several short written assignments throughout the semester. You will be asked to respond in no more than two paragraphs to a question that arises out of the readings and/or in-class discussion for a particular week. These responses are supposed to demonstrate your understanding of the material and ability to apply it in making a well-reasoned argument.

**Quizzes (15%).** There will be several short multiple-choice quizzes throughout the semester. *They will not be announced in advance* and will cover the readings assigned for that week, as noted in the course schedule below. Quizzes are given at the beginning of class. If you arrive late, you will not be allowed to take the quiz.

**Exams (55% total).** There will be three exams over the course of the semester. Exams 1 and 2 are scheduled for our regular meeting time on **October 8** and **November 10**, respectively. Exam 3 will be scheduled for the regular final exam time for this course. I will announce the date as soon as I receive it from Harpur College. Each exam will cover the readings and lectures from the previous exam through that date, including currents events related to our course topics that were discussed in class.

## Course Policies

**Attendance.** Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Although I will not take roll to enforce this policy, repeated absences will have a negative impact on your final grade because you

will miss quizzes and in-class written assignments. Moreover, student participation is an important aspect of this course. Obviously, you cannot participate in discussion if you are not present. You are also responsible for all readings and materials covered, as well as all any announcements made in class.

**Make-up exams.** You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. Make-up exams will be provided on a case-by-case basis and will be scheduled once at the discretion of the instructor.

**Grade appeals.** All grade appeals must be made in writing. If you believe that I grade I have assigned you is incorrect, you should write a brief letter detailing your concerns and submit it to me along with the original graded assignment. I will review the materials and respond to you in writing.

**Academic dishonesty and plagiarism.** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You may not give or receive any unauthorized assistance during exams, quizzes, or assignments. You must cite the sources you use in preparing research assignments. You can find out more about the Honesty Code in the bulletin: <http://bulletin.binghamton.edu> (Click on Academic Policies and Procedures - All Students).

**Classroom civility.** In order to create a productive learning environment in our classroom, you will be asked to observe a few simple rules of behavior:

- NO LAPTOPS (The only exception are students whose documented disabilities require laptops for note taking. See section on SSD services below.)
- Put away your smartphone/tablet etc. If you are texting during class, I reserve the right to ask you to leave.
- Be on time.
- Be prepared for class.

Students are strongly encouraged to contribute opinions and observations in ways that invite discussion. Please keep in mind that students in our classroom will have divergent perspectives, unique life experiences, and different strategies for defending their views. Please state your opinions constructively and respectfully. Just as importantly, listen carefully when your colleagues are speaking. If at any time you are offended by something that is said in class, please come speak to me.

**Students with Special Needs.** Athletes who expect to miss classes are required to inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester as well as in advance of classes and/or assignments that need to be rescheduled. Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) provides a wide range of assistance to enrolled students with physical, learning or other disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities, Phone: 607-777-2686 (voice/TTY), Fax 607-777-6893. Email: [bjfairba@binghamton.edu](mailto:bjfairba@binghamton.edu).

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE

**NOTE:** This is a preliminary schedule. I reserve the right to add or subtract readings over the course of the semester. If this happens, I will send out an announcement through Blackboard email. Students are advised to pay attention to all announcements made in class and through Blackboard.

### IMPORTANT

For most weeks the readings are listed by week, not by individual class session. You are expected to complete the readings for each week by the beginning of that week.

#### **Week 1 – Cooperation among Egoists?**

September 1: Introduction, syllabus, opening discussion

September 3: Sovereignty

- Daniel Philpott. 1995. Sovereignty: An Introduction and Brief History. *Journal of International Affairs* 48(2): 353-368. [BL]

#### **Week 2 – The Case for (and against) “Rational Design” of International Cooperation**

September 8 & 10:

- Barbara Koremenos, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. The Rational Design of International Institutions. *International Organization* 55(4): 761-99. [BL]
- Paul Pierson. 2000. The Limits of Design: Explaining Origins and Change. *Governance* 13(4): 475-99. [BL]

### **September 11 – Course Add/Drop/Delete Deadline**

#### **Week 3 – Explaining Formal International Cooperation**

September 15: No class (Rosh Hashanah)

September 17:

- Kenneth W. Abbott and Duncan Snidal. 1998. Why States Act Through Formal International Organizations. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(1): 3-32. [BL]

#### **Week 4 – Early History of International Organization**

September 22 & 24:

- David Armstrong, Lorna Lloyd, and John Redmond (2004). *International Organisation in World Politics*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Ch. 2: “The League of Nations.” pp. 16-36. [BL]
- The Atlantic Charter [BL]
- The Charter of the United Nations [BL]
- *Research assignment #1: United Nations Security Council*

### **Week 5 – The Search for Security**

September 29 & October 1:

- Zbigniew Brzezinski. 2009. An Agenda for NATO. *Foreign Affairs* 88(5): 2-20.
- Andrew Bacevich. 2010. Let Europe Be Europe. *Foreign Policy* 178 (March/April): 71-2.
- *Research assignment #2: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)*

### **Week 6 – The Search for Security (continued) & Exam 1**

October 6: Case study: Dealing with Syria

- Thomas Carothers. 2008. A League of their Own. *Foreign Policy* 167 (July/August): 44-49.

October 8: Exam 1

### **Week 7 – Compliance and Enforcement in International Organization**

October 13 & 15:

- Abram Chayes and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. On Compliance. *International Organization* 47(2): 175-205.
- George Downs, David Rocke, and Peter Barsoom. 1996. Is the News About Compliance Good News about Cooperation? *International Organization* 50(3): 379-406.

### **Week 8 - The Search for Prosperity**

October 20 & 22:

- B. Peter Rosendorff and Helen V. Milner. 2001. The Optimal Design of International Trade Institutions: Uncertainty and Escape. *International Organization* 55(4): 829-57.
- *Research assignment: World Trade Organization*

### **Week 9 – The Search for Stability and Growth**

October 27 & 29:

- Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore. 1999. The Politics, Power, and the Pathologies of International Organizations. *International Organization* 53(4): 699-732.
- *Research assignment: International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group*

### **October 30 – Course Withdrawal (“W”) Deadline**

### **Week 10 – The Limits of International Organization? The European Union**

November 3 & 5:

- Robert A. Dahl. 1999. Can International Organizations be Democratic? A Skeptic’s View. In: Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordón (Eds.) *Democracy’s Edges*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. **[BL]**
- *Research assignment: The European Union*

## **Week 11 – Exam 2**

November 10: Exam 2

November 12: Homework assignment (instructor at conference)

## **Week 12 – International Organization for Human Rights**

November 17:

- Kenneth W. Abbott and Duncan Snidal. 2000. Hard and Soft Law in International Governance. *International Organization* 54(3): 421-56.
- United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. [BL]
- *Research assignment: International Criminal Court*

November 19: Homework assignment (instructor at conference)

## **Week 13 – International Organization for Human Rights (continued)**

November 24:

- Sengupta, Somini. Migrant or Refugee? There Is a Difference, With Legal Implications. *The New York Times* August 27, 2015 [World].
- Refugees or Migrants? Debate Over Words to Describe Crisis. *The New York Times* August 28, 2015 [Europe].

November 26: No class (Thanksgiving)

## **Week 14 – The Global and the Local: Environmental Policy**

December 1 & 3:

- Homer Dixon, Thomas. 1991. Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict. In: Art, Robert J., and Robert Jervis, Eds. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*. 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. New York, NY: Pearson Longman. [BL]
- Andrew P. Cortell and James W. Davis, Jr. 1996. How Do International Institutions Matter? The Domestic Impact of International Rules and Norms. *International Studies Quarterly* 40(4): 451-78. [BL]

## **Week 15 – The Arctic and the Case for International Organization**

December 8 & 10:

- Blunden, M. 2012. Geopolitics and the Northern Sea Route. *International Affairs* 88(1): 115-29.
- Bamford, J. 2015. Frozen Assets. *Foreign Policy* May/June: 43-51.
- *Research assignment: The Arctic Council*

## **Week 16 – Concluding Thoughts**

December 15: No readings

**Exam 3 date TBA**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Additional Information Mandated by Harpur College**

**N Requirement (Social Sciences).** This course fulfills an N requirement. Students in N courses will demonstrate 1. Knowledge of major concepts, models, and issues (and their interrelationships) of at least one of the social sciences: anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, or sociology. 2. An understanding of the methods used by social scientists to explore social phenomena, including, when appropriate to the discipline, observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and analysis by mathematics or other interpretive frameworks.

**World Load Expectations.** This course is a 4-credit course, which means that in addition to the scheduled lectures/ discussions, students are expected to do at least 9.5 hours of course-related work each week during the semester. This includes things like: completing assigned readings, participating in lab sessions, studying for tests and examinations, preparing written assignments, completing internship or clinical placement requirements, and other tasks that must be completed to earn credit in the course.