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PSCI 433.01: International Law and Organization

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International Law & Organizations

“Law is the essential foundation of stability and order both within societies and in international relations ... Insofar as international law is observed, it provides us with stability and order and with a means of predicting the behavior of those with whom we have reciprocal legal obligations.” — U.S. Senator James William Fulbright (1945-1974)

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Course Number: PSCI 433

Class Location: Liberal Arts 337

Meeting Time: MWF 9:10-10:00 a.m.

Website: Moodle (<http://umonline.umt.edu>)

CRN (Add/Drop): 74996

You may schedule an appointment with me online at <http://tungle.me/erichines>

Course Description, Prerequisites, and Options

This course analyzes the roles international law and organizations play in the resolution of collective action problems in global politics, or *who gets what, when, and how* in international relations. Actors involved in global politics face a unique set of collective action problems that require institutions — *structures and mechanisms of social order and cooperation governing the behavior of a set of individuals* — like international law and organizations to resolve. Their effectiveness at resolving global collective action problems is heavily influenced by the ideational and historical context in which they operate. Therefore, students in this course will examine the ideas behind international organizations and law, their history, and the different institutional forms they take.

This course is highly informed by *institutionalism*, a set of theoretical approaches in international relations focusing on the role played by the structures of the international system in shaping social behavior and the need to study the history of institutions to understand why political actors behave as they do within different institutional contexts.

Prerequisites and Required Skills: To enroll, students must have junior or senior standing. There are no prerequisite courses or knowledge required for this course, but completion of PSCI 230 and a working knowledge of international relations theory are recommended. Prerequisite skills include the ability to work in small groups.

Graduate Increment. This course can be taken for graduate credit by graduate students if they complete a graduate increment. The increment includes serving as a lawyer in the ICJ simulation and writing a 10-page critical book review of two recent books about global governance due Dec. 10 at 9 a.m.

Course Learning Outcomes and Assessments

After completing this course, students will have the knowledge and skills to:

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>		<i>Assessment</i>
1	Construct a regime analysis that outlines and classifies the structure, history, norms, and decision-making of an international regime.	(1) Regime Analysis Paper
2	Apply basic principles of international law to recommend resolutions to conflicts.	(1) ICJ Decision Paper (2) Policy Memos 1-3
3	Evaluate alternative solutions to global governance challenges using specific criteria that acknowledge existing political, economic, and social constraints.	(1) Policy Memos 1-3 (2) Final Policy Briefing
4	Articulate and defend your own conception of the nature, effectiveness, and future of international governance.	(1) Final Policy Briefing
5	Assess the reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and bias of information sources on global governance.	(1) All assignments

Course Philosophy

Learning is more than memorizing facts and answering questions on a test. It is using information to gain an understanding of how things work and how to make them better. In this course, learning will be defined as the process of enhancing your ability to:

- Ask the right questions and frame good problems.
- Acquire information and evaluate sources of information.
- Critically investigate and solve problems.
- Make choices among different alternatives.
- Explain abstract ideas to others both orally and in writing.
- Generalize to new situations.

Required Materials

There are two *required* textbooks available at the UC Bookstore:

Bederman, David J. 2010. *International Law Frameworks*, 3rd ed. New York: Foundation Press. ISBN: 9781599418568.

Karns, Margaret P., and Karen A. Mingst. 2009. *International Organizations: The Politics and Process of Global Governance*, 2nd ed. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner. ISBN: 9781588266989.

All other required resources are available on [Moodle](#).

Student Responsibilities

Students have the responsibility to:

1. Attend class regularly and complete all assigned readings before class.
2. Participate actively in class activities including class discussions.
3. Complete all assignments by the deadline given by the instructor.
4. Complete course requirements by the end of the semester.
5. Review all feedback from the instructor, including feedback posted online.
6. Ask for clarification if instructions or feedback are not fully understood.
7. Inform the instructor beforehand if they cannot fulfill these responsibilities.

Academic Misconduct Policy

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. It is available for review online at: <http://ordway.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/name/StudentConductCode>.

Statement On Disabilities

I strongly encourage students with documented disabilities to discuss appropriate accommodations with me. Because I am not qualified to make an assessment of your need for an accommodation, if you feel you need accommodations please present me with a letter from Disability Services for Students (DSS), Lommasson Center 154 (243-2243), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.

Course Requirements (% of Final Grade)

Detailed information all assignments can be found on Moodle.

Library Research Assignment (5%). Students will model the instructor's expectations for research and problem solving by completing an online assignment.

Regime Analysis (30%). Each student will write a 6-8 page regime analysis on an international regime using a template provided by the instructor.

ICJ Simulation (20%). The class will simulate a case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Six students will be selected as the lawyers representing the state parties, with the remainder of students serving as judges. Lawyers will write a 5-8 page brief to the court. Judges will write a 5-8 page concurring or dissenting opinion.

Learning Groups and Policy Memos (40%). Randomly assigned learning groups will work on a series of four policy problems related to international law and organizations. For each problem, groups will draft a two-page policy memo on improving the legitimacy, accountability, and effectiveness of international regimes from the perspective of different political actors. The assignments are:

- (1) *States*. Each group will be assigned an international regime and a state with an interest in the regime. Groups will serve as foreign policy advisor for their assigned state and draft a policy memo to the state's leadership advising them on the proper relationship between the state and the regime.
- (2) *IGOs*. Each learning group will be assigned an international regime involving a major IGO. The groups will advise the leadership of their IGO on how to improve the legitimacy, accountability, and effectiveness of the regime.
- (3) *NGOs*. Each learning group will be assigned an international regime involving a major NGO. The groups will advise the leadership of their NGO on how both to improve the regime and change it to reflect the NGOs preferences.
- (4) *Individuals*. Each learning group will select a international issue with a regime that involves individual participation. Each group will write a memo advising interested individuals on the best actions to take to achieve their goals.

Learning Issues and Problem Statements. Groups will submit ungraded learning issues and problem statements to the instructor prior to each policy memo. The statements are not graded, but incomplete or late submissions will result in a one-letter grade penalty applied to the policy memo grade.

Workshops. During certain identified class-days, students will work in groups to produce a document. This document is not graded, but students will have a quarter-letter grade deducted from their final course grade for each workshop they fail to attend.

Policy Presentations Worksheets (5%). At the end of each set of presentations, all students will submit a presentation worksheet in which they identify the recommended policies, indicate if they accept or reject the recommendation, and indicate the reason for their decision. The worksheet is due at the end of class.

Grading

Grades are based on a 1000 pt. scale with points and deadlines distributed as follows:

Assignments/Assessments	Pts. Possible	Due Date	Where Submitted
Library Research Assignment	50	Sep 7, 2012	Moodle
Regime Analysis	300	Oct 5, 2012	Moodle
ICJ Briefing Paper (Lawyers)	200	Oct 19, 2012	Moodle
ICJ Decision Paper (Judges)	200	Nov 2, 2012	Moodle
Policy Memo #1	100	Nov 5, 2012	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #1	12.5	Nov 5, 2012	Class
Policy Memo #2	100	Nov 14, 2012	Moodle

Assignments/Assessments	Pts. Possible	Due Date	Where Submitted
Presentation Worksheet #2	12.5	Nov 14, 2012	Class
Policy Memo #3	100	Nov 28, 2012	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #3	12.5	Nov 28, 2012	Class
Policy Memo #4	100	Dec 7, 2012	Moodle
Presentation Worksheet #4	12.5	Dec 7, 2012	Class

Grading Scale. A = 1000-930, A- = 929-900, B+ = 870-899, B = 830-869, B- = 800-829, C+ = 770-799, C = 730-769, C- = 700-729, D+ = 670-699, D = 630-669, D- = 600-639, F = <600.

Peer Evaluations. After each group assignment, students will complete an online peer evaluation awarding a share of the final product to each group member besides themselves. Students earning a higher or lower average share will have their grade adjusted. Students must complete their peer evaluations to receive credit for the policy memo being evaluated. Full details are available online.

Course Schedule

I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule as the semester develops.

Date	Topic or Activity	Assignments
8/27	State of Nature Simulation; Syllabus	
8/29	Introduction to Institutionalism	• Hasenclever et. al., "Introduction" (M)
8/31	The Challenges of Global Governance	• Karns and Mingst, Ch. 1
9/3	LABOR DAY	NO CLASS
9/5	Theory, Global Governance, and Regimes	• Karns and Mingst, Ch. 2 • Hasenclever et. al., "Conceptual Issues" (M) • Vogler, "Taking Institutions Seriously" (M)
9/7	<i>Workshop:</i> Classifying Regimes	• Donnelly, "International Human Rights" (M) • Library Research Assignment Due
9/10	The Foundations of Global Governance	• Karns and Mingst, Ch. 3 • Bederman, Ch. 1
9/12	Case Study: The United Nations	• Karns and Mingst, Ch. 4
9/14	The Role of Regional Organizations	• Karns and Mingst, Ch. 5
9/17	The Role of Nonstate Actors	• Karns and Mingst, Ch. 6
9/19	The Role of States	• Karns and Mingst, Ch. 7
9/21	Introduction to International Law	• Bederman, Chs. 2 and 4
9/24	Treaties	• Bederman, Ch. 3
9/26	Subjects of International Law	• Bederman, Chs. 5-7
9/28	<i>Workshop:</i> Regime Analysis Peer Review	• Bring Draft of Regime Analysis to Class
10/1	<i>Case Study:</i> Peaceful Resolution of Conflict	• Karns and Mingst, Ch. 8, pgs. 289-311 • Bederman, Ch. 21

Date	Topic or Activity	Assignments
10/3	<i>Case Study: Countermeasures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karns and Mingst, Ch. 8, pgs. 311-323 • Bederman, Ch. 18
10/5	<i>Case Study: Peace Operations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karns and Mingst, Ch. 8, pgs. 323-330 • Bederman, Ch. 19 • Regime Analysis Due (M)
10/8	<i>Case Study: Laws of War</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bederman, Chs. 20
10/10	<i>Case Study: Global Economic Governance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karns and Mingst, Ch.9 • Bederman, Ch. 13
10/12	<i>Case Study: Human Rights</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karns and Mingst, Ch.10 • Bederman, Ch. 9
10/15	<i>Case Study: Environmental Governance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karns and Mingst, Ch. 11 • Bederman, Ch. 11-12
10/17	Summation: The Challenge of Global Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karns and Mingst, Ch. 12
10/19	<i>Workshop: Defining Problems and Criteria</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICJ Briefing Papers Due (Lawyers)
10/22	ICJ Simulation: Plaintiff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Briefing Papers (M)
10/24	ICJ Simulation: Defendant	
10/26	ICJ Simulation: Closing Statements	
10/29	<i>Problem 1: States</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Questions Due (C)
10/31	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem Statements Due (C)
11/2	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICJ Decision Papers Due (M)
11/5	<i>Seven-Minute Policy Presentations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Memo #1 Due (M) • Policy Presentation Worksheet Due (C)
11/7	<i>Problem 2: IGOs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Questions Due (C)
11/9	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem Statements Due (C)
11/12	Veteran's Day	
11/14	<i>Seven-Minute Policy Presentations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Memo #2 Due (M) • Policy Presentation Worksheet Due (C)
11/16	<i>Problem 3: NGOs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Questions Due (C)
11/19	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem Statements Due (C)
Thanksgiving Break: No Class November 21-23		
11/26	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	
11/28	<i>Seven-Minute Policy Presentations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Memo #3 Due (M) • Policy Presentation Worksheet Due (C)
11/30	<i>Problem 4: Individuals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Questions Due (C)
12/3	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem Statements Due (C)
12/5	<i>Learning Group Work Session</i>	
12/7	<i>Seven-Minute Policy Presentations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Memo #4 Due (M) • Policy Presentation Worksheet Due (C)

