



## COURSE OVERVIEW

When the United States went to war against Iraq against the 'will' of the United Nations, scholars and journalists - as well as politicians - started to question the role of the United Nations in today's world politics. Similarly, when the United Nations was not able to prevent the genocide in Rwanda, when it continues to stand at the sidelines in Darfur and Syria, the question remains: what is the use of the United Nations? Of course, the picture is not completely negative. One international organization, albeit a regional one, can point to one remarkable success: since the creation of the European Union, peace has existed in Europe. Specifically, Germany and France have not been at war with each other for over 60 years now - a remarkable achievement. In another region, ASEAN has ushered in a long peace between the nations of Southeast Asia. Amnesty International successfully put torture and political prisoners on the international political agenda. What this tell us is that we cannot dismiss the role of international organization in world politics. It is this particular question - how significant are international organizations in world politics - that will guide us through the whole semester. What is the role of international organizations in today's world? Are they merely reflection of state power or are they independent actors?

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## COURSE OBJECTIVES

After the course, students should be able to:

- understand the principle elements which contribute to the (in)effectiveness of International Organizations
- gain a better understanding of the most important international organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union
- be encouraged to think critically and not shy away from applying their insights to a critical analysis of politics

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Karns, Margaret P. and Karen A. Mingst. *International Organizations - The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*. Lynne Rienner Publishers: Boulder, CO 2010

Additional Readings will be uploaded to blackboard

**I reserve the right to change the content of the syllabus at any time in the semester.**

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Students must complete all course requirements. Any assignment that is not completed will receive a grade of zero. Failure to complete all course requirements will therefore result in a failing grade for the course. Academic dishonesty on any exercise will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

### 1. Participation and Attendance

A successful student-centered course requires that students contribute to the learning process in a meaningful way. Students are expected to attend class and actively engage in course activities. Students who make regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussions, display a willingness to help others work through course concepts, and/or with particularly sophisticated responses on the reflection papers can expect good participation grades. When deciding on your final grade, I will take your participation into account. Students may consult with the instructor at any time for an assessment of participation.

- I expect every student to come to class prepared. This means you have read the required chapters in the textbook AS WELL AS any additional readings on blackboard. I will call on students during class so be prepared to answer questions!
- I will accept *three excused absences*. Any more absences will negatively affect your attendance grade. I will accept only University approved excuses. Please be aware that notes from Hartshorn are NOT university approved excuses for missing class and for late assignments. I will verify all excuses; if I am unable to do so, absences and late assignments will not be excused.
- You will start with an attendance grade of 100%. After three excused absences, *I will abstract 5% for each missed class or for each unexcused class*. Excused means that you emailed me BEFORE class with a reason why you cannot attend class.
- Attendance will be taken in every class. You must sign the attendance sheet. If you are late you need to see me after class to add your name. Because being on time for important appointments (such as a class) is a valuable life skill, being late at three occasions will count as one absence.

### 2. Midterm

The Midterm Exam will cover all of the content studied up to the date of the exam. It will consist of multiple choice questions. I will provide a study guide. Make-up exams will only be given for valid excuses (approved university activities, documented illnesses), and only if you contact me before the exam. Please contact me in person or by email.

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### 3. Group Presentation

Each group will consist of five students. Each group needs to pick an issue area from the list below and identify the relevant international organizations which operate in the given issue area. The presentation must cover the following elements:

1. What global governance problem exists in your issue area?
2. Which international organizations are involved in addressing the governance problem? Please determine the type of international organization and the specific goals they pursue.
3. Are there any other actors except international organizations that play a role? For example, what is the role of individual states or group of states?
4. How successful is the web of governance in addressing and solving the specified problems?
5. What are your suggestions on how global governance in your issue area can be improved?

*Each student should be in charge of one of the five points and you should make it clear on the slides whose in charge of that specific part of the presentation.*

Your group will become the teacher in the second part of the semester. Each group is responsible to create one session in which you will be presenting your issue area. You are free to create the class as you wish (debate format, use of audio/video etc) but you must provide an official presentation about your issue area which must cover at least 50% of class time and the points listed above. You will also need to create a 10 question multiple choice test covering your issue area which the whole class will take the class following your presentation.

**Before the date of your presentation, you need to meet with me during my office hours (the whole group) TWICE:**

\* First Meeting: Present the choice of your topic and your general division of labor and outline of your presentation (during the month of MARCH).

\* Second Meeting: you need to email me your presentation and 20 potential quiz questions (three possible answers, only one correct) **one week before our meeting**. You need to see me in person so I can give you my feedback and required changes for your presentation **ONE WEEK BEFORE YOUR REPRESENTATION DATE**.

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You can choose from the following issue areas:

1. Peace and Security
  - a. Arms Control and Disarmament
  - b. Collective Security: peace-keeping and sanctions
  - c. Humanitarian Intervention
  - d. Peacebuilding
2. Human Development and Economic Well-Being
  - a. Free Trade
  - b. Underdevelopment
  - c. Child Mortality or Maternal Health
  - d. HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
3. Human Rights
  - a. Child Soldiers
  - b. Torture
  - c. Indigenous Peoples
  - d. People with Disabilities
  - e. Rights of the Child
  - f. Racial Discrimination
4. The Environment
  - a. Environmental Sustainability
  - b. Climate Change

### 5. Class Paper

Your final exam will be a 15 page long paper (Times New Roman, font size 12, double space, 1 inch margins on all sides) which you write on a specific international organization of your choice operating in your selected issue area. The goals of the final paper are similar to that of the group presentation. Please address the following elements:

1. What type of international organization is your organization?
2. What issue area operates it in and what is the governance problem?
3. What are the goals of the International Organization?
4. Based on your evaluation of the activities and programs of the international organization, does the International Organization adequately address the governance problem?
5. What are potential improvements you would suggest to better address the governance problem?

### 6. Multiple Choice Quizzes

In week 11-15 we will have one multiple choice quiz per group presentation. The quiz for each issue area will be given the class following the group presentation. The quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions drawn by your classmates from their group presentation.

## EXAM AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

March 14	Midterm
Week 11-15	Group Presentations
Week 11- 15	Multiple Choice Quizzes
May 9th	Final Papers due

## GRADING POLICY

10%	Attendance
20%	Group Presentation
20%	Midterm
20%	Multiple choice quizzes
30%	Final paper

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I will use plus/minus grading in this course. Final course averages will translate into the following letter grades:

98.0-100	=A+
92.0-97.99	=A
90.0-91.99	=A-
88.0-89.99	=B+
82.0-87.99	=B
80.0-81.99	=B-
77.0-79.9	=C+
70.0-76.9	=C
60-69.99	=D
0-59.99	=F

Grades of "Incomplete" will be assigned only if a student has an illness or other serious problem that prevents them from completing the course.

**NO POLITICAL SCIENCE course earning a grade lower than C- will be permitted to fulfill political science major requirements.**

Learning Disabled Students: Any learning disabled student working with either the Learning Disabilities Program or the Academic Advancement program who might have problems with exams, time limits, or other academic requirements should consult with me in the first week of class.

Withdrawal Dates: March 25th is the last day to withdraw from the course with a "W" grade.

Academic Integrity. This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. Colorado State University has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. The General Catalog's "Policies and Guiding Principles" asserts that CSU "expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution" - citing "principles of academic honesty" as the first example. (1.6 Page 1).

Other policies: Please do come see me, before and after class, during office hours or, if those do not work for you, at other times. Please do not hesitate to speak with me if you have questions or concerns.

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## CLASS SCHEDULE

### Part 1: Understanding Global Governance

#### Week 1 (1/22, 1/24) Introduction

Required Readings: Chapter 1 pp. 1-14, peruse the chapter(s) that are of interest to you for your presentation in Part 3 of textbook)

1/22: Introduction

1/24: What is Global Governance

#### Week 2 (1/29, 1/31): Historical Context and Actors in Global Governance

Required Readings: Chapter 1 pp. 14-29, Chapter 3

1/29: Foundations of Global Governance

1/31: Actors and Process of Global Governance

### Part 2: Actors and Process of Global Governance

#### Week 3 (2/5, 2/7): The Big Debate: What Role Do International Organization Play in World Politics?

Required Readings: Chapter 1 pp. 29-33; Chapter 2 and 7, and please familiarize yourself with CEDAW <http://www.unifem.org/cedaw30/index.html> and <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/10/2women.cfm>, and <http://www.wluml.org/node/6063>

#### Week 4 (2/12, 2/14): The United Nations

Required Readings: Chapter 4, Think Again: UNSC **and** Think Again: UN (on blackboard)

2/12: History and Structure of the UN

2/14: UN Activities

## Week 5 (2/19, 2/21): United Nations Reform

Required Readings: Weiss 2003 (on blackboard)

2/19: Group Discussion - should the United Nations Security Council be reformed?

2/12: How to do a good group presentation - Example: Gender Discrimination

## Week 6 (2/26, 2/28): Regional Organizations

Required Readings: Chapter 5 and browse 'ABOUT' section on ASEAN <http://www.asean.org/asean/about-asean>

2/26: Overview

2/28: ASEAN

## Week 7 (3/5, 3/7): European Union

Required Readings: EU Booklet chapter 1-11

3/5: History and Development of EU

3/7: EU - principal organs

## Week 8 (3/12, 3/14): European Union

Required Readings: EU Booklet, chapter 12

3/12: The Eurocrisis

\*\*\*\* 3/14: MIDTERM \*\*\*\*

----- SPRING BREAK -----

## Week 9 (3/26, 3/28): Non State Actors and Transnational Movements

Required Readings: Chapter 6 and familiarize yourself with Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/en/who-we-are/about-amnesty-international>

3/26: Overview of topic

3/28: Case study of Amnesty International



Week 10 (4/2, 4/4): Non State Actors and Transnational Movements

Required readings: Familiarize yourself with the UNA USA mission and history <http://www.unausa.org/about-us>

4/2: Case study of United Nations Association USA

4/4: Class time allocated to work on group presentations

**Part 3: Issues in Global Governance - How Influential are International Organizations?**

Week 11 (4/9, 4/11): Group Presentation - Peace and Security

4/9:

4/11:

Week 12 (4/16, 4/18): Group Presentation - Human Development and Economic Well-Being

4/16:

4/18:

Week 13 (4/23, 4/25): Group Presentation - Human Rights

4/23:

4/25:

Week 14 (4/30, 5/2): Group Presentation - The Environment

4/30:

5/2:

Week 15 (5/7, 5/9): Group Presentation - (if needed)

5/7:

5/9: