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 Delivery

The class will be conducted entirely online. Synchronous discussions will take place during the scheduled class time using Zoom. Asynchronous work will require the use of Quercus and Perusall.
Course Format

1. For each week of class, I will post readings relevant to the theme of the week. Student are required to complete the readings prior to the scheduled class time.
2. Readings will be completed using Perusall, an online collaborative platform that allows students to use annotation to engage and learn from each other (this will be active starting in week 2). Perusall annotations will be incorporated into the final mark as indicated below.
3. We will convene as a class during the regular scheduled time to discuss the readings for the week. Attendance during this synchronous portion is required.
4. Students will complete a research paper as described below.

Course Requirements

Participation:

In Class (30%): Attendance and active participation in class discussion is essential. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

Online (20%): Students are required to use the online annotation tool Perusall. Perusall allows students to interact and learn from each other as they complete the assigned readings. Students should aim to complete a minimum of 3 high-quality annotations per reading to receive full credit for this component (more is encouraged). Annotations must be completed prior to our scheduled class time to receive credit.
   a. To set up Perusall, create an account at https://perusall.com/ and use access code LIPSCY-B372N
   b. General Instructions about using Perusall: link

Research Project:

Outline (10%) (500 words + references, due February 26): 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 the relevant literature, your preliminary hypotheses, and empirical strategy.

Paper (40%) (3750-5000 words, due April 9): 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. During the final two weeks of class, you will have an opportunity to present your research project to the class and receive feedback.
Absences and Late Submissions

I recognize the extraordinary circumstances created by COVID-19 and will be understanding in regards to absences and late assignments. However, students are expected to participate in every session and submit assignments on time. You should clear absences or late assignments with me beforehand unless it is impossible to do so. In cases where there is no prior consultation and approval, I may impose the standard penalty of a 5% reduction in the final participation grade for each unexcused absence and a reduction of 10% for each day an assignment is late.

Readings

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

Course Recording

The class will not be recorded. It is important that you participate in real time to interact with your classmates.

Additional Information

Please see the end of the syllabus for additional information and resources.
Course Schedule:

**Week 1 (1/12): Introduction**


**Week 2 (1/19): Rationalist Theories of International Institutions**


**Week 3 (1/26): Critiques and Non-Rationalist Theories**


Week 4 (2/2): Information


Week 5 (2/9): Bias


2/16: Reading Week, No Class

Week 6 (2/23): International Organizations and Domestic Politics


**2/26: Research Outline Deadline**

**Week 7 (3/2): Regime Complexity**


**Week 8 (3/9): Contestation and Renegotiation**


**Week 9 (3/16): Membership, Death, Withdrawal**


**Week 10 (3/23): Global Response to COVID-19**


**Week 11 (3/30): In-Class Presentations**

**Week 12 (4/6): In-Class Presentations**

**Deadline: Final Essay (4/9)**
**Additional Information**

**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 or your TA 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](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 [https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) and [http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca](http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca)

**Religious Accommodations**

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

**Specific Medical Circumstances**

For 2021 S-term, a Verification of Illness (also known as a "doctor’s note") is temporarily not required. Students who are absent from academic participation for any reason (e.g., COVID, cold, flu and other illness or injury, family situation) and who require consideration for missed academic work should report their absence through the online absence declaration. The declaration is available on ACORN under the Profile and Settings menu. Students should also advise their instructor of their absence.

If an absence extends beyond 14 consecutive days, or if you have a non-medical personal situation preventing you from completing your academic work, you should connect with your College Registrar. They can provide advice and assistance reaching out to instructors on your behalf. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.
Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/new-registration. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

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
Health and Wellness Centre - http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc

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

Turnitin

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.