RPOS/RPAD 583: Global Governance

Professor: Bryan R. Early
Class Times: Tuesdays, 5:45 – 8:35 PM
Room: 
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 PM
Milne 300A

Course Description

This course examines global governance as both a paradigm that can be used to understand the increasing role of international law, regimes, institutions, and non-governmental organizations in international politics and as an emergent subfield in international relations that studies those topics. The course begins by addressing how the major theories of international relations view the structure of international politics, the prospects for international cooperation, and the means by which cooperation occurs. The second portion of the course examines the various bodies involved in global governance, why and how they are created, and how they function. The last section of the class looks more closely at specific bodies of global governance, including the United Nations, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and European Union.

This class has been designed to prepare students for their comprehensive exams in international relations and will introduce students to the key concepts, theories, and author in the subfields of international organization and international law. As such, the capstone of the class will be a comprehensive exam that covers the entirety of the course material. Over the course of the semester, students will also be given guidance in developing original research designs on topics relevant to the course’s subject matter.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should:

1. Understand how the major theories of international relations address the issue of global governance
2. Understand the sources of and role played by norms and international law in global governance
3. Have mastered an understanding of the roles played by international regimes, international institutions, trans-governmental networks, and non-governmental organizations in global governance
4. Know the structure, operation, and membership of the leading bodies of global governance, including the: European Union, United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, and G-20
Required Texts


Grading

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their contributions to seminar discussions, the originality and quality of their presentations, and their performance on the three course exams.

Class Participation: 20%

Each student is expected to keep up with the assigned readings and to come to class prepared to make substantively valuable contributions to class discussions. Both the quality and quantity of students’ participation will be taken into account. Participation grades will be penalized for unexcused absences.

Better Know an IO: 10%

Each student will be responsible for giving a ten-minute presentation on an international regime, international institution, trans-governmental or trans-national network, or international non-governmental organization of their choosing. For their presentation days, students will also be responsible for providing the class with a news article regarding the body they selected and a policy-relevant discussion question that relates to their article.

Two Midterm Exams: 20% each

There will be two written, take home exams that will be administered in lieu of classes Weeks 6 and 11. These exams will call upon students to demonstrate that they understand the key concepts, theories, and subject matter of the class to date. Each exam will be comprised of a series of short answer questions and a long essay on a topic that addresses one of the class’s expansive themes.
Comprehensive Exam: 30%

There will be a written, in-class comprehensive exam for the course. The exam will call upon students to demonstrate that they have a mastery over the key concepts, theories, and subject matter covered in the course. It will be comprised of a series of 8-10 short answer questions and a long essay on a topic that addresses one of the course’s expansive themes.

Policy on Academic Honesty

Do not plagiarize or cheat. If you are involved in plagiarism or cheating and are caught, the penalty will be failure in the course and you will be reported to judicial affairs. If you are not sure if something violates standards – feel free to ask ahead of time. In general, it's always better to err on the side of caution. Please familiarize yourself with the undergraduate bulletin’s descriptions of plagiarism. The university’s official policy can be found at: <http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/2003-2004/regulations.html>. Also, a

Accommodations

"Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (Campus Center 137, 442-5490). That office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations." See the official policy at: <http://www.albany.edu/studentlife/dss/Accommodation.html>. If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this course please also inform the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Schedule

Part I: Introduction

- Wk1 (Jan. 24): What Does Global Governance Mean?
Part II: Theoretical Basis of International Order, Cooperation, and Institutions

- Wk2 (Jan. 31): Structure, Sovereignty, and the International System

- Wk3 (Feb. 7): Liberalism and Neo-Functionalism

- Wk4 (Feb. 14): Theories of Hegemony and Neo-Liberalism (Guest Lecture)

Required Reading for Students Unfamiliar with Collective Action Dilemmas
- Wk5 (Feb. 21): The English School and Constructivist Approaches


- Wk6 (Feb. 28): The Realist Critiques of the Prospects of Global Governance (No Class / Take Home Mid-Term Exam)


Part III: The Form, Function, and Evolution of Global Governance

- Wk 7 (Mar. 6): International Law, Norms, and Global Governance

- Wk8 (Mar. 13): Spring Break

- Wk9 (Mar. 20): Mechanisms of Global Governance

- Wk10 (Mar. 27): The Design, Formation, and Death of Bodies of Global Governance

- W11 (Apr. 3): No Class / Take Home Midterm Exam

- Wk12 (Apr. 10): The Role and Function of Bodies of Global Governance (No Class / Second Midterm Exam)


Part IV: Specific Bodies of Global Governance


- Wk14 (Apr. 24): Regional Organizations

- Wk14 (May 1): International Financial Bodies
Part V: Conclusion

- Wk15 (May 8): How Global Governance Matters and Wrap-Up

