

Master of International Relations/Political Science Doctor of International Relations/Political Science

Academic year 2022–2023

International Governance

RISP053 – Fall – 6 ECTS

Course Description

This course will explore current debates around the governance of the global and international system. Emphasis will be put on different sets of institutional forms and ad hoc arrangements as well as different sets of actors (such as formal and informal institutions, nonstate actors, regime complexity, or the vitality of international organizations). Based on these structural and agentic elements, we will examine the opportunities and constraints that have resulted in formulating and implementing multilateral policies globally and regionally.

PROFESSOR

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Syllabus

Course Aims

In this course, we will examine several contemporary (Average date of publication: 2017) issues in the study of international governance. In particular, it will focus on comparing the constitution and complexity of international governance across different issue areas.

The course is designed in such a way to help students achieve the following objectives:

1. providing a basis for understanding theoretical work on multilateral governance
2. provoking reflection and debate on contemporary global governance challenges
3. practicing applying recent ideas to new empirics
4. comparing governance challenges and approaches across different issue areas

Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All materials can be found in the [Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Library](#), on [Moodle](#), or on [my website](#).

Course Evaluation

All the evaluation is oriented around a major product, a 'forum' piece in which groups of 3–4 students prepare a collection of short essays that engage with the readings, a chosen empirical domain, and each other's arguments. The forum and graded intermediate products are listed below:

Presentations (30%): In groups of ~3, students will prepare a joint, 20-30 min presentation that:

- a) informs the class about the actors and institutions governing an international domain,
- b) attempts to apply the theoretical readings from that week to those empirics,
- c) poses some potential questions that we could consider in light of these theories and empirics.

These presentations are only for the weeks 5 (Hegemony) to 10 (Continuity), and so groups are not expected to be formed until week 4 (instructions will appear on Moodle). So take the opportunity in the first couple of weeks to get to know your colleagues and their interests...

Current news (10%): Each student will also share with the class (via the TA) one week before their session a short, recent newspaper article (since 1 July) and in class briefly explain how it:

- a) complements their group's presentation(s) and
- b) piques class discussion on the themes.

Forum introduction (10%): Groups will collectively write a brief (one-page) introduction to their forum, posing the shared, collectively phrased question and outlining the various contributions. Group consultations in the final weeks should help establish the final direction of each forum. A single, shared grade will be given on the basis of:

- a) the framing and motivation of the question,
- b) coherence and cross-referencing across the contributions,
- c) style of the overall product.

Forum contribution (30%): Each student will write an individual essay for their forum. The essays in the forum may differ in arguments, theory, or empirics. The word limit for each piece is 1200 words, not including tables, figures, bibliography. Note that this word limit is tight and strict, so expect to spend time refining your prose to make your argument succinctly and effectively. The reports themselves will be graded on:

- a) how well composed and argued the student's individual paper is; and
- b) how well researched and developed each application to an empirical domain is.

Peer reviews (10%): Since good feedback is key to good writing, each student will also provide written feedback on another student's writing. This will be in the form of a double-blind peer review. There will be (semi-)random assignment; you will review an essay from another group. More explanation on this task will be given later in the semester, but please concentrate on:

- a) constructive, critical advice,
- b) following the format and style of a peer review.

Participation (10%): We will revisit this grade at the end of the semester and round up/down based on general participation in class discussion and symposia.

Course Policies

Auditing is not possible for this course at this time.

Plagiarism means presenting another's thoughts, ideas, or expressions as one's own, and is a breach of academic integrity that is not tolerated at the Graduate Institute. Students who present others' work as their own may receive a 0. Please cite appropriately and contact the TA if you have any doubts.

This syllabus is subject to cantonal and Institute policies in response to the pandemic. We will discuss if and how the syllabus has been updated in light of conditions in the first week of class.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (20 Sep): Introductions

– no class (sick) –

Week 2 (27 Sep): Governance

- Weiss, Thomas G., & Wilkinson, Rorden (2014). "Rethinking Global Governance? Complexity, Authority, Power, Change". *International Studies Quarterly*, 58(1), 207–215.
- Hofferberth, Matthias (2015). "Mapping the Meanings of Global Governance: A Conceptual Reconstruction of a Floating Signifier". *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 43(2), 598–617.

Week 3 (4 Oct): Complexity

- Alter, Karen J., & Raustiala, Kal (2018). "The Rise of International Regime Complexity". *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 14(1), 329–349.
- Orsini, Amandine, Le Prestre, Philippe, Haas, Peter M., Brosig, Malte, Pattberg, Philipp, Widerberg, Oscar, Gomez-Mera, Laura, Morin, Jean-Frédéric, Harrison, Neil E., Geyer, Robert, & Chandler, David (2020). "Forum: Complex Systems and International Governance". *International Studies Review*, 22(4), 1008–1038.

Week 4 (11 Oct): Groups due

Week 5 (18 Oct): Hegemony

- Finnemore, Martha (2009). "Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity: Why Being a Unipole Isn't All It's Cracked Up to Be". *World Politics*, 61(1), 58–85.
- Johnston, Alastair Iain (2019). "China in a World of Orders: Rethinking Compliance and Challenge in Beijing's International Relations". *International Security*, 44(2), 9–60.

Week 6 (25 Oct): Democracy

- Warren, T. Camber (2016). "Modeling the coevolution of international and domestic institutions: Alliances, democracy, and the complex path to peace". *Journal of Peace Research*, 53(3), 424–441.
- Heldt, Eugenia C., & Schmidtke, Henning (2019). "Global Democracy in Decline?: How Rising Authoritarianism Limits Democratic Control over International Institutions". *Global Governance*, 25(2), 231–254.

Week 7 (1 Nov): Vitality

- Gray, Julia (2018). "Life, Death, or Zombie? The Vitality of International Organizations". *International Studies Quarterly*, 62(1), 1–13.
- Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, Mette (2020). "Death of international organizations. The organizational ecology of intergovernmental organizations, 1815–2015". *The Review of International Organizations*, 15(2), 339–370.

Week 8 (8 Nov): Hybridity

- Abbott, Kenneth W., Green, Jessica F., & Keohane, Robert O. (2016). "Organizational Ecology and Institutional Change in Global Governance". *International Organization*, 70(2), 247–277.
- Vabulas, Felicity, & Snidal, Duncan (2021). "Cooperation under autonomy: Building and analyzing the Informal Intergovernmental Organizations 2.0 dataset". *Journal of Peace Research*, 58(4), 859–869.

Week 9 (15 Nov): Change

- Mahoney, James, & Thelen, Kathleen (2009). "A theory of gradual institutional change". In J. Mahoney & K. Thelen (Eds.), *Explaining institutional change* (1–37). Cambridge University Press.
- Lundgren, Magnus, Squatrito, Theresa, & Tallberg, Jonas (2018). "Stability and change in international policy-making: A punctuated equilibrium approach". *The Review of International Organizations*, 13(4), 547–572.

Week 10 (22 Nov): Continuity

- Rixen, Thomas, & Viola, Lora Anne (2015). "Putting path dependence in its place: Toward a taxonomy of institutional change". *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 27(2), 301–323.
- Bourbeau, Philippe (2015). "Resilience and International Politics: Premises, Debates, Agenda". *International Studies Review*, 17, 374–395.

Week 11 (29 Nov): Consultations and draft essays due

Week 12 (6 Dec): Peer review due

Week 13 (13 Dec): *Symposia*

Week 14 (20 Dec): *Forum due*

– This syllabus is subject to change –