

PSCI 4173: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Fall 2011

Instructor: Curtis Bell

Office: Ketchum 121A, Hours: TR 4:45-5:45 and By Appt.

Course Description

Over the course of this term, we will study theories of international cooperation, discuss the common obstacles to cooperation, and evaluate strategies that states and non-state actors might use to overcome these obstacles. This will require us to consider our basic assumptions about the international system and state interests. It will also require us to scrutinize extant international organizations and treaties to better understand patterns of interstate cooperation. Through careful reading and the completion of a major research project, you will gain the ability to evaluate cooperative strategies available to states as they address a wide range of problems in international relations.

Course Prerequisites

The prerequisite to this course is PSCI 2223, Introduction to International Relations. If you have not passed this course prior to the beginning of this term, then you may not take this class. Exceptions may be made for special circumstances, such as completion of the prerequisite at another institution, but the instructor has the authority to drop any student lacking the university's prerequisite requirement.

Assessment

The main requirements of this course include four major written assignments, a presentation, and a number of online discussion prompts. Each of the components of your grade is described in greater detail below.

Classroom Participation (10%)

When you are in class, I expect you to be attentive, prepared, and engaged. Please be ready to share your thoughts on the readings and come with questions. We all learn more when you take the time to participate.

Online Participation (10%)

Much of your work for this class will occur outside of class on CULearn message boards. Many weeks, I will give prompts and I will ask you to share your thoughts and respond to others online. Some of these prompts may ask you to do some research. At the end of the semester, I will average your weekly scores and this average will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Term Paper

The bulk of your grade will be determined by an extensive research project to be completed over the course of the term. For this research project, you will apply the theories of cooperation discussed in the course to the international organization/treaty of your choice. You will research the origin, history, and scope of your organization/treaty, you will evaluate an important problem with your organization/treaty, and you will develop a feasible policy proposal for addressing this problem. We will discuss this project at length on the first day of the course.

RESEARCH PROJECT: PAPER ONE (10%)

DUE 20 SEP

On Tuesday 19 September, you will submit the first of the four papers that comprise your research project. Paper One (5 pages, not including bibliography) is a background on the international institution your research project will explore. It should answer the following questions:

- How did the institution form? What states or non-state actors supported or opposed the formation of the institution?
- What is the scope of the institution? Has it changed over time? Do any other institutions perform similar functions?
- Why is the institution relevant to international relations today? Is it involved in any contemporary events or policy debates?

I strongly encourage you to discuss your institution with me before turning in this paper.

RESEARCH PROJECT: PAPER TWO (20%)

DUE NOV 1

Paper Two (10 pages) is due Tuesday 1 November. For this paper, you will make revisions to Paper One and add a 5-page discussion of a major problem facing your international organization/treaty. This problem could be related to the structure of the institution (membership, scope, democratic deficit, legitimacy, enforcement, neutrality, etc.) or you could discuss a case that illustrates a critical weakness (India and the NNPT, North Korea and the Security Council, Darfur and the African Union, etc.). Choose something that interests you. You will spend a considerable amount of this term exploring the problem you choose. In this paper, make sure to answer the following questions:

- How is this a problem for the institution? Why is this important?
- Are there any cases that illustrate why this is a problem for the institution?
- What kind of problem is this? Is it related to any of the kinds of problems discussed in the course give special attention to topics covered 10-19 June.
- Why hasn't this problem been resolved? If there have been previous attempts to resolve this problem, why did they fail?

CRITICAL REVIEW (15%)

DUE NOV 15

When you turn in Paper Two, I will assign you a review partner for the final stage of the paper. You will exchange drafts, take them home for two weeks, and critically review your partner's draft. I will ask you to write a review essay of 1500 words, and your review should contain discussion of (1) strengths of the paper (2) additional cases that the author might consider, (3) weaknesses in the argument, and (4) ideas for how the author might address these weaknesses. Learning to critically evaluate others' work is as important as writing your own, so give adequate time to this assignment and give your partner useful and respectful constructive criticism. The critical review will be due to me (and to your partner) on Tuesday 15 November.

PRESENTATION (10%)

DUE DEC 6

Because this is a research seminar, it is important for you to receive feedback from the class. In the last week of the semester (6 Dec) you will briefly present your proposal (Paper Three) to the class. Your presentation should last no more than 10 minutes, and you should solicit help from the class and point them toward questions you have about your project. I expect active discussion of all of the projects, so come prepared and be willing to use the class' constructive criticism to help you improve your project.

RESEARCH PROJECT: PAPER THREE (25%)

DUE 12 DEC

Paper Three (15 pages) is the final iteration of your research project for this course. On Monday 12 December you will turn in a paper that consists of revisions to the previous two sections and a policy proposal that addresses the problem discussed in your second paper. This proposal should be feasible and it should draw from solutions discussed in class or solutions drawn from the experiences of other international institutions. Be creative! Your proposal should answer the following questions:

- Specifically, how can the institution address this problem?

- What suggests this solution may work? You should draw on examples from other institutions and/or course readings.
- Is this solution feasible? What obstacles may impede the success of your proposed policy? What actors have the most to gain from your proposal? What actors have the most to lose?

You will demonstrate the depth and breadth of your research by completing an **annotated bibliography** to be turned in with each paper. An annotated bibliography is a list of references, but unlike a works cited page, each reference is followed by a short 2-3 sentence description of the source. A short document on how to prepare an annotated bibliography is posted on CULearn. I would expect no fewer than 15 *reputable* sources in your annotated bibliography.

Late Papers: Late papers are penalized 15% for every 24-hour period following the start of class. For example, if a paper is due at noon on Friday, it is penalized 15% if it is turned in by Saturday at noon, 30% if it is turned in before Sunday at noon, etc.

The final paper may not be submitted late.

Course Policies

Course Conduct: Much of our class will consist of discussion and debate. Strong opinions are encouraged, but you are also expected to be professional and respectful at all times. Rude behavior will result in a verbal warning, and persisting rude behavior will result in a grade deduction.

Academic Honesty: **Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Any plagiarism will result in course failure and referral to the Honor Council. If you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please visit my office hours BEFORE submitting your paper.** Your first reference regarding what constitutes plagiarism should be the brief reading on plagiarism that is assigned for the second class session. I strongly encourage you to read the university's policies on plagiarism as well as your rights should you be accused of plagiarism. These documents are available online at <http://www.colorado.edu/honorcode/>

Special Considerations: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, faculty are required to make "reasonable and timely accommodations" for students with disabilities. By university policy, that obligation only extends to students who have registered with the Office of Disability Services, which makes the determination of whether, for example, students have real learning disorders. If you are a student with a disability, please notify the professor in writing within the first two weeks of semester what accommodations are needed. Please provide me documentation from Disability Services (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices). If you have religious obligations that may conflict with this course, please notify me in writing within the first two weeks of semester in order to seek a reasonable and fair arrangement. The campus policy regarding religious observance is available at www.colorado.edu/policies.fac_relig.html.

Course Outline

All readings are available on CULearn.

Week 1

TUE 30 AUG: Course Introduction

- Krasner, Stephen D. 1995-1996. "Compromising Westphalia." *International Security*, 20(3): 115-151.
- Indiana University. 2004. "Plagiarism: What it is and How to Avoid it."

30 AUG - 6 SEP: Online Discussion: *Is Mearsheimer right? Are institutions worthless?*

- Mearsheimer, John J. 1994-1995. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security*, 19(3): 5-49.

Week 2

TUE 6 SEP: Realist Perspectives

6 SEP - 13 SEP: Online Discussion: *How do institutions lock-in power for the powerful? Can you think of any examples?*

- Ikenberry, John G. 2000. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (Chapter One)

Week 3

TUE 13 SEP: No Class Meeting

13 SEP - 20 SEP: No Online Discussion: Work On Papers

Week 4

TUE 20 SEP: Hegemonic Stability

Paper One Due on CULearn, 6:00 pm

20 SEP - 27 SEP: Online Discussion: *How well do formal games apply to real international politics? Is this type of research useful?*

- Oye, Kenneth A. 1985. "Explaining Cooperation Under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies." *World Politics*, 38(1): 1-24.
- Walt, Stephen. 1999. "Rigor or Rigor Mortis: Rational Choice and Security Studies." *International Security*, 23(4): 5-48.

Week 5

TUE 27 SEP: Neoliberal Institutionalism

27 SEP - 4 OCT: Online Discussion: *Watch AIDS Frontline. How did TANs affect the AIDS movement?*

- Finnemore, Martha and Sikkink, Kathryn. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization*, 52(4): 887-917.
- Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. (Chapter One)

Week 6

TUE 4 OCT: Norms and NGOs

4 OCT - 11 OCT: Online Discussion: *Of the problems discussed by KLS, which most plague your institution? Are some of these problems more easily overcome than others?*

- Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. "The Rational Design of International Institutions." *International Organization*, 55(4): 761-799.

Week 7

TUE 11 OCT: Structural Problems and Solutions

11 OCT - 18 OCT: Online Discussion: *What kinds of organizations are most prone to collective action problems? Do they plague your organization?*

- Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science*, 162: 1243-1248.
- Harris, Paul G. 2007. "Collective Action on Climate Change: The Logic of Regime Failure." *Natural Resources Journal*, 47: 195-224.

Week 8

TUE 18 OCT: Collective Action Problems and Environmental IOs

18 OCT - 25 OCT: Online Discussion: *Prompt TBD*

- Tallberg, Jonas. 2002. "Paths to Compliance: Enforcement, Management, and the European Union." *International Organization*, 56(3): 609-643.
- Fearon, James D. 1998. "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation." *International Organization*, 52: 269-305.

Week 9

TUE 25 OCT: Bargaining, Enforcement, and Compliance

25 OCT - 1 NOV: No Online Discussion: *Work on Paper Two*

Week 10

TUE 1 NOV: Legitimacy

Paper Two Due at 6:00 pm

- Buchanan, Allen and Keohane, Robert O. 2006. "The Legitimacy of Global Governance Institutions." *Ethics and International Affairs*, 20(4): 405-437.

3 NOV - 10 NOV: Online Discussion: *Should institutions be democratic, or should they reflect imbalances in power and influence? How does your institution manage this problem?*

Week 11

TUE 8 NOV: Domestic Politics and International Institutions

- Goldstein, Judith. 1996. "International Law and Domestic Institutions: Reconciling North American "Unfair" Trade Laws." *International Organization*, 50(4): 541-564.

8 NOV - 15 NOV: No Online Discussion: *Work on Reviews*

Week 12

TUE 15 NOV: Nuclear Proliferation

Reviews Due at 6:00 pm

- Readings TBD

15 NOV - 29 NOV: Online Discussion: *Under what conditions, if any, should IOs intervene in genocides and civil wars? Should NATO have been involved in Libya?*

- Williams, Paul D. and Alex J. Bellamy. 2005. "The Responsibility to Protect and the Crisis in Darfur." *Security Dialogue*, 36(1): 27-47.

Week 13

TUE 29 NOV: Peacekeeping

29 NOV DEC - 6 DEC: No Online Discussion: Work on Presentations

Week 14

TUE 6 DEC: Presentations

Paper Three Due 12 Dec NOON