

Politics 247: International Law and Organization

M-W 1:15-2:30, Reese 316

Spring 2017

Professor: Andy Reiter

Office Hours: Skinner 107, T 2:45-3:45, W 10:45-11:45, or by appointment

Course Description and Materials

This course examines the role and importance of international organizations and international law through an in-depth examination of a variety of issue areas. We will explore the formation and operation of the intricate web of international laws that governs each of these issues, as well as the international organizations that are active in these areas. Throughout the course, we will investigate the extent to which laws and organizations now affect state behavior, problems of lawmaking and interpretation, and problems of compliance, among many other issues important for international relations. There are no required books for the course. All readings will be provided electronically.

Course Requirements

Your grade is based on class participation, a short midterm paper, and a written policy brief for which you will have to make a class presentation. The policy brief assignment requires you select a current international law or organization to research for the semester. You will then write a 3,500 to 4,000-word paper that outlines the key problems associated with this law or organization. Most importantly, the paper must also generate policy prescriptions for how the law or organization should be reformed. You will present and defend your analysis and recommendations during the final two weeks of class. Failure to complete any of the assignments will result in an F for the course. More details on the policy brief assignment are provided in a separate document on Moodle.

Grade Breakdown

Participation	20%
Midterm Paper	25%
Final Presentation	25%
Policy Brief	30%

Course Guidelines

Any cheating or plagiarism is a serious violation of the College's Honor Code and any instance will result in a zero for the assignment, and potentially for the course. You are required to complete the [College's Tutorial on the proper use of sources](#). If you have any questions on what constitutes plagiarism, please ask; claiming that you did not know or understand the rules is not an excuse. In addition, late papers are not accepted for credit unless there are extenuating circumstances and you obtain *prior* approval from me. If a class is canceled for any reason, such as weather; I will email modifications to this syllabus accordingly.

AccessAbility

If you have a disability and would like to request accommodations, please contact AccessAbility Services, located in Wilder Hall B4, at (413) 538-2634 or accessability-services@mtholyoke.edu. If you are eligible, they will give you an accommodation letter which you should bring to me as soon as possible

Course Schedule

Wednesday January 25 Introduction to the Course

Monday January 30 Defining International Organizations

- ❖ Kenneth W. Abbot and Duncan Snidal, "Why States Act through Formal International Organizations," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42:1 (1998): 3-32.

Wednesday February 1 Defining International Organizations

- ❖ Martha Finnemore, "International Organizations as Teachers of Norms: The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and Science Policy," *International Organization* 47:4 (1993): 565-97.

Monday February 6 Defining International Law

- ❖ Malcolm N. Shaw, *International Law*, 6th Edition (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008): 69-127.

Wednesday February 8 Defining International Law

- ❖ J. Martin Rochester, *Between Peril and Promise: The Politics of International Law* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2006), 32-52.

Monday February 14 Diplomacy and State Relations

- ❖ Geoff Berridge, *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice* (New York: Palgrave 2002), 5-24.

Tuesday February 15 **Deadline for Selection of Research Topics**

Wednesday February 16 Laws of War

- ❖ Glossary Entries from the Crimes of War Education Project on *Jus ad Bellum /Jus in Bello*, and Just and Unjust War.
- ❖ Richard Price, "How Chemical Weapons Became Taboo," *Foreign Affairs*, January 23, 2013.
- ❖ Stuart Maslen and Peter Herby, "An International Ban On Anti-Personnel Mines: History and Negotiation of the 'Ottawa Treaty,'" *International Review of the Red Cross* 325 (1998).

Monday February 20 The League of Nations and the United Nations

- ❖ Norrie MacQueen, *The United Nations, Peace Operations and the Cold War* (Toronto: Pearson, 2011), 3-13.
- ❖ The United Nations System Chart.
- ❖ Stewart Patrick, "World Weary: Evaluating the United Nations at 70," *Foreign Affairs*, July 19, 2016.

Wednesday February 22 The European Union and Regional Integration

- ❖ Lolette Kritzing, "Regional Integration [in Africa] Concepts, Advantages, Disadvantages and Lessons of Experience," *World Bank Paper*, 2005.
- ❖ Kieron Monks, "United States of Africa? African Union Launches All-Africa Passport," *CNN*, July 19, 2016.
- ❖ Matthias Matthijs, "Europe After Brexit: A Less Perfect Union," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2017.
- ❖ Jack Citrin, John Hanley, Morris Levy and Matthew Wright, "Brexit Proved Again That Identity Can Trump Economics," *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage), July 2, 2016.

**Monday February 27 Trade and Monetary Organizations
Midterm Paper Question Distributed**

- ❖ Robert Kahn, "The IMF's Next Five Years: No Rest for the Weary," *Foreign Affairs*, February 25, 2016.
- ❖ Rebecca Liao, "The End of the G-20: Has the Group Outlived its Purpose?" *Foreign Affairs*, September 14, 2016.
- ❖ Jack Goldstone, "Wealthier World, Poorer Nation: The Problem with the Rise of the Rest," *Foreign Affairs*, March 28, 2016.

**Wednesday March 1 Managing Conflict: Peacekeeping
Midterm Participation Grades**

- ❖ Virginia Page Fortna, *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerent's Choices after Civil War* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008), 76-103.
- ❖ Paul D. Williams, "Peace Operations in Africa: Seven Challenges, Any Solutions?" *Conflict Trends* 3 (2009): 3-10.

Monday March 6 Managing Conflict: Humanitarian Intervention

- ❖ Gareth Evans and Mohamed Sahnoun, "The Responsibility to Protect," *Foreign Affairs* 81:6 (2002): 99-110.
- ❖ Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia to Libya," *Foreign Affairs* 90:6 (2011): 48-59.
- ❖ Alan J. Kuperman, "Obama's Libya Debacle: How a Well-Meaning Intervention Ended in Failure," *Foreign Affairs* 94:2 (2015): 66-77.

Tuesday March 7 **Midterm Paper Due by 1:15 PM via Moodle**

Wednesday March 8 Managing Conflict: Laws of Terrorism, Piracy, and Drones

- ❖ Kenneth Roth, “The Law of War in the War on Terror,” *Foreign Affairs* January/February 2004.
- ❖ Rosa Brooks, “Drones and the International Rule of Law,” *Ethics & International Affairs* 28:1 (2013): 83-103.

Monday March 13 No Class – Spring Break

Wednesday March 15 No Class – Spring Break

Monday March 20 Human Rights: Origins and Legal Protection

- ❖ John F. Sears, “Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” *The Task Force – Celebrating Eleanor Roosevelt* (2008), 4-12.

Tuesday March 21 **First Draft of Policy Brief Due by 1:15 PM via Moodle**

Wednesday March 22 Human Rights: A Universal Value?

- ❖ Amartya Sen, “Universal Truths: Human Rights and the Westernizing Illusion,” *Harvard International Review*, 20:3 (1998): 40-43.
- ❖ Elisabetta Povoledo, “Italy Approves Same-Sex Civil Unions,” *New York Times*, 11 May 2016.
- ❖ *Al Jazeera*, “Nepali Girl Dies Due to Banned Menstruation Practice,” December 19, 2016.
- ❖ *World Health Organization*, “Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement, 2008; read pages 1-21.
- ❖ Olga Khazan, “Why Some Women Choose to Get Circumcised,” *The Atlantic*, April 8, 2015.
- ❖ Alan Cowell, “French Ban on Face Veils Upheld by European Rights Court,” *The New York Times*, July 1, 2014.
- ❖ Nick Sibilla, “Do Dolphins and Whales Have Rights?” *Reason.com*, February 28, 2012.

Monday March 27 No Class – Campus Dialogue

Wednesday March 29 Human Rights: International Tribunals

- ❖ David Bosco, *Rough Justice: The International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014), 23-51.
- ❖ Stephen J. Massey, “Individual Responsibility for Assisting the Nazis in Persecuting Civilians,” *Minnesota Law Review* 71 (1986): excerpts.

Monday April 3 Human Rights: Universal Jurisdiction and the ICC

- ❖ David Bosco, *Rough Justice: The International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014), 11-22.
- ❖ Stuart Reid, “The International Criminal Court on Trial: A Conversation with Fatou Bensouda,” *Foreign Affairs* 96:1 (2017): 48-53.
- ❖ Naomi Roht-Arriaza, “The Multiple Prosecutions of Augusto Pinochet,” in *Prosecuting Heads of State*, edited by Ellen L. Lutz and Caitlin Reiger (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1009), 77-94.

Wednesday April 5

The Environment: Laws and Regulations

- ❖ Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1990), 1-7.
- ❖ Henry Fountain, “Ozone Hole Shows Signs of Shrinking, Scientists Say,” *The New York Times*, June 30, 2016.
- ❖ Edward Wong and Jeffrey Gettleman, “China Bans its Ivory Trade, Moving against Elephant Poaching,” *The New York Times*, December 30, 2016.

Monday April 10

The Environment: Climate Change

- ❖ Windsor Genova, “Canada Out of Kyoto Protocol, Cites Failure of Climate Change Treaty,” *International Business Times* 14 December 2011.
- ❖ Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, “Outcomes of the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris,” December 2015.

Wednesday April 12

The Environment: The Oceans, Air, and Space

- ❖ Robert A. Manning and James Przystup, “A Line in the Sea: How the Philippines Decision Could Settle the South China Sea,” *Foreign Affairs*, August 10, 2016.
- ❖ Michelle Innis, “Coast of Antarctica Will Host World’s Largest Marine Reserve,” *The New York Times*, October 27, 2016.
- ❖ David D. Chen, “How China’s Seizure of a Naval Drone Could Set a Precedent for Nabbing a Satellite in Orbit,” *The Space Review*, January 3, 2017.

Monday April 17

Final Presentations

Wednesday April 19

Final Presentations

Monday April 24

Final Presentations

Wednesday April 26

Final Presentations

Monday May 1

Final Presentations

Saturday May 6

****Final Policy Briefs Due by 1:15 PM via Moodle****