

# POLI 364: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Winter of 2022

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<b>Time:</b>	Mon & Wed 12:30-14:00
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment via <a href="https://youcanbook.me">youcanbook.me</a>

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## 1 Course Description

Since the mid-20th century, international organizations (IOs) have grown in number and influence. Today, IOs govern, or attempt to govern, many areas of world politics. This course will examine major theoretical approaches to the study of IOs. We will then carefully review how IOs govern major issue areas of world politics—security, finance, human rights, and environment.

## 2 Objectives

By the end of this course, you should have a solid understanding of major theoretical approaches to the study IOs and an ability to use them to explain past and current events in world politics. You should be able to synthesize academic literature into concise arguments and identify assumptions and (dis)agreements between different approaches to the study of IOs.

## 3 Email communications

I strongly encourage you to use office hours if you have any substantive questions or concerns related to this course (visit [youcanbook.me](https://youcanbook.me)). If you do not receive any response from me after 48 hours (not counting weekends and holidays), email me again. Always use “POLI 364:” at the beginning of the subject line (e.g. POLI 364: Notice of Absence).

## 4 Assessment

### 4.1 Schedule and Weighting

Essay #1	25%	Feb 7
Essay #2	25%	Mar 7
Policy Memo	30%	Apr 11
Participation	20%	Every Week

### 4.1.1 Essays

You will write a 1,000 word (maximum) essay that responds to the prompt which will be distributed a few weeks before the deadline. You are *not* required to engage with materials outside of this course. Further instructions will be available in class.

#### Extension

You must notify me *prior to* the deadline to avoid late penalties for each assignment. You may take a combined maximum of 7 days of undocumented extension. If you require more than 7 days, documentation may be required.

## 4.2 Participation

The participation component of your grade is based on the quality of your contribution to in-class discussions. Participation is more than just attendance. You are expected to listen actively, express your thoughts verbally, and raise questions with some regularity.

#### Zoom

This class meets via Zoom. Do not turn off your camera during class without justification (except for breaks). Make sure to position yourself so we can see you well, to mute your microphone except speaking, and to use the blue hand when you have a comment or question.

#### Absence

You may take absence from class with valid reasons. You must notify me *prior to* the class in order to avoid penalties on your participation grade. Documentation is not required for your first absence but it is required thereafter.

## 4.3 Academic Integrity

In this course, students who cheat will be penalized based on the University's rules regarding [academic misconduct](#). Consult the [Writing Centre](#) if you have any questions about plagiarism or require any support for academic writing.

## 5 Reading assignments

You are expected to complete the reading assignments of each week before our Monday meetings. Our Monday meetings will focus primarily on lectures, and our Wednesday meetings primarily on discussions among us.

- Weiss, Thomas G., and Rorden Wilkinson, eds. *International organization and global governance*, 2nd ed.. Routledge, 2018. \*Note this is the 2nd edition.
- All other reading materials are available online through UBC library access.

## 6 Class Schedule

### 6.1 Jan 10, 12: Liberal world order

Welcome! Let's start thinking about who governs the globe. What is this thing called a liberal world order? Is it good or bad for us?

- This syllabus.
- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapters 1 and 5.
- Ikenberry, G. John. "The end of liberal international order?" *International Affairs* 94.1 (2018): 7-23.
- Gill, Stephen. "Towards a radical concept of praxis: imperial 'common sense' versus the post-modern prince." *Millennium* 40.3 (2012): 505-524.

## Theoretical Foundations

### 6.2 Jan 17, 19: Power and influence

How do IOs influence states? How do we know when IOs exercise power? Can we say IOs are powerful?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 3.
- Kelley, Judith G., and Beth A. Simmons. "Politics by number: Indicators as social pressure in international relations." *American journal of political science* 59.1 (2015): 55-70.
- Finnemore, Martha. "International organizations as teachers of norms: the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and science policy." *International organization* 47.4 (1993): 565-597.

### 6.3 Jan 24, 26: Rationalism

Why do IOs exist? Are IOs really useful to states?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 9.

- Martin, Lisa L. “Interests, power, and multilateralism.” *International Organization* 46.4 (1992): 765-792.
- Nielson, Daniel L., and Michael J. Tierney. “Delegation to international organizations: Agency theory and World Bank environmental reform.” *International Organization* 57.2 (2003): 241-276.

## 6.4 Jan 31, Feb 2: Constructivism

How do constructivist approaches differ from rationalist ones? Are they better or worse in explaining what IOs do?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 10.
- Barnett, Michael N., and Martha Finnemore. “The politics, power, and pathologies of international organizations.” *International organization* 53.4 (1999): 699-732.
- Johnston, Alastair Iain. “Treating international institutions as social environments.” *International Studies Quarterly* 45.4 (2001): 487-515.

## 6.5 Feb 7, 9: Neutrality

**Essay #1 deadline on Feb 7.**

Are IOs neutral arbitrators of global governance? Or, can they?

- Novosad, Paul, and Eric Werker. “Who runs the international system? Nationality and leadership in the United Nations Secretariat.” *The Review of International Organizations* 14.1 (2019): 1-33.
- Mearsheimer, John J. “The false promise of international institutions.” *International Security* 19.3 (1994): 5-49.
- Thompson, Alexander. “Coercion through IOs: The Security Council and the logic of information transmission.” *International Organization* 60.1 (2006): 1-34.

## 6.6 Feb 14, 16: Accountability

Who hold IOs accountable? Is civil society participation a solution to accountability problems of IOs?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 25.
- Bexell, Magdalena, Jonas Tallberg, and Anders Uhlin. “Democracy in global governance: The promises and pitfalls of transnational actors.” *Global Governance* (2010): 81-101.

- Stroup, Sarah S., and Wendy H. Wong. *The Authority Trap*. Cornell University Press, 2017. pp.1-18

## 6.7 Feb 28, Mar 2: Legitimacy

Who gives legitimacy to IOs? Do people trust IOs or states associated with IOs?

- Steffek, Jens. “The output legitimacy of international organizations and the global public interest.” *International Theory* 7.2 (2015): 263-293.
- Dellmuth, Lisa Maria, and Jonas Tallberg. “The social legitimacy of international organisations: Interest representation, institutional performance, and confidence extrapolation in the United Nations.” *Review of International Studies* 41.3 (2015): 451-475.
- Johnson, Tana. “Guilt by association: The link between states’ influence and the legitimacy of intergovernmental organizations.” *The Review of International Organizations* 6.1 (2011): 57-84.

## Key Issue Areas

### 6.8 Mar 7, 9: Security and peacekeeping

Essay #2 deadline on Mar 7.

Should we intervene or not intervene?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapters 32 and 38.
- Kuperman, Alan J. “The moral hazard of humanitarian intervention: Lessons from the Balkans.” *International Studies Quarterly* 52.1 (2008): 49-80.
- Tannenwald, Nina “The U.N. just passed a treaty outlawing nuclear weapons. That actually matters.” *Monkey Cage* (July 17, 2017). [[link](#)]

### 6.9 Mar 14, 16: International political economy

Why do states join IOs? Is the IMF keeping our fiscal health in check?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapters 42 and 43.
- Lipsky, Phillip Y., and Haillie Na-Kyung Lee. “The IMF as a biased global insurance mechanism: Asymmetrical moral hazard, reserve accumulation, and financial crises.” *International Organization* 73.1 (2019): 35-64.

- Davis, Christina L., and Meredith Wilf. "Joining the Club: Accession to the GATT/WTO." *The Journal of Politics* 79.3 (2017): 964-978.

## **6.10 Mar 21, 23: Human Rights**

Do IOs improve human rights conditions in member states?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 36.
- Greenhill, Brian. "The company you keep: International socialization and the diffusion of human rights norms." *International Studies Quarterly* 54.1 (2010): 127-145.
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M., and Kiyoteru Tsutsui. "Human rights in a globalizing world: The paradox of empty promises." *American Journal of Sociology* 110.5 (2005): 1373-1411.

## **6.11 Mar 28: Environment**

How do we resolve overlapping jurisdictions in global environmental governance?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapters 45 and 47.
- Jinnah, Sikina. "Overlap management in the World Trade Organization: Secretariat influence on trade-environment politics." *Global Environmental Politics* 10.2 (2010): 54-79.
- Hjerpe, Mattias, and Katarina Buhr. "Frames of climate change in side events from Kyoto to Durban." *Global Environmental Politics* 14.2 (2014): 102-121.

## **6.12 Apr 4, 6: COVID**

Did COVID change the liberal world order? What could we have done better?

- Weiss and Wilkinson, Chapter 52.
- Drezner, Daniel W. "The song remains the same: International relations after COVID-19." *International Organization* 74.S1 (2020): E18-E35.
- Johnson, Tana. "Ordinary patterns in an extraordinary crisis: How international relations makes sense of the COVID-19 pandemic." *International Organization* 74.S1 (2020): E148-E168.

## **6.13 Apr 11: Student presentation**

**Policy memo deadline on Apr 11.**