

POL 380 H1
Spring 2023

International Organizations

Mondays 2-4PM, Sidney Smith Room 1070

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Office Hours, Wednesdays 12-2PM
(*please sign up on Quercus*)

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Course Description

International organizations (IOs) now govern all areas of world politics – from human rights to finance. In this class, we explore why states create IOs, and whether and how IOs exercise authority in world politics. We begin by examining how IOs underpin the liberal international order, and their relationship to states. We then turn to a careful review of how the UN functions, and how IOs govern in key issue areas including security, trade, and development. In the third section of the course, we examine special cases of international courts, and IOs' relationship with NGOs.

Course Format

The course will meet once a week for two hours, and be in lecture format. We will have informal discussions during class time, as well as discussions of current events.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, you should:

- Be able to explain why IOs exist, and the extent and sources of their independence from states.
- Be able to identify major international organizations and how their work addresses issues in world politics.
- Understand how IOs contribute to international cooperation.

Readings

There is one required textbook for the course, and it is available for purchase at the bookstore: Hurd, Ian. 2018. *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*, 3rd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Please make sure you get the third edition.**

The book is also on reserve at Robarts.

Readings available electronically through the library are denoted **UofT-e /LRL** on the syllabus. This means you can either find them yourself through the UofT library website OR you can use the library reading list on Quercus. Those readings denoted **Quercus**, are available in the Readings module on Quercus.

I reserve the right to amend the readings.

Course Assignments, Due Dates and Grading

The course will be largely evaluated by quizzes and tests, with one writing assignment.

Reading Quizzes (25%)

- There will be five ONLINE quizzes on the readings, each worth 5% of your grade. The quiz will be administered on Quercus. They will each be five questions. You will have 15 minutes to respond. They are intended to reward you for completing the readings and coming to class prepared – an easy way to boost your grade. Answering the questions will be very simple *if you have done the readings*
- I will announce the quizzes on Thursday. You will have until Monday at 11AM to complete the quiz. Once you open the quiz, you will have 15 minutes to complete it. So, you may choose when you wish to start the quiz, but once you start it, it will be timed. If you do not complete the quiz by Monday at 11AM, you will receive a 0.

Midterm (25%)

- There will be an in-class mid-term exam, to be held on 11 February. Make-ups will only be permitted in the case of documented illness.

Final term test (25%)

- There will be a final term test, to be held on 1 April. Make-ups will only be permitted in the case of documented illness.

Policy memo (25%)

- You will be responsible for writing one of two policy memos, described in further detail at the end of the syllabus. The memo should be no longer than 2,000 words, *not* including the bibliography. It is due on **17 March at 11.59PM as a word document via QUERCUS**.
- A full description of the assignment and rubric are in the Syllabus and Assignments Module.

Policies and Expectations

- In this course, you can expect that I will strive to be fair, respectful, responsive and open-minded.
- In return, I ask you to be respectful of your classmates and of me, be prepared and on time for class, and meet deadlines for assignments.
- I expect that everyone will attend and participate actively in class. Active participation includes both contributing your ideas (questions, comments, analyses, insights) and listening to the contributions of others (without distraction).
- **No laptops.** The only exception is if you have permission from Accessibility Services, or you are a note taker. Here's why: "Experimental tests of immediate retention of class material have also found that Internet browsing impairs performance. Moreover, recent research suggests that even when laptops are used solely to take notes, they may still be impairing learning because

their use results in shallower processing.” *Psychological Science*, DOI: 10.1177/0956797614524581.

- **No texting.** It’s disrespectful to me and your fellow classmates. Also, when you think you’re being sneaky texting in your lap, you’re not. Consider this as 2 hours of internet free existence.
- If you are too tired to stay awake in class, please go home and nap.
- You are expected to come to class, and I may make announcements in class that are not posted on Quercus. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to ensure that you find the information you have missed. Please do not ask me: “did I miss anything important?” – I tend to think everything I share during class is important.

Attendance

See above discussion of participation.

Quercus

All course materials that are not available on the Internet will be in the “Readings” folder in Quercus. All other documentation will also be available through the Home screen on Quercus.

Please do not contact me if you are experiencing technical difficulties with Quercus. Consult the Help menus, especially [the one for students](#). You may also contact: lme.migration@utoronto.ca

Deadlines and Late Penalties

All deadlines are final. For each day an assignment is late, there will be a 3% reduction in your grade. I may make exceptions under extenuating circumstances, such as illness or family emergency. However, these will require documentation, and will be made at my discretion. If there are other issues that you think may affect your ability to turn in assignments on time, I suggest you contact me *as early as possible*. I am **not** inclined to give extensions to those who ask the night before.

Email and communication

I will hold weekly office hours on Wednesdays from 12-2PM, and I will be very glad to meet with you at those times to discuss readings, lectures, assignments, essays, and more. **You must sign up for office hours using the course calendar on Quercus by 8PM on Monday.**

I have also listed my email address in the contact information at the start of the syllabus; however, please consider several things when reaching out to me by email:

- **Please check (and double-check) that the answer to your query is not in the syllabus before you contact me with questions.**
- I will do my best to respond to your messages, but please don’t expect a rapid response. I will not be responding daily to emails about the class, and will not check my email on evenings and weekends. As such, please plan ahead if you need to reach out to me.
- If you write to request an extension or accommodation the night before an assignment is due, I am unlikely to accommodate your needs or offer assistance.
- Please treat emails as a professional form of communication; I expect proper grammar, sentences, and greetings and sign-offs in your messages, and you can expect the same from me. Please include a greeting, and please address me as Prof. Green.

Legal

Please read the policy on [academic integrity](#). Plagiarism results in failure in the class. **Academic dishonesty is a serious offense that can result in loss of credit, suspension, and possibly expulsion from the university. *All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported.***

Plagiarism includes:

- copying sentences or fragments from any source without quotes and references
- not citing a source used in your papers
- citing internet information without proper citation
- presenting someone else's work as your own
- *inadvertently* copying verbatim from any source.

In many cases, plagiarism is a mistake rather than a deliberate act. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please come talk to me. I also encourage you to consult [this page](#) from the Writing center.

9 Jan: Anarchy and international cooperation

Questions: What is international cooperation? Why do we need it? What explains its emergence?

- Hurd, Chapter 1 and Chap 2, pp. 32-40.
- Keohane, Robert. 1984. *After Hegemony*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. **Quercus**.
- Chmni, B.S. 2016. "International Organizations, 1945-present" In Jacob Katz Cogan et al. eds. *The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. **Chapter 5. UofT-e / LRL**
- Harvey, David. 2005. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Chapter 1, pp. 5-19 ONLY. **UofT-e / LRL**

16 Jan: IOs and state power

Questions: Are IOs merely instruments of state power, or do they have agency?

- Hurd, Chap 2, pp. 17-32
- Ikenberry, G. John. 2018. The End of the International Liberal Order? *International Affairs* 94(1): 7-23. **Quercus**
- Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore. 2004. "International Organizations as Bureaucracies" Chapter Four, pp. 17-34 in *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics*. Cornell: Cornell University Press. **UofT-e / LRL** (Note, you only need to read pp. 17-34).
- Hawkins, Darren G, David A Lake, Daniel L Nielson, and Michael J Tierney. 2006. *Delegation and Agency in International Organizations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-30. **UofT-e**

23 Jan: The United Nations

Questions: How is the UN structured, and how does it shape state behavior?

- Hurd, Chap 3 (you may skip Case II on cholera in Haiti)
- Kennedy, Paul. 2006. *The Parliament of Man*, Chap 2. **Quercus**.
- Tannenwald, Nina. 2018. How Strong is the Nuclear Taboo Today? *The Washington Quarterly* 41(3): 89-109. **UofT-e / LRL**

30 Jan: Peacekeeping and Security

Questions: How does the UN promote peace in conflict areas?

- Hurd, Chap 4
- Dallaire, Romeo. 2004. *Shake Hands with the Devil*. Excerpts. **Quercus**.
- Prins, Brandon and Anup Phayal. 2018. Armed peacekeepers really do protect civilians – with one big exception. Monkey Cage, *Washington Post*. Available [here](#)
- Hegre, Havard et al. 2018. UN Peacekeeping can be effective: Here's how we tabulated this. Monkey Cage, *Washington Post*. Available [here](#)

6 Feb: Trade

Questions: What does it mean to have "free trade"? What are the positive and negative effects of free trade?

- Hurd, Chap 5
- "The Case for Free Trade" Milton and Rose Friedman. Available [here](#)
- Rodrik, Dani. 2011. *The Globalization Paradox*. New York: WW Norton. Chapter 9. **Quercus**

13 Feb: The World Bank and Economic Development

- Hurd, Chap 6

- Weaver, Catherine. 2009. Reforming the World Bank: Promises and Pitfalls. *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* 13(2): 55-65. **Quercus / LRL**
- De Chazournes, Laurence. "The World Bank Inspection Panel" In *International Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms*. Brill Nijhoff. **Quercus**

20 Feb: No class: Reading Week.

27 Feb: MIDTERM EXAM

6 Mar: The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court

Question: Can courts constrain states in an anarchic world order?

- Hurd, Chaps 7 and 8
- Sikkink, Kathryn and Hun Joon Kim. 2013. The Justice Cascade: The Origins and Effectiveness of Prosecutions of Human Rights Violations. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 9: 269-85. Available [here](#) and through **UofT-e**

13 Mar: NGOs and IOs

Question: What role do NGOs play in international policymaking?

- Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. 2008. *Activists Beyond Borders*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pp. 1-32. **UofT-e / LRL**
- Stroup, Sarah and Wendy Wong. 2018. *The Authority Trap*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pp. 1-18. **UofT- / LRL**
- Andonova, Liliana B. 2018. *Governance Entrepreneurs*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-23. **UofT-e / LRL**

20 Mar: Climate Change

Question: What is the role of the UNFCCC in promoting climate policy?

- Green, Jessica F. 2021. Climate Change Governance: Past, Present, and (Hopefully) Future. In *Global Governance in a World of Change*, edited by Jon C. W. Pevehouse, Kal Raustiala, and Michael N. Barnett, 109–129. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Available [here](#) and **LRL**
- Skim the Executive Summary of the 2022 UNEP Gap Report, available [here](#).
- Newell, Peter, and Andrew Simms. 2019. Towards a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty. *Climate Policy*. Taylor & Francis: 1–12. **UofT-e / LRL**
 - Please also read the coverage of the proposed treaty [here](#).

27 Mar: Governing in the age of polycrisis + Review

- Tooze, Adam. 2022. "Welcome to the World of the Polycrisis." *Financial Times*. **Quercus**
- Tooze, Adam. 2022. Chartbook #130. "Defining polycrisis - from crisis pictures to the crisis matrix." Available [here](#). (Note: his substack is by subscription, but you should be able to read one free without providing your email address.)
- Lawrence, Michael et. al. 2022. "What is a Global Polycrisis? And how is it different from a systemic risk?" Discussion Paper, *Cascade Institute*. September. Available [here](#).
- I will also set aside half the class for review. I will not prepare any slides, but will respond to any and all questions.

1 Apr: In class term test