Emilie M. Hafner-Burton

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course exposes students to seminal research on the role of international organizations in world politics. The first part of the course will seek to explain how, if at all, international organizations (IOs) obtain some measure of authority in international affairs. We will consider the legalization of world politics and ask why states delegate certain tasks to international organizations instead of dealing unilaterally or multilaterally outside of an institutional context. We will also consider the role of domestic politics, both as a source of international cooperation and as a limitation. The second part of the course focuses on the design and influence of IOs. We assess the rational design line of explanation and its critics and consider in detail enforcement and flexibility features of organizations. We also assess whether and how IOs influence state compliance with agreements and explore the conditions under which IOs have influence on political behavior. The final part of the course explores organizational evolution and change and also the pathologies and complexities associated with growing legalization. Students will have the opportunity to select an area for more in-depth reading—either on multilateral aid, human rights or environment—for class 9.

REQUIREMENTS: There are two assignments:

1. You will be responsible for leading the discussion of the required reading material for several classes (numbers depending on the number of students enrolled). A good discussion debates the broader issues, themes and questions underlying the readings, it identifies problems with theory, research design or other potential flaws in the particular readings, and discusses potential for improvement. Your discussion should be organized around 2 to 4 central questions from the readings; you must clear those central questions with me by class time in the previous week. These questions will serve as a starting point for a more focused in-class discussion. A good presentation will encourage a lively discussion focused on controversies, debates and puzzles in the literature as well as foster critical thinking about the implications. You will submit a short paper (no more than 3-4 pages) summarizing the readings for your presentation. The short papers will provide an opportunity to hone your skills in providing an analytical summary of a complex literature—a skill that will be quite useful for your dissertation and later writing of academic papers.

2. You will write a 15-20 page research paper which will be due at 5pm on the last day of classes. The topic has to be cleared with me first. Do NOT wait until midterm to discuss the topic with me. You have three options:
   • You can write a research proposal that offers to resolve some of the limitations of the literature we discuss in class. The proposal has to identify a question or puzzle,
discuss how you would try to answer that question (theoretical argument, hypotheses, and research design), lay out the necessary steps of the project, and suggest how this project would advance the literature.

- You can empirically evaluate one of the theories we have discussed in class using one or multiple international organizations, or alternatively, compare theories using case studies or quantitative data analysis.
- You can use a conference paper you are currently writing or expand on a research paper from a previous class. In this case, you are required to give a 10 minute presentation in class and then submit the revised version including a discussion of how you addressed the recommendations you received in class.

The grade for your final research paper is 40% of your final grade. The remaining 60% of your grade will be based on class participation – including the short papers and discussions you will lead as well as your general participation in each session of class.

Most of the readings for the course are journal articles. The articles are available electronically on JSTOR or through the UCSD library home page. I will also provide you the articles electronically. Interests will vary and time is often scarce, but at a minimum you should read the assigned required readings each week. As most of you will build your profession in this area (and some will take comprehensive in this or adjacent fields) the additional (highly recommended) reading will be of considerable interest as well.

It is the student's responsibility to inform me of any factor(s) that might interfere with class performance well in advance of any problems. Under all circumstances, plagiarism is a violation of your academic integrity. If you have questions about what constitutes original research, or how to reference the work of others, ask us.
PART I: COOPERATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Class 1. Wednesday April 1st: Cooperation Under Anarchy

Required:

Theme 1: Collective Action


Theme 2: The ‘Isms’ Debate


Highly Recommended:


Class 2. Wednesday April 8th: Legalization

Required:


Theme 1: The concept of legalization


Theme 2: Empirical applications


Theme 3: Alternatives to legalization


Highly Recommended:


Class 3. Wednesday April 15\textsuperscript{th}: Delegation and Pathologies

\textit{Required:}

\textit{Theme 1. Delegation}


\textit{Theme 2. Pathologies}


\textit{Theme 3. Democratic Deficit}


\textit{Highly Recommended:}


Class 4. Wednesday April 22\textsuperscript{nd}: The Domestic Politics of International Organizations

\textit{Required:}

\textit{Theme 1. Two-Level games and other metaphors}


\textit{Theme 2. Democracy}


\textit{Theme 3. International norms and domestic politics}


\textit{Highly Recommended:}


PART II: DESIGN AND INFLUENCE

Class 5. Wednesday April 29th: Design (Part I): Rational Design and Bargaining

Required:

Theme 1. Rational Design: the debate


Theme 2. Size, depth and power


Highly Recommended:


Class 6. Wednesday May 6\textsuperscript{th}: Design (Part II): Enforcement, Dispute Settlement and Flexibility

\textit{Theme 1. Enforcement}


\textit{Theme 2. Dispute Settlement}


\textit{Theme 3. Flexibility}


\textit{Highly Recommended:}


Class 7. Wednesday May 13th: Compliance and Influence

Required:

Theme 1. Debates about compliance and law


Theme 2. Empirical applications


Highly Recommended:


Part III Change and Complexity

Class 8. Wednesday May 20\textsuperscript{th}: Complexity and Forum Shopping

\textit{Theme 1. Complexity}


\textit{Theme 2. Forum Shopping}


\textit{Highly Recommended:}


Class 9. Wednesday May 27th: Evolution and Change and ONE other topic (multilateral aid, environment or human rights)

**Required (evolution and change):**


**Highly Recommended:**


**Required (if the ‘multilateral aid’ option is selected)**


**Required (if the ‘environment’ option is selected):**


Required (if the ‘human rights’ option is selected)


