GOV94: Global Governance and the Role of International Organizations
Fall 2021

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Office hours: Thursday 1:30-3:00
Appointment sign-up https://tinyurl.com/Davis-OfficeHours

Course description
This seminar examines the role of international organizations as a tool to manage global problems. We will review international relations theories that account for why states establish institutions and assess the effectiveness of specific organizations to improve policy outcomes as well as explore their legitimacy within society. In light of the backlash against these institutions that can be seen in the Brexit vote and U.S. rejection of new international trade agreements, what is their role going forward? The scope of organizations that we examine will range across issue areas in security, economic, and human affairs. We will consider how selection effects and indirect influence present challenges to research on the effectiveness of international organizations. Through analysis of a variety of sources, including negotiation archives and quantitative measures of policy outcomes, students will be encouraged to probe the conditions under which international organizations promote cooperation.

There will be an open office hour session on August 19th, 2:30-3:30pm, accessible by this URL: https://harvard.zoom.us/j/94693645954?pwd=UTg1ay9VMFpmdThZNS9hQVJxcWhRZz09

Course requirements
1) Participation in seminar discussion. 20 percent
2) Take home midterm due Oct 14th 5pm (3 page short answer/essay exam). 20 percent
3) Oral presentation: 20 percent
In week two, students sign up for one of the five oral presentation slots in which a team will evaluate a membership choice for critical international organizations. Through debating the reasons that countries may choose to join or exit an organization, you will learn about the benefits they anticipate and process of deciding who joins that lies at center of global governance. The five options are Brexit (week 5), Palestine’s application to UN (week 8), Taiwan’s application to WHO (week 9), China’s accession to WTO (week 11), or US refusal to join ICC (week 13). Each team will make a 15 minute (strictly timed!) group presentation to defend the reasons for why a state should join or exit an international organization. Key elements of the presentation include: the applicant interests related to the policies regulated by the institution that would persuade domestic support, an appeal to current members about their interests on the applicant status, the purposes and commitments required of members in the institution, data visualization of how this decision fits within universe of international cooperation (e.g. map of members, position of this institution in scope of other institutions on scale of delegated authority using Measure of International Authority dataset available online). Use of press statements from the governments and reference to rules and procedures of the organization will be important. The rest of the class will respond with questions to the team and vote on response to the application/exit decision.
4) **Research paper**: due date TBD. 40 percent

The capstone assignment in the course will be a research paper evaluating the effectiveness of international institutions. It should be 10-12 pages in length (not including title page, abstract page, and bibliography). The expectation is for you to engage in original research to test a clear hypothesis about how membership in an international institution has promoted or failed to promote cooperation in a given area of international affairs. You may focus in on one institution (e.g. International Criminal Court) compare related institutions within an issue area (e.g. League of Nations versus United Nations, or Montreal Protocol and Kyoto Protocol), or analyze cooperation by a specific country across issue areas (e.g. China’s policies in international institutions that regulate the economy relative to those that regulate environmental protection). It is important, however, that you develop an analytical argument and go beyond description. You are encouraged to select one of the institutions that you or other students discussed in an oral presentation during the class. This will facilitate building on your knowledge of the institution and understanding about why countries join in order to assess the effect of the institution (comparing those who do and do not join). Be sure to cite the oral presentation as appropriate when your paper makes direct reference to this earlier research project or work by your peers. Those who instead wish to choose a different institution for a case study or conduct statistical analysis of data on a broad set of indicators about cooperation should consult with me early in the course on their plans for the paper. Papers will be graded on the basis of the originality and coherence of your argument, quality of the evidence you present (using a wide range of sources to adjudicate alternative views on the question), and the clarity of writing.

We will discuss expectations for the writing assignment in class. I can read draft papers/outlines submitted by December 2nd, but draft submission is not required. The due date of the final paper is to be determined and should be submitted by e-mail to cldavis@harvard.edu as a pdf file labeled with your last name and course identifier (i.e. DAVISgov94 final paper). There will be a one-third grade late penalty for every day late.

**Collaboration statement:**
Students may offer each other feedback on their research papers but all writing must represent your own individual work. There can be no discussion oral or written about the midterm exercise. The oral presentation is intended as a group project.

**Textbooks required for class:**


Books recommended for purchase with several chapters assigned:


**Recommended readings:** These are included for those with further interest but there is not any expectation that you complete these readings for seminar discussion.

**Week 1 Introduction (Sept 2)**

Hurd Ch. 1 “Introduction to international organizations” and Ch. 2 “Theory, methods, and international organizations”


*Recommended:*  
Deudney, Daniel “The Great Descent: Global Governance in Historical and Theoretical Perspectives,” pp. 31-54 in Acharya.

**Week 2 The Creation and Effect of International Institutions (Sept 9)**

Keohane, Robert. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton University Press, 1984), chps. 4-6 (pp. 49-109) (Chapter 6 required, others recommended).


*Recommended:*  


**Week 3 International Organizations as Clubs and Networks (Sept 16)**


Cogburn, Derrick. “Cyberspace and Social Media,” Ch 13 in Acharya, pp. 252—271.

*Recommended:*


**Week 4 Compliance and Enforcement (Sept 23)**


Hurd Ch. 9 “The International Court of Justice”

Recommended:


**Week 5 Regional Integration (Sept. 30)**
- EU membership oral presentation (Brexit)

Hurd, Ch. 11 “The European Union and Regional Organizations”


Brexit Briefing: Read latest news! For background:
Hall, Peter. “Brexit and Broken Promises Leaving the EU Without Consequences Was Always a Fantasy.” *Foreign Affairs* 16, November 2018.


Recommended:


**Week 6  Collective Security and the UN (Oct 7)**

Hurd Ch. 3 “The United Nations I”


Recommended:


**Week 7 No class (Oct 14). MIDTERM due by 5pm** e-mail submission to cldavis@harvard.edu

**Week 8 UN Peacekeeping (Oct 21)**

- UN membership oral presentation (Palestine question)

Hurd Ch. 4 “The United Nations II”

Mack, Andrew. “Conflicts and Security,” Ch.5 in Acharya Pp. 95-120.


Recommended:


**Week 9 Human Welfare: Labor and Health (Oct 28)**

- WHO membership oral presentation (Taiwan question)

Hurd Chapter 7 “The International Labor Organization”


Recommended:


**Week 10 Monetary Policy and International Financial Institutions (Nov 4)**

Hurd chapter 6 “The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank”


Recommended:


Findley et al “Orchestrating the fight against anonymous incorporation: a field experiment” Chapter 12 in *International Organizations as Orchestrators* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

**Week 11 International Trade (Nov 11)**

- WTO membership oral presentation (China accession)
Hurd Ch. 5 “The World Trade Organization”


Recommended:


Week 12 Cooperation to Protect the Environment (Nov 18)


Recommended:


**Week 13 Human Rights Treaties and the International Criminal Court (Dec 2)**
- ICC membership oral presentation (U.S. refusal to join)

Hurd, Ch. 8 “Refugees and international migration: UNHCR, the IOM, and the 1951 Convention” and Ch. 10 “The International Criminal Court”

Sikkink, Kathryn. “Human Rights,” Ch. 6 in Acharya, pp. 121-137.


**Recommended:**