COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the study of international institutions, including both customary international law (CIL) and treaty law, associated institutional entities and agents, including intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and other related actors, including international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Topics include international cooperation under anarchy, multilateralism and collective action, bargaining and enforcement, delegation and agency, legitimacy and accountability, and implementation and adaptability.

The course consists of three parts. Part I introduces basic concepts and theories of cooperation through international institutions and examines the role of institutional entities and agents as well as other related actors. Part II develops these concepts by examining the major institutional arrangements comprised within the post-World War II international order. Part III considers the future of global governance by examining the prospects for international cooperation in issues of human rights and environmental sustainability.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course readings, assignments, and examinations are intended to achieve three objectives. Firstly, they are intended to introduce students to basic concepts and theories of cooperation through international organizations and law. Secondly, they are intended to provide students with a basic understanding of the institutional architecture of the post-World War II international order and the means by which it functions. Thirdly, they are intended to assist students in developing analytical skills such that they can provide thoughtful, coherent, and empirically-supported arguments in oral and written form. The first and second objectives are necessary for careers or continued study in the fields of international relations and international law, while the third is essential to the idea of a liberal arts education. All three help to equip students for work as agents of redemptive change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete all assigned readings (approx. 75 pages per week) and homework assignments before each class period and be active and engaged participants throughout the semester. The instructor will circulate a seating chart for students to fill out, which will be used throughout the semester to record attendance and to facilitate classroom interaction.

There will be three interrelated, analytical writing assignments of six to ten double-spaced pages in length, which will be due on the dates listed below. In addition to the writing assignments, there will be several short homework assignments and comprehensive midterm and final examinations.

COURSE GRADES

Course grades will be based on the course objectives listed above, as determined by students’ participation and engagement (including homework assignments), writing assignments, and examinations.

Participation and Engagement

Participation and engagement will be weighted as 20% of the final course grade. This is a real course at a real college, and as such you will be expected to read all of the assigned readings before class, with your participation and engagement attesting to how carefully you have read them. You will not necessarily be expected to agree with the
readings, your fellow students, or the instructor, but you will be expected to be engaged participants, so as to learn from the lecture and discussion each day. In doing so, you will become part of an ongoing conversation.

Your participation and engagement grade will be based on your contribution to that conversation. More than simply engaging in classroom "chatter", making a meaningful contribution to the conversation will require that you arrive in class (and/or come to office hours) prepared to give an account of what you understand from the course readings and discussion and/or what you do not understand. There is no excuse for having nothing to say; learning requires preparation. If necessary, the instructor will call upon students who do not participate in class or otherwise demonstrate engagement with the course material (such as through homework assignments, email, office hours, etc.).

Homework assignments will be available online from Moodle and will be due at the beginning of class on the dates noted below. Class lecture and discussion will provide general feedback on these assignments. If you would like more specific feedback, please see the instructor.

Ideally, students would be so motivated by the intensity of the readings and the perspicacity of the instructor that attendance would not need to be required. But because these are not ideal times, attendance will be included in assessing participation and engagement. Every student will be allowed three unexcused absences (i.e. one full week), after which a penalty of 5% per day will be deducted from the final course grade. Please see the instructor as soon as possible if you know in advance of an absence due to an extracurricular activity or other excusable reason (at the instructor’s discretion; documentation may be required). Other than illness, most absences will not be excused, so plan accordingly.

Students are permitted to use portable electronic devices in class, provided that such devices are used for course purposes and that their use does not undermine the participation and engagement of the user or other students. However, such use is strongly discouraged, insofar as numerous studies have demonstrated a correlation between the use of a laptop computer to take lecture/discussion notes and decreased retention and understanding of concepts discussed. Recording of class lectures and discussions is allowed with prior express permission of the instructor and only may be used for personal, study-related purposes.

Writing Assignments

The three writing assignments will be weighted as 15%, 20%, and 15% of the final course grade, respectively. The instructor will distribute the writing assignments in advance, as well as an analytic writing handout, incorporated herein by reference, which is intended to help students avoid basic mistakes.

Students must follow the stylistic guidelines contained in the APSA Style Manual for Political Science (2006), available online from Moodle. See pages 17–21 for in-text (i.e. parenthetical) citation guidelines and pages 24–33 for reference (i.e. works cited) guidelines. These guidelines are based on the Chicago Manual of Style (15th edition).

Papers will be due on the dates listed below. Students must submit both printed and electronic versions (i.e. via email) of all papers. Printed and electronic versions must match exactly. The instructor will return the printed version and will archive the electronic edition. Papers must be submitted in a serif font (such as Times New Roman) of size 11 or 12 with 1” margins on all sides. The filename of the electronic version must include the name of the student submitting it. The instructor may assess a 0.25 grade point penalty (each instance) for failure to follow all instructions contained in the syllabus and/or writing guide.

Grades will be based on analytical rigor, writing skill, and empirical evidence. Grades will be determined as follows.

- **A** Excellent; Clear, thorough, and well-supported
- **A-** Very good, with few shortcomings; or Clear, but incomplete
- **B+** Generally clear, but some gaps; or Good, though somewhat unclear
- **B** Gaps in logic and evidence; or Disordered; or Undeveloped
- **B-** Multiple gaps and unclear parts; or Containing contradictions
- **C+** Unclear throughout; or Wrong question
- **C** Vague and unsupported
- **C-** Very unclear and confusing; or No argument
- **D+** Unclear and misunderstood; or Incorrect/missing citations throughout
- **D** Very poor
- **D-** Extremely poor
- **F** Lacking even minimal effort; or Dishonesty
The instructor will not accept late papers in the absence of a medical or other substantive excuse. Students seeking to submit a late paper must contact the instructor before the deadline and may be required to provide documentation and/or accept a grade reduction. Papers submitted electronically before the deadline will not be counted as late, provided that a printed version is submitted to the instructor’s office within 24 hours. The instructor will only grade papers submitted both electronically (via email) and in hard copy.

If you need help with finding appropriate library resources, please schedule an appointment with Linda McFadden, Reference Librarian (email: lmm8@calvin.edu, phone: x6–8455) or stop by the Research Assistance Desk at the Hekman Library, which is staffed by a research librarian 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. weekdays.

Examinations

The mid-term and final examinations will be weighted as 10% and 20% of the final course grade, respectively. Both examinations will be comprised primarily of short answer questions and will be given on the dates noted below. The mid-term examination is intended to provide feedback on how well students understand basic course concepts, while the final examination is intended to assess students’ mastery of course concepts and their application to international politics. Students may opt to take an oral final examination, which will cover a narrower range of topics in greater depth than the written examination will.

The instructor will not administer makeup exams in the absence of a medical or other substantive excuse. Students seeking to excuse a missed exam should contact the instructor as soon as possible and may be required to provide appropriate documentation and/or accept a grade reduction. No early exams will be given, except as required for extracurricular activities. The instructor will distribute handouts throughout the semester which, together with the syllabus, will serve as a study guide to help students prepare for the examinations.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The student–faculty relationship is based on trust and mutual respect, which can be seriously undermined by the suspicion or reality of academic dishonesty. If you are in doubt about whether some form of assistance or use of materials constitutes academic dishonesty, please see the instructor. In all instances, the instructor expects that students will adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Students will not take words from any source without putting quotation marks around such words and giving credit to the source using a proper citation. This includes sentences and phrases, as well as significant words, such as those that express opinion or judgment. In paraphrasing (even with a proper citation), students will not use words so close to those contained in the source that, if a student’s work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that the student could not have written what s/he did except by borrowing directly from the source with only superficial changes.

2. Students will not take findings, concepts, or ideas from any source without giving credit to the source using a proper citation. This includes facts that are not general knowledge, as well as opinions, judgments, and conclusions.

3. Students will organize their thoughts and ideas according to a plan of their own creation. To the extent that a student’s plan of organization is based upon another source, s/he will give credit to that source using a proper citation.

4. Students will not cite sources that they have not actually read. If a student would like to use citations from another source (without actually reading the material cited), s/he must give credit to the source containing the citations and indicate clearly that the citations were taken from that source without having been read (usually by combining the citations with the words “cited in” followed by a citation to the source from which the citations were taken).

5. Students will neither ask nor allow someone else to write, revise, or otherwise modify their work in any way, nor reuse papers submitted in other courses or written by other students. Students are encouraged to solicit comments and suggestions from fellow students and/or from the Rhetoric Center, but what they submit must ultimately be their own work, which may or may not incorporate such comments and suggestions.
Any violation of these guidelines and/or other rules contained within the Student Conduct Guide will result in an F for the assignment and/or other appropriate disciplinary action, at the instructor’s discretion.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The college will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students seeking accommodation should notify both the instructor and the Coordinator of Services to Students with Disabilities (Hiemenga Hall 455) within the first two weeks of the semester and make appropriate arrangements.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following are required texts for this course and are available for purchase at the bookstore.


Other supplemental journal articles and book sections are available online as noted in the syllabus. Access to certain websites is available only via a Calvin College internet connection or via the Hekman Library website. The instructor will distribute supplemental news articles throughout the semester, as well as detailed instructions for finding online journal articles.

COURSE READINGS

[Please note the page numbers listed below, as only selected pages of certain articles or book sections are assigned.]

Part I: Theories of International Organization

**September 9, 11 – Anarchy, Uncertainty, and International Institutions**


**September 14, 16 – Hegemony and International Institutions** (Homework #1 due September 16)

Oye, Kenneth A. 1985. “Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy.” Reread pages 1–9 and then read pages 18–20. [see above]


September 18 – Hegemony and the Postwar International Order

September 21, 23 – Institutions as Enablers of Cooperation (Homework #2 due September 23)

September 25 – IGOs as Formalized Institutions

September 28, 30 – The Quasi-Governmental Role of NGOs (Homework #3 due September 30)

October 2, 5 – Legitimacy, Compliance, and the Functioning of International Law (Topic #1 due October 5)

October 7 – International Law and International Organizations
October 9 – Situational Context and Relative Gains


October 12, 14 – Ideological Context, Organizational Autonomy, and Democratic Deficit (Homework #4 due)


October 16 – Accountability, Legitimacy, and Global Civil Society


October 19, 21 – Implementation, Marketization, and Radical Activism


[Writing Assignment #1 due at the beginning of class on October 21]

October 23 – MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Part II: The Post-World War II International Order

October 26 – The United Nations: Collective Security and International Order


October 28 – The United Nations: Sovereignty, Legitimacy, and Authority


**October 30 – The United Nations: Peacekeeping, Financing, and Adaptability** (Topic #2 due)


**November 2 – NATO: Multilateralism and Collective Action** (Homework #5 due)


**November 4 – ACADEMIC ADVISING**

November 6

[NO CLASS: INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2]

**November 9 – NATO: Collective Action and the Problem of Adaptability**


**November 11 – The EU: Multilateralism and Regional Integration**


**November 13, 16 – The EU: Delegation and Supranational Agency** (Homework #6 due November 13)


November 18 – The WTO: Bargaining and Enforcement  (Topic #3 due)

November 20 – The WTO: Bargaining and Enforcement (cont’d)  (Homework #7 due)

November 23, 25
[NO CLASS: INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 AND #3]

November 27 – THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 30 – The IMF: Transaction Costs and Information

December 2, 4 – The IMF, the World Bank, and the Challenges of Economic Globalization
[WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON DECEMBER 4.]

Part III: The Future of Global Governance

December 7 – Governing the Global Commons  (Homework #8 due)
December 9 - Human Rights, Universal Jurisdiction, and Harmonization


December 17 - FINAL EXAMINATION [9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.]

[Writing Assignment #3 due at the beginning of the examination period.]

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