

Political Science 331: International Organizations  
Fall 2022

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The international system is often characterized as anarchic (absence of a global government) and scholars focus on the interactions between nation states. However, since WWII, the number of international organizations has increased considerably and international organizations have become more prominent players in the international system. Why do international organizations like the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and the European Union exist? What role do they play in solving global problems?

In this course we will analyze these questions from a theoretical as well as a practical perspective. We shall begin with a broad overview of the characterization of the international system, incentives for cooperation under anarchy, controversies surrounding IOs in the context of international relations theory, the success of international organizations in solving problems, and the major challenges that IOs face in meeting their mandates. We shall then apply our knowledge to the analysis of contemporary international organizations.

Finally, through participation in the *Statecraft* simulation, you will have the opportunity to take on the roles of foreign policy decision-makers and grapple first-hand with the trade-offs and responsibilities that characterize world politics. The simulation will provide opportunities to apply and to assess the knowledge that we have gained in class.

### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Understand the main theoretical debates about international cooperation
2. Explain how international organizations are designed and operated to facilitate international cooperation.
3. Use theories of international cooperation to formulate an original opinion about the success and/or failure of contemporary international institutions like the United Nations, NATO, and the IMF.
4. Develop writing and visual communication skills that improve on your ability to synthesize and evaluate, rather than summarize, new information.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

This is an unprecedented time in international politics, and we will grapple with many real-world issues. The future of international cooperation is unclear and I hope that you will stake your claim in the political outcomes that affect your future. I strive to make class relevant and worth your time. I ask for the same consideration in return. While you may not aspire to be a political scientist, I guarantee that your life is impacted by international organizations.

I recognize that each of you has other commitments. Flexibility and communication will be important. This syllabus serves as a starting point but this process may involve some trial and error. If you have questions, concerns, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we can work on an alternative plan, but **I can't help if I don't know.**

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Grading. Grades will be assigned as follows:

- Simulation (20%)
- Infographic (20%, 10% each)
- “International Organizations in the News” presentation (15%)
- Midterm Exam (20%)
- Final Exam (25%)

And scored on a standard scale such that:

A = 100-94%	B+= 89-87%	C+=79-77%	D= 69-60%
A-= 93-90%	B= 86-84%	C= 76-74%	F= 60-0%
	B-= 83-80%	C-= 73-70%	

*Simulation.* We will be using a semester long simulation from Statecraftsims.com. The IO simulation will group students together into countries, then allow the opportunity to negotiate and collaborate on world issues including nuclear non-proliferation and global climate change. The simulation will be run entirely through the Statecraft platform and is accessible as a website and mobile app. Detailed instructions will be distributed separately.

The simulation will be graded in several parts, evaluated based on the quality of your participation. Your simulation grade will consist of statecraft awards (4% of total grade), manual quizzes (4%) and simulation memos (12%).

- The achievement of statecraft awards is measured by countries' achievement of specific goals such as global peace or economic development. I will also monitor the world's events and reserve the right to give out extra points for any country that clearly performed better than its total points indicate. Points for statecraft awards will be the same for each member of a country group.
- There are two quizzes on the statecraft manual that are taken online (or on the mobile app). The first quiz will take place during “Turn Zero” and the second quiz will take place during “Turn One.”
- Students will also be responsible for posting a simulation memo on Statecraft *before* each simulation turn ends. These memos must be 300 words in length and the simulation will count them for you. These memos will become your ongoing journal for your simulation experience. Entries should relate your simulation experience to class concepts and will be the starting point for our Friday discussions. *Late memos, memos shorter than the required length, and memos off topic will not be accepted.* If you complete all memos satisfactorily, you will receive full credit. Missing memos will lead to the following penalties: 1 missed (10%), 2 missed (20%), 3 missed (50%), 4 or more missed (100%) unless alternative arrangements are made. The schedule of turns will be as follows:
  - Turn 0: (Week 4) Monday, 9/12 @ 8am CT – Friday, 9/16 @ 11:59pm CT

- Turn 1: (Week 5) Monday, 9/19 @ 8am CT – Friday, 9/23 @ 11:59pm CT
- Turn 2: (Week 6) Monday, 9/26 @ 8am CT – Friday, 9/30 @ 11:59pm CT
- Turn 3: (Week 7) Monday, 10/3 @ 8am CT – Friday, 10/7 @ 11:59pm CT
- Turn 4: (Week 8) Monday, 10/10 @ 8am CT – Friday, 10/14 @ 11:59pm CT
- Turn 5: (Week 9) Monday, 10/17 @ 8am CT – Friday, 10/21 @ 11:59pm CT
- Turn 6: (Week 10) Monday, 10/24 @ 8am CT – Friday, 10/28 @ 11:59pm CT
- Turn 7: (Week 11) Monday, 10/31 @ 8am CT – Friday, 11/4 @ 11:59pm CT
- Turn 8: (Week 12) Monday, 11/7 @ 8am CT – Friday, 11/11 @ 11:59 pm CT
- Turn 9: (Week 13) Monday, 11/14 @ 8am CT – Friday, 11/18 @ 11:59 pm CT

To start the simulation, you will need to register with [www.statecraftsims.com](http://www.statecraftsims.com) by **September 9<sup>th</sup>**. The course subscription fee is \$35, but it is the only required expense for this course (there is no required textbook). To sign up, click “Log in/Sign up” then “International Organizations.” You will be prompted to create a student account. To make sure that you are in the right “world” you must enter the correct simulation code. **The simulation code for this course will be olemissIOF22.** You will create a username and password and be directed to pay for the simulation.

*Infographics.* Students are expected to complete two infographic assignment on contemporary international organizations. Students will sign up for their organizations two weeks before each assignment is due.

An infographic is a visual image that is used to represent information. It makes lots of information easily digestible and is designed to help viewers identify patterns and trends. For this assignment, a successful infographic will highlight the goals, structures, members, and activities of the organization in a single page. It will use more pictures than words and highlight what a general audience would need to know about the organization. This is an opportunity to demonstrate what you think is most important about your assigned organization. It is up to you to synthesize information from multiple pages. Points will be rewarded based on the quality of information and visual appeal.

*“International Organizations in the News” presentation.* The second half of the course provides a deep dive into contemporary international organizations. These organizations are fluid. They are always involving themselves in new issues or controversies. As such, they often make news headlines.

Students will work in groups to share what current debates/questions/controversies/decisions/initiatives the organization is working on and prepare a 20-30 minute class presentation. Students will sign up for their organization in class and additional information will be provided. Each presentation should highlight what the current issues are and how these current events relate to course concepts. Groups can use slides and should provide an introduction (5-10 minutes); however, each presentation must include a class participation activity. This can be think/pair/share, watching speeches/reading organization documents/researching the organizational website, making graphics or memes, hosting a debate, playing a game, etc. Points will be awarded based on how well each group captures major issues in 2022 and relates them to theoretical concepts. Points will also be awarded for engagement and creativity. Most presentations will occur on Fridays starting in Week 7.

*Midterm Exam.* There will be one midterm examination for this course. It will be administered at the beginning of Week 6 (Monday, September 26). The exam will consist of multiple choice,

identification, and short answer questions. It will include materials covered in *readings and lectures* through Week 5. No makeup exam will be offered, with the exception of university excused absences.

*Final Exam.* There will be one final examination incorporating material from the entire course. The final exam is cumulative and will be treated as a “take home exam” during the final exam window. Like the midterm, the final will cover information from both readings and lectures, but will be solely essay based. The final exam is due to Blackboard on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

*Extra Credit.* I will administer 6 **unannounced** quizzes during the semester. These quizzes are meant to incentivize you to (1) complete the assigned readings, (2) attend class, and (3) participate in class. Quizzes may be administered any time in class. They may cover the assigned readings or they may cover course material from that day. If you score greater than 75%, each quiz will earn you 1% extra credit on the midterm or final. There will be 3 quizzes before the midterm, and 3 quizzes before the final.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

*Covid-19 Policy.* If you need to isolate due to contracting COVID-19 at any point this semester, **you must do so.** Please do not attend class if you are feeling ill or are experiencing COVID-19. If you test positive, report test results to <https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/report/> and email me as soon as possible. I will work with you to help you continue your progress in the course. More information on isolation protocols can be found at <https://healthcenter.olemiss.edu/covid-19-faqs/>. Follow the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>.

*Late Policy.* Late assignments will not be accepted without penalty. Late submissions will receive a 5-percentage point deduction for each day they are late, starting from the end of class. This means that any assignment turned in on the due date but after the class has ended, will receive a minimum 5-point deduction. When assignments are submitted electronically, please make sure you receive an email confirmation from Blackboard. I recommend taking screenshots of your submission with a time stamp to ensure that you receive full credit for your work. *If you are ever unsure of your submission, email me a copy of your assignment.*

*Grade Appeals.* Students will be graded solely on academic performance. If you feel an error was made in grading, you must follow the given procedure:

- Prepare a written statement detailing the reasons why you think the grade you received was wrong. This must be a formal request but can be submitted via email. **Formal requests cannot be submitted until 24 hours after assignments are returned.**
- Schedule a time to meet with me in person.
- I will read your assignment and give it a final grade – it may be higher or lower than the original grade.

*Academic Integrity.* Students are expected to do their own work without unauthorized aid of any kind. Students caught cheating or engaging in academic misconduct, including plagiarism, will receive a failing grade in the course and be reported according to university policy. As a general rule, if you are not sure whether a certain action is considered academic dishonestly, don't do it and ask first. For

more information about academic misconduct, please refer to *The M Book* (available at <https://communications.olemiss.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/10/MBook.pdf>).

*Disability and Inclusion.* The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation, or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact me as soon as possible. Barriers may include, but are not necessarily limited to, timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content, and the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files. If you are registered with SDS, you must log in to your Rebel Access portal at <https://sds.olemiss.edu/rebel-access-portal> to request approved accommodations. If you are NOT registered with SDS, you must complete the process to become registered. To begin that process, visit <https://sds.olemiss.edu/apply-for-services>.

*Technology Policy.* Please turn off cell phones before coming to class, or in emergent circumstances inform me that you are expecting a call. This means that cell phones must be on silent (not vibrate) and inappropriate cell phone use will result in lost participation credit for the day.

Laptops and tablets will be allowed during class, and I will rely on technology, including interactive simulations and Google documents, as a way to practice collaboration and communication. It will be key to group work and will serve as a basis for class discussion. However, research demonstrates that taking notes by hand triggers higher-level thinking and leads to higher recall (Mueller and Oppenheimer 2014). *As such, I prefer that you use laptop computers only for specified interactive activities.* If you do choose to use a laptop outside of these periods, laptops must be used for taking notes and viewing class content only. **If technology becomes a distraction, I reserve the right to reevaluate the technology policy. Please be aware of the signals you are sending to me and your peers with your body language and eye contact.**

*Blackboard.* All course materials are available on Blackboard, including an electronic syllabi and additional readings. Updates and announcements will be also be posted through Blackboard so make sure you either enable notifications or routinely check our course page.

*Email.* I value open communication and email is the easiest way to get in touch with me about personal questions, comments, concerns etc. Please remember that email creates a written record of communication between you and I and treat it with the appropriate formality. Make sure to include “POL 331” in the subject line, address your email to “Professor Ferry” or “Dr. Ferry”, and sign emails with your full name. (For email etiquette, I recommend <https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-afcf64ae0e4087>) I will do my best to answer your emails within 24 hours Monday-Friday and 48 hours over the weekend. If you have not received a response from me after that time, please email me again.

## **SCHEDULE**

There is no required textbook and all course readings will be available through Blackboard.

Date	Topic	Readings	Presentation	Due	Sim
8/22	Course Introduction				
8/24	What are IOs?	Volgy, Thomas Elizabeth Faussett, Ketih Grant and Stuart Rodgers. "Identifying Formal Intergovernmental Organizations"			
8/26	Why is collective action so difficult?	Oye, Kenneth. "Explaining Cooperation Under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies"			
8/29	Why do states act through IOs?	Abbott, Kenneth and Duncan Snidal. "Why States Act Through Formal International Organizations"			
8/31	IO design: Legalization	Abbott, Kenneth, Robert Keohane, Andrew Moravcsik, Anne-Marie Slaughter and Duncan Snidal. "The Concept of Legalization"			
9/2	IO design: Breadth vs. Depth	Kahler, Miles. "Multilateralism with Small and Large Numbers"			
9/5	LABOR DAY (no class)				
9/7	IO design: Decision making I	(1) Cox, Robert and Harold K. Jacobson. "The Framework for Inquiry" <b>AND</b> (2) O'Neill, Barry. "Power and Satisfaction in the Security Council"			
9/9	IO design: Decision making II	Nielson, Dan and Michael Tierney. "Delegation to International Organizations: Agency Theory and World Bank Reform"		Sign up for Statecraft	
9/12	Simulation introduction				X
9/14	IO design: Enforcement	Smith, James. "The Politics of Dispute Settlement Design: Explaining Legalism in Regional Trade Pacts."			

9/16	NO CLASS (professor at conference)			Statecraft Quiz #1, Memo	
9/19	Domestic Politics of IOs	Putnam, Robert. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games."			
9/21	Are IOs democratic? Should they be?	Moravcsik, Andrew. "Is There a 'Democratic Deficit' in World Politics? A Framework for Analysis."			
9/23	Do IOs matter?	Mearsheimer, John. "The False Promise of International Institutions"		Statecraft Quiz #2, Memo	X
9/26	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>				
9/28	NATO I	(1) Lake, David. "Beyond Anarchy: The Importance of Security Institutions" <b>AND</b> (2) Explore "What is NATO" ( <a href="https://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html">https://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html</a> )			
9/30	NATO II			Statecraft Memo	X
10/3	NATO III		Group 1: "NATO in the news"		
10/5	The UN Security Council I	(1) Mingst, Karen and Margaret Karns. "Historical Evolution of the United Nations" <b>AND</b> (2) Explore "What is the Security Council" ( <a href="https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council">https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council</a> )			
10/7	The UN Security Council II		Group 2: "UNSC in the news"	Statecraft Memo	X
10/10	The UN General Assembly I	Explore "About the General Assembly" ( <a href="https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml">https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml</a> )			
10/12	The UN General Assembly II + UN ECOSOC				
10/14	The UN General Assembly III		Group 3: "UNGA in the news"	Statecraft Memo	X
10/17	IAEA + Other parts of the United Nations			Infographic Assignment 1	

10/19	The World Trade Organization I	(1) Crowley, Meredith. 2003. "An Introduction to the WTO and GATT" <b>AND</b> (2) Explore "About WTO" ( <a href="https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm">https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm</a> )			
10/21	The World Trade Organization II		Group 4: "WTO in the news"	Statecraft Memo	X
10/24	The International Monetary Fund I	(1) Vreeland, James. "What is the IMF" <b>AND</b> (2) Explore "About the IMF" ( <a href="https://www.imf.org/en/About">https://www.imf.org/en/About</a> )			
10/26	The International Monetary Fund II	(1) Woods, Ngaire and Domenico Lombardi. "Uneven Patterns of Governance: How Developing Countries are Represented in the IMF" <b>OR</b> (2) Chwieroth, Jeffrey. "The Silent Revolution: How the Staff Exercise Informal Governance over IMF Lending."			
10/28	The International Monetary Fund III		Group 5: "IMF in the news"	Statecraft Memo	X
10/31	The World Bank I	(1) Skim "Mission" and "Introduction" of the Guide to the World Bank <b>AND</b> (2) Explore "Who we are" ( <a href="https://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are">https://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are</a> )			
11/2	The World Bank II	Ayse, Kaya. "Shifts in Political Power in the World Bank, 2008-2010."			
11/4	The World Bank III		Group 6: "WB in the news"	Statecraft Memo	X
11/7	Regional Development Banks	Desai, Raj and James Vreeland. "Global Governance in a Multipolar World. The Case for Regional Monetary Funds."		Infographic Assignment 2	
11/9	The European Union I	(1) Nugent, Neill. "The Government and Politics of the European Union" <b>AND</b> (2) Explore "History of the EU" ( <a href="https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en">https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en</a> )			
11/11	The European Union II		Group 7: "EU in the news"	Statecraft Memo	X



11/14	The International Criminal Court I	Explore "About the Court" ( <a href="https://www.icc-cpi.int/about/the-court">https://www.icc-cpi.int/about/the-court</a> )			
11/16	The International Criminal Court II	Listen to (1) "The US and the International Criminal Court" ( <a href="https://www.npr.org/2022/04/18/1093292107/the-u-s-the-international-criminal-court-is-russias-oil-drilling-in-jeopardy">https://www.npr.org/2022/04/18/1093292107/the-u-s-the-international-criminal-court-is-russias-oil-drilling-in-jeopardy</a> ) AND (2) "Has the International Criminal Court Failed?" ( <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csydcn">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csydcn</a> )			
11/18	The International Criminal Court III		Group 8: "ICC in the news"	Statecraft Memo	X
11/28	Simulation debrief				
11/30	The World Health Organization	Explore "Our Work" ( <a href="https://www.who.int/our-work">https://www.who.int/our-work</a> )			
12/2	Course wrap up				
12/7	FINAL EXAM due @ 11am				