DIPL 6002: International Organizations

Professor Martin S. Edwards
Email: martin.edwards@shu.edu
Office: 106 McQuaid
Office Phone: 973-275-2507
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Objectives:
International Organizations (be they IGOs or NGOs) are often poorly understood, but they serve very real and important functions in our world. International relations would be profoundly different if they did not exist. Our goal in this class is three fold. First, we will trace the evolution of studies that address why international organizations are created. Second, we will discuss the functions that international organizations serve and the factors that shape their effectiveness. Third, we will apply this theoretical knowledge to empirical research on international organizations in the fields of political economy, security, the environment, and human rights.

That having been said, it is worth stressing that this is a graduate level course in IO. As a result, we will not be reviewing the design/functioning/operation of individual IOs per se. Our concern is more general: to understand why IOs are created, why they look the way they do, and how we better understand (both theoretically and empirically) the influence that they have.

Course Materials:
One required textbook has been ordered for this course. There may be one additional optional one for use with the policy analysis assignment.


Note: Students have also found the following book a good source for background materials:


Articles will be available for downloading through the Blackboard page for this course.

Evaluation:
Your grade in this class will be based on the following:

    Policy Analysis Assignment (50% of grade, as follows)
        Annotated Bibliography (5%)
        Blogpost (15%)
        Final Paper (25%)
        Peer Evaluation (5%)
    “Reverse-Engineered Research Designs” (2@ 10% each)
    Take-home Final Examination (30%)
More information on each of these elements can be found on the last page of the syllabus.

**Other Course Policies:**
Late work will not be accepted in this class.

There is no grade in this course for participation. Participation is part of your job.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to procedures outlined in the Whitehead School Academic Integrity Policy. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the course and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent permissible.

Students with disabilities should contact Disabilities Support Services for special accommodations.

**Schedule of Assignments:**

**January 14**
Week One: Introduction

**January 21**  NO CLASS

**January 28**
Week Two: Historical Precedents (1): Intellectual Background / Regime Theory 1


Recommended: Karns and Mingst, Chapter Two.

**February 4**
Week Three: Historical Precedents (2): Regime Theory 2

**February 11**
Week Four: From Regimes to Legalization


**February 18**
**Week Five: Building Institutions**


*Recommended: Karns and Mingst, Chapters Four and Five.*

**February 25**
**Annotated Bibliography Due at the Start of Class**
**Week Six: Norms and IO**


**March 4**
**SPRING BREAK**

**March 11**
**Week Seven: Non-Governmental Organizations**


*Recommended: Karns and Mingst, Chapter Six.*
March 18
Week Eight: Role of Domestic Politics


March 25
Week Nine: The Problem of Compliance


April 1 EASTER – NO CLASS – Policy Analysis Assignment Due

April 8
Week Ten: IO & IPE


Recommended: Karns and Mingst, Chapter Nine.
April 15
Week Eleven: IO & Security


Recommended: Karns and Mingst, Chapter Eight.

April 22
Week Twelve: IO and Environment


Recommended: Karns and Mingst, Chapter Eleven.

April 29
Week Thirteen: IO and Human Rights


May 6
Week Fourteen: Concluding Reflections


**Particulars on Assignments:**

**Policy Analysis Assignment**

The primary written assignment in this class is a 15 page (double-spaced with 1” margins and 12 point fonts) policy analysis that is due at 4pm EST on April 1. You will work in teams and be randomly assigned an international organization. In this paper you will accomplish the following tasks:

1. Identify a challenge that the international organization faces that is a barrier to its effectiveness
2. Develop at least two alternative strategies to address this problem
3. Outline the costs and benefits of each potential strategy
4. Advocate one and discuss how it can best be implemented

In order to help you begin in this process, you will submit an annotated bibliography of 20 sources. Valid sources include books, articles, news items, and scholarly reports. An ‘annotated’ bibliography means that each listed source is accompanied by a 150 word summary of the piece. Your annotated bibliography is due on February 25 at the start of class.

The next piece of this assignment is an 800 word blogpost summarizing the findings of the larger paper. This assignment will be due on a rolling schedule over the last three weeks of class.

The remaining 5% of your grade will be a peer evaluation. You will evaluate your partner’s contribution, and he or she, in turn, will evaluate you. This ensures that free riding is sanctioned. This evaluation will be disseminated on the last day of class.

**Reverse-Engineered Research Designs**

One essential skill to develop in graduate school is the ability to summarize arguments. In order to help you achieve this end, you will submit two short papers (2 pages maximum, double-spaced with 1” margins and 12 point fonts) that each address one article assigned for the weeks 10 through 13.

For each article, your job is to “reverse-engineer” the research design. This means answering the following questions for each article. Each question should be answered in a paragraph or two.

1) What is the outcome that the author is trying to explain?
2) What is the author’s argument?
3) What are the alternative explanations for this outcome?
4) If you could pose one question to the author dealing with how the study ought to be conducted, what would it be?

**Take Home Final Exam**

Each student will prepare a 15 page minimum final exam which will consist of essay questions based on course material. The final will be handed out in class on May 6, and will be due to me by 4pm on Monday May 13.

**NOTE:** For assignments that must be submitted online through Blackboard, instructions are at the following URL: http://blogs.shu.edu/techtips/files/safeassign_student.pdf