

POLS 389: International Law and Organizations

Dr. Ches Thurber

Fall 2018

E-mail: cthurber@niu.edu

Office Hours: M/W 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Office: 414 Zulauf Hall

Web: www.chesthurber.com

Class Hours: M/W 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Class Room: 461 DuSable Hall

Teaching Assistant

Tanner Bivens

z1844745@students.niu.edu

Office Hours by Appointment

Course Description

Over the past several centuries, international actors have established laws and created organizations in an effort to mitigate conflict and increase cooperation. How successful have these efforts been? Is a world governed by laws and institutions a viable alternative to one in which the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must? This course provides an overview of both international organizations generally as well as the specific legal principles that govern them. It starts with a review of the theoretical foundations of international relations with an attention to the potential for institutions as a means of fostering cooperation amidst anarchy. It surveys major global and regional organizations, with an emphasis on the UN system, and digs a little deeper into the specifics of the institutions and laws that govern the domains of security, economics, human rights, and the environment. The class includes a series of simulations in which students will play the roles of advocates and justices in historical cases before the International Court of Justice.

Texts

The required textbooks for the course are:

- David L. Bosco. *Five to Rule Them All: The UN Security Council and the Making of the Modern World*. Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Kenneth Cain, Heidi Postlewaite, and Andrew Thomson. *Emergency Sex and Other Desperate Measures: True Stories from a War Zone*. Ebury, 2006.
- Margaret P. Karns, Karen A. Mingst, and Kendall W. Stiles. *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*. Lynn Rienner, 2015.
- J. Martin Rochester. *Between Peril and Promise: The Politics of International Law*. Sage, 2012.

Evaluation

Class attendance, preparation and participation (20%): The time we spend in class is for me the most important of this course. As such, punctual attendance is mandatory. But more important than just being present at a desk is that you are actively engaged. I expect that you have done the readings and that you try to participate in discussion each and every class section.

Reading Quizzes and Writing Activities (15%): Over the course of the semester, there will be a number of unannounced reading quizzes. They will consist of multiple choice questions based on the assigned reading for the day. There will also be several in-class writing activities which will be graded.

Examinations: (30%) There will be two exams: a midterm held in the sixth week of class and a final exam held during the final exam period. Each will count for 15% of your final grade. I will provide a list of possible exam questions one week before the exam. I encourage you to work with others to plan your answers in advance, but your work on exam day must be your own, produced without the assistance of books or notes.

ICJ Case Simulation: Written (20%) and Oral (15%)

In the last few weeks of class, we will run a series of mock cases before the International Court of Justice. Each student will be assigned the role of an advocate of a party to the dispute or to that of a justice of the court. Each student will independently write a memorial or a decision of approximately 4 pages (single-spaced) in length. Students will also be evaluated on their oral advocacy in the simulation.

Course Policies

- Successful completion of this course consistent, punctual attendance, completing the readings prior to the start of class, and active participation. If you must miss class due to a conflicting responsibility or an emergency, it is your responsibility to contact me to discuss the situation. I will generally require a short written assignment to be submitted in lieu of class attendance. Any more than 2 absences without prior notification and make-up work will affect your final grade.
- If you think you need to delay taking an exam or submitting a written assignment, you should talk to me, generally at least two weeks before the exam/due date. Such extensions are never guaranteed, but will be based on university policy, exigency of the circumstances, and timeliness of the request (the earlier the better). Any missed exam or written assignment submitted after the deadline without prior authorization will incur a penalty.
- A missed quiz is less serious in nature. If you miss a quiz, usually due to absence or tardiness, you will be given the opportunity to take a make-up 5 minutes before the next class. The questions may be different and the scoring system more difficult. Students who miss a quiz and do not show up for a make-up will receive a 0.
- All students are expected to adhere to the highest levels of academic integrity. Violations of university, departmental, and disciplinary standards will not be tolerated and will lead to an F for the course. Information on University-wide definitions and policies regarding academic integrity can be found [here](#).

- If you need an accommodation for this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible. The DRC coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities. It is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu. Also, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations. Please note that you will not be required to disclose your disability, only your accommodations. The sooner you let me know your needs, the sooner I can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.
- I ask that my undergraduate students refer to me as either Dr. or Professor Thurber. I'm just old-school that way. Please let me know how you prefer to be addressed, both in name and pronoun, especially if it differs from what is in the college directory. I will make every effort to address you in the way you wish to be addressed. Please try and do the same for your fellow classmates, as well as for other faculty in the department.
- I am committed to your success in this class – if you feel that you are not performing to your expectations, please come and see me. I am available to answer any questions you may have about course assignments, requirements or content. I generally answer e-mails within 24 hrs on weekdays, and would be happy to schedule an appointment to meet with you if you are unavailable during my posted office hours.

Class Schedule

Students are expected to read the listed readings before the indicated class session.

Week 1: Introduction

Monday 08/27: Simulation Activity

- PP: Ch. 1

Wednesday 08/29: Course Overview

- IO: Ch. 1

Week 2: IR Theory and IOs

Monday 09/03: Labor Day – No Class!

Wednesday 09/05: Paradigms and Institutions

- PP: Ch. 2
- IO: Ch. 2

Week 3: Foundations of International Law and Global Governance

Monday 09/10: History of International Organizations

- IO: Ch. 3

Wednesday 09/12: Fundamentals of International Law

- PP: Ch. 3

Week 4: The UN System

Monday 09/17: States and Sovereignty

- PP: Ch. 4
- IO: Ch. 4, pp. 109-112

Wednesday 09/19: UN Branches and Organs

- IO: Ch. 4, pp. 112-160

Week 5: Regional Organizations

Monday 09/24: Europe and the Americas

- IO: Ch. 5, pp. 161-205

Wednesday 09/26: Asia and Africa

- IO: Ch. 5, pp. 205-238

Week 6: Exam Week

Monday 10/01: Review Day

Wednesday 10/03: MIDTERM EXAM

Week 7: Peace and Security

Monday 10/08: Collective Security

- IO: Ch. 7

Wednesday 10/10: Laws of War?

- PP: Ch. 6

Week 8: The UN Security Council

Monday 10/15: Origins

- Bosco, *Five to Rule Them All*, Chs. 1-2

Wednesday 10/17: The Post-CW UNSC

- Bosco, *Five to Rule Them All*, Chs. 5-7

Week 9: Economic Governance

Monday 10/22: Trade and Macroeconomic Coordination

- IO: Ch. 8

Wednesday 10/24: Development

- PP: Ch. 9

Week 10: Human Rights

Monday 10/29: Institutions and Mechanisms

- IO: Ch. 7

Wednesday 10/31: Human Rights Law

- PP: Ch. 5

Week 11: The Environment

Monday 11/05: Environmental Regimes and Institutions

- IO: Ch. 11

Wednesday 11/07: Environmental Law

- PP: Ch. 8

Week 12: Triumphs and Pitfalls of International Aid and Intervention

Monday 11/12: Life in a UN Mission

- Emergency Sex: First Half

Wednesday 11/14: More About Life in International Humanitarian Aid

- Emergency Sex: Second Half

Week 13: Thanksgiving

Monday 11/19: ICJ Simulation Prep Day

- Work on Your ICJ Briefs

Wednesday 11/21: NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Week 14: ICJ Case Simulations

Monday 11/26: ICJ Simulation 1

Wednesday 11/28: ICJ Simulation 2

Week 15: ICJ Simulation and Review

Monday 12/03: ICJ Simulation 3

Wednesday 12/05: Liberal International Order?

- [Deudney and Ikenberry, “Liberal World: The Resilient Order”](#)
- [Jentleson, “The Liberal Order Isn’t Coming Back”](#)

Final Exam : *Wednesday 12/05: 10:00am-11:50pm*