

International Organizations

Sam Houston State University
Department of Political Science

POLS3385
Tu, Th 9:30-10:50



About This Course

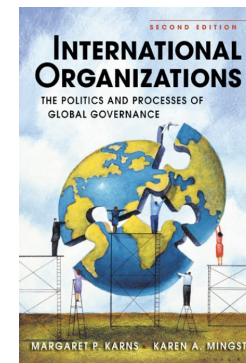
This course (3.0 credits) is aimed at exploring the “pieces of global governance” that exist in international affairs. Many current global challenges are transnational in nature—both their effects and solutions go beyond the boundaries of individual states. In the context of wrestling with these challenges, we need to have a better understanding of the opportunities and limitations associated with international organizations, governmental and non-governmental alike.

The game plan

The few weeks of the course are devoted to understanding the theoretical debates that will underpin the rest of the course. Starting in week 5, we’ll the mechanics and politics associated with the United Nations, the centerpiece of global governance. The remaining weeks focus on various regional and issue-specific organizations respectively. Throughout the term, we will attempt to illustrate some of the tensions that exist in global governance through the exploration of specific cases.

Course objectives

- ◆ Gain factual knowledge regarding int’l organizations (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
- ◆ Learn fundamental principles, generalizations and theories associated with the study of international organizations
- ◆ Improve critical thinking and writing skills



Course Materials

Please purchase the following:

- [1] Karns & Mingst (2009), *International Organizations (2nd ed.)* [ISBN-13: 978-1588266989]
- [2] Two cases from GUISD.org. Purchase and download as PDF files (\$3.50 ea.). The links are provided below and online.
- [3] License for Statecraft: IO simulation. (TBA).

Requirements

Exams (350 points)

The midterm exam is worth 150 points and covers all course material through Oct. 17. The final exam is worth 200 points: 150 points will cover the material from the second half of the course, and there will be a comprehensive 50-point question.

Reading Quizzes (6 @ 30 points each)

Eight different times during the course of the semester, you will need to log on to the course Blackboard site and take a reading quiz. Worth 30 points each, these must be completed by the start of the session on which they appear as “due” (below). I will drop the lowest two quiz grades at the end of the semester.

Analytical Essays (2 @ 150 points each)

Twice during the semester, you will be asked to analyze course material in greater depth by responding to a prompt that I will distribute in an essay of 2,000 words or less.

Simulation (170 points)

There will be a number of components to the simulation grade. These will be explained during class on September 5. There will also be an opportunity to earn bonus points by achieving simulation goals. These will be over and above the 1,000 points shown here.

Course Policies

Deadlines

All assigned work must be completed and submitted by due date/times indicated. There is no grace period. I will not accept the excuse that “there was an issue with Blackboard.” It is your responsibility to ensure that you leave yourself enough time to submit your assignment before the deadline. Everything that comes in after is late, and penalties will start to accrue as follows:

LATE	PENALTY
1 minute-24 hours	10%
24-48 hours	30%
48-72 hours	50%
72-96 hours	75%
96+ hours	100%

Please note that **exams cannot be taken late.**

Determining the Final Grade

There are 1,000 total points for this course. Your current running total/grade will always be available on the Blackboard website; so please do not ask me to calculate it! The final letter grade will be determined as follows:

POINTS EARNED	GRADE
1,000-900	A
899-800	B
799-700	C
699-600	D
599-0	F

Dr. Jason Enia



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Hours:

M, W 1-2:30pm

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will fail the course. In addition, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. If you have any questions, please ask!

Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Disability Services

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.



Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Read Before Class
1	Aug. 29	Course introduction; syllabus		1. Course syllabus
Theories of IR & the Challenges of International Cooperation				
2	Sep. 3	The lay of the land: Who are the actors and what are the challenges?		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 3-33.
	Sep. 5	How do we <i>explain</i> why global cooperation is so hard? Part 1: Realism	Reading quiz 1	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 45-52. 2. Excerpt from Mearsheimer (1994), "The False Promise of International Institutions" pp. 308-319.
3 Sim0	Sep. 10	How do we <i>explain</i> why global cooperation is so hard? Part 2: Liberalism & regimes		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 35-43. 2. Young (1998), "The Stages of Int'l Regime Formation" pp. 1-27.
	Sep. 12	Statecraft: IO simulation setup [Sim0]	Simulation manual quiz	1. Statecraft: IO simulation manual (available via the Statecraft website)
4 Sim1	Sep. 17	How do we <i>explain</i> why global cooperation is so hard? Part 3: Public goods		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 43-45. 2. Barrett (2007) <i>Why Cooperate?</i> pp. 1-21.
	Sep. 19	How do we <i>explain</i> why global cooperation is so hard? Part 4: Constructivism and critical theories	Reading quiz 2	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 52-60.
The United Nations as the "Centerpiece of Global Governance"				
5 Sim2	Sep. 24	Historical background of the UN		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 63-97.
	Sep. 26	The goals & features of the UN Charter	Reading quiz 3	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 97-99. 2. UN Charter at http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/ . Read "Preamble" & "Chapter 1."
6 Sim3	Oct. 1	UN organizational overview and the General Assembly	Simulation memo 1	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 99-109.
	Oct. 3	The UN Security Council (UNSC)	Reading quiz 4	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 109-114.
7 Sim4	Oct. 8	Other organizational aspects of the UN		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 114-131.
	Oct. 10	Key debates on UN reform	Reading quiz 5	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 131-143.
8 Sim5	Oct. 15	The UN as global peacekeeper...? Humanitarian intervention and the emergence of R2P	Simulation memo 2	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 323-354. 2. Bajoria (2011) at http://on.cfr.org/kDgfcC
	Oct. 17	Case session: Srebrenica		1. Lamy (2001); please purchase as PDF.
9 Sim6	Oct. 22	Simulation bargaining; review for midterm exam	Analytical essay 1	
	Oct. 24	<i>Midterm Exam</i>		

Regional Organizations				
10 Sim7	Oct. 29	General theories of regionalism	Simulation memo 3	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 145-153.
	Oct. 31	Regionalism in Europe		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 153-178.
11 Sim8??	Nov. 5	Case session: Persistent challenges in the EU		1. Tanner (1997); please purchase as PDF. 2. Harding, "The Myth of Europe."
	Nov. 7	Asian regionalism	Reading quiz 7	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 188-203.
12 Sim9??	Nov. 12	Regionalism compared: Americas, Middle East, Africa		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 178-188; 203-214.
Issue-Specific International Organizations				
	Nov. 14	Global governance in development and finance		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 387-413.
13 Sim10??	Nov. 19	Global governance in trade		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 413-445.
	Nov. 21	Buffer session	Reading quiz 8	
14	Nov. 26	***No class--Thanksgiving Holiday***		
	Nov. 28	***No class--Thanksgiving Holiday***		
15	Dec. 3	Global governance in security, specifically WMD	Analytical essay 2	1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 355-366.
	Dec. 5	Course conclusions; Review for final exam		1. Karns & Mingst, pp. 537-553.
	Dec. 12 11am- 1pm	<i>Final exam</i>		<i>The final exam will mostly cover the material after the midterm. There will, however, be one essay question (worth 25% of the final exam points) that will be comprehensive in nature.</i>