TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS III:
Theories of International Organization
POL466H1S / POL2207HS
Winter, 2019-2020
Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00, TC 22

Course Description

Since the end of World War II, there has been an explosion in the number, scope, and complexity of international organizations. International organizations, such as the United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and World Bank now play critical roles across a wide range of policy issues. Why have international organizations proliferated and expanded since the mid-20th century? How do these organizations shape the international system? Why do states sometimes conduct foreign policy through international organizations, while other times preferring traditional means? Why do some international organizations evolve over time, while others resist change? What are some of the pathologies and problems of contemporary international organizations? We will examine these questions by reviewing advanced theoretical and empirical scholarship on international organizations.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this class, you should have a clear understanding of the role of international institutions in international relations, as well as contemporary debates about their functions, politicization, and efficacy. You will learn to approach major questions about international institutions and their role from a social scientific perspective. You will also gain direct experience in social scientific research, developing testable hypotheses to be evaluated using information and data obtained from primary and secondary sources.

Course Requirements

Research Outline (10%) (500 words + references, due March 3): You will select an international organization or issue area that interests you and identify a salient puzzle based on a review of existing work. You will then submit a brief summary of your preliminary hypotheses, empirical strategy, and relevant literature.

Research Paper (30%) (2500-3000 words, due April 3): The final paper should be written as a grant proposal that contains the following elements: 1. research puzzle and overview of existing literature on your topic; 2. a description of your theory and hypotheses; 3. preliminary empirical
evidence (qualitative or quantitative) that speaks to your hypotheses; 4. a research plan that describes what type of empirical evidence you will need to collect to evaluate your hypotheses.

**Class Presentation (10%):** During the final week of class (March 31 or April 3), you will present your research project to the class.

**In-class Participation (30%):** Attendance and active participation in class discussion is essential. Unexcused absences will result in a 5% reduction in the in-class participation grade. Excused absences must be cleared with the instructor before the beginning of class.

**Online Participation (20%):** Every week, each student is required to make one original post and at least one reply to the online bulletin board on Quercus. The original post should demonstrate clear engagement with the readings for the week. The original post should be posted no later than 5 p.m. the day before class. The reply should be posted by the night before class (and in no case later than the beginning of class) so others have a chance to review the postings before class discussion.

**Late Submissions**

For the sake of fairness to students completing their assignments on time, late assignments will receive a 5% reduction after the deadline has passed. Thereafter, an additional 5% will be deducted each additional day the assignment is late.

**Readings**

All readings will be made available online on Quercus. No purchases are necessary.

**Accessibility Needs**

If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible (www.accessibility.utoronto.ca). It is not uncommon for university students to experience a range of health and mental health issues that may result in barriers to achieving their academic goals. The University of Toronto offers a wide range of services that may be of assistance. You are encouraged to seek out these resources early and often.

**On Campus:** Your college Registrar’s Office, and / or Dean of Students’ Office
Student Life - [http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca](http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca)
Health and Wellness Centre - [http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc](http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc)

**Off-Campus:** Good2Talk - a post-secondary (24/7) helpline (1-866-925-5454).

**Academic Integrity**

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when
writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism—representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program—is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to me for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at http://www.writing.utoronto.ca. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai and http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Course Schedule:

**Week 1 (1/7): Introduction**


**Week 2 (1/14): Rationalist Theories of International Institutions**


Week 3 (1/21): Critiques and Non-Rationalist Theories


Week 4 (1/28): Information


Week 5 (2/4): Bias


**Week 6 (2/11): International Organizations and Domestic Politics**


**Week 7 (2/18): Reading Week, No Class**

**3/3: Research Proposal Deadline**

**Week 8 (3/3): Regime Complexity**


**Week 9 (3/10): Contestation and Renegotiation**


**Week 10 (3/17): Membership, Death, Withdrawal**


Week 11 (3/24): No Class (Prepare for in-class presentations)

Week 12

3/31: In-Class Presentations

4/3: In-Class Presentations

Deadline: Final Essay (4/3)