

# International Organizations

POSC 4611

Marquette University

Spring 2017  
T TH 2:00pm-3:15pm  
Olin Engineering 128

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## Course description

International Governmental Organizations (IOs) play a central role in today's international political order. Yet recent developments in world politics are leading many to question the viability of that order and the future of IOs in it. With that context as a backdrop, this course introduces students to what IOs do, how they do it, and why states empower them to do so. The course begins by exploring the historical origins of today's liberal internationalist order and the values underlying it. Our goal in doing so is to understand how we got here and where we are going in regards to the roles of IOs in international politics and global governance. The rest of the course is divided into three main units that each explore the work of IOs today in particular issue areas. The first is security and conflict resolution. We will examine the different ways that the United Nations seeks to address threats to international peace and security, including an in-depth look at the practice and politics of peacekeeping. The second issue area is finance and development. We will examine the array of international institutions that seek to promote economic stability and provide assistance to countries in improving the quality of life for their citizens. The third issue area is the provision of assistance in humanitarian crises. Today, there are more people displaced from their homes than any time since World War II, and we will examine the possibilities and limits for IOs to address this and similar types of humanitarian emergencies. Throughout all four units, we will pay particular attention to four overarching questions: 1) Why do states work through IOs? 2) What types of powers can IOs wield? 3) What factors contribute to IOs' success or failure? 4) And what is the future of IOs and their role in the liberal internationalist order?

## Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the structure, duties, and activities of the League of Nations, United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Health Organization, and UN Peacekeeping.

- Identify some of the political dilemmas and challenges IOs face generally and explain how these manifest in each of the organizations we examine.
- Identify the different forms of power IOs are able to exercise and discuss examples of how these are wielded by each IO we examine.
- Discuss with examples some of the benefits states receive from working through IOs
- Discuss some of the factors that contribute to IOs' success or failure.
- Apply and synthesize concepts and arguments from class material to analyze current events relating to IOs.

### Grading scale

A	93+	4.0
AB	87-92.9	3.5
B	82-86.9	3.0
BC	77-81.9	2.5
C	72-76.9	2.0
CD	67-71.9	1.5
D	60-66.9	1.0
F	below 60	0.0

### Requirements and grading

Participation	10%
Office meetings	10%
Quizzes (10)	15%
Midterm	25%
Bibliography	10%
Research paper	30%

**Attendance:** You are required to attend every class. I do not deduct points for absences. If you must miss class for some reason, you are responsible for everything we cover during your absence. *Do not contact me to find out what you missed.* Instead, it is your responsibility to contact your classmates to get up to speed.

**Participation (10%):** You are expected to participate in class discussion and group activities. You will be graded on the quality and quantity of your participation. Quality participation means not only answering questions, but also thoughtfully and constructively responding to other students' comments. If you do not participate at all, you will get 0 points for participation. It is my goal to promote an inclusive and encouraging environment for class participation. If you feel that there are factors holding

you back from participating, please come talk to me so we can try to figure out how to overcome them.

**Office meetings (10%):** You are required to attend two meetings in my office over the course of semester. One must be sometime prior to the midterm, and the other must be sometime after. The first meeting will be a chance for me to get to know you a little better and for you to discuss your preliminary ideas for the research paper. The purpose of the second meeting will be to discuss your progress on the research paper and assess whether you are on the right track. Scheduling details will be discussed in class.

**Quizzes (15%):** You will be given up to ten quizzes on the reading throughout the semester. These will be unannounced and short. The point of the quizzes is to ensure that you are doing the reading. They are designed so that if you have done the reading, they will be easy and not require any additional studying. There are no make-up quizzes for missed classes.

**Midterm (25%):** The midterm will mostly be short answer questions and will be designed to test your knowledge of the material covered through the first half of the semester. I will provide more details in class.

**Bibliography (10%) and research paper (30%):** Detailed instructions for the research paper and accompanying bibliography assignment will be posted on D2L.

### Knowledge of current events

This course makes frequent use of examples from current events. You will get more out of the class and write better papers if you regularly follow ongoing developments in international politics. I recommend selecting a news source that has extensive international coverage – there are not many – and reading the whole thing every day. The best are the *New York Times*, *Reuters*, the *BBC*, and the *Financial Times*. The *Washington Post*, *NPR*, and the *Guardian* also offer high quality international reporting, though less of it. The *New York Times* and *Financial Times* websites have paywalls, but they are worth it and offer highly discounted student rates. The *Washington Post* offers free digital subscriptions to students. In general, with the exception of the *PBS NewsHour*, avoid any media that are primarily television-based (e.g. CNN, MSNBC, Fox) or those which are sensationally partisan (e.g. Breitbart, Huffington Post). Do not rely on your Facebook feed or news aggregators as your primary sources of news.

For additional coverage, *Foreign Policy* magazine and the Council on Foreign Relations (which publishes *Foreign Affairs*) both publish excellent daily email news briefs that summarize the day's international news and which you can subscribe to for free. There are also two news services focused specifically on the United Nations: the *UN News Centre* (the UN's in-house news service) and *UN Wire* (a private organization that

compiles UN-related news). The Council on Foreign Relations also publishes a blog called *The Internationalist*, which provides commentary on current events related to international organizations.

### Required texts

There are two books required for this course. All other assigned readings will be uploaded to D2L.

- Mark Mazower, ***Governing the World: The History of an Idea, 1815 to the Present***. Penguin Books (2012) (ISBN: 9780143123941)
- John Holmes, ***The Politics of Humanity: The Reality of Relief Aid***. Head of Zeus (2013) (ISBN: 9781781850916)

### Other policies

**Reading:** You are expected to complete all the assigned readings prior to the meeting in which they are due. You are responsible for everything contained in them – even material I do not discuss in class. You are also required to bring the readings with you to class.

**Paper formatting:** You are required to use the Chicago style author-date citation system for your papers. I will deduct points for failure to adhere to the Chicago style citation system. A guide to the Chicago style citation system can be found here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

**Late and make-up assignments:** No late assignments whatsoever will be accepted without notice and permission at least 24 hours prior the start of class in which the assignment is due. If you are unable to attend class in person to turn in your assignment, I expect you to email it to me no later than the start of class in which the assignment is due. There are no make-up exams without notice and permission at least 24 hours prior the start of class in which the exam is scheduled to take place. Make-up exams will only be granted for exams missed due to the following circumstances: 1) Absences resulting from legal obligations (such as jury duty); 2) Absences due to religious observances; 3) Absences resulting from university sanctioned activities and related travel; 4) Absences resulting from a serious illness; 5) Absences resulting from a family emergency.

**Electronics:** In general, laptops *may not* be used in class. An exception is if I ask you to bring your laptops to class in order to carry out an activity that I assign. If you believe that you benefit greatly from using your laptop to take notes, then you may receive a waiver *only* if come to my office hour and ask for permission. You may not use your cell phones during class for any purpose.

**Disabilities and accessibility:** If you have any disabilities that require special accommodations, please bring them to my attention as early as possible in the semester so that we may determine what remedies are available.

**Academic integrity:** Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, or fraud, will not be tolerated whatsoever on any assignment. Any and all cases of academic misconduct will be reported immediately to the administration. I operate on the assumption that you know what constitutes an act of plagiarism. If you are ever unsure whether your writing would constitute plagiarism, you should contact me to clarify. The University's definitions of and policies on academic misconduct can be found here: <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#academicintegrity>

### Help with your writing

The Ott Memorial Writing Center offers free one-on-one consultations for all writers, working on any project, at any stage of the writing process. Marquette's writing center is a place for *all* writers who care about their writing, because *every* writer can benefit from conversation with an interested, knowledgeable peer. Writing center tutors can help you brainstorm ideas, revise a rough draft, or fine-tune a final draft. You can schedule a 30- or 60-minute appointment in advance (288-5542 or [www.marquette.edu/writing-center](http://www.marquette.edu/writing-center)), but walk-ins (in 240 Raynor or the other satellite locations) are also welcome.

### Academic work and mental health

As a student, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation, trauma, a loss of loved ones, eating disorders, or bullying. These mental health concerns or stressful events may diminish your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Confidential services are available at the Marquette Counseling Center 24 hours a day, and treatment does work. You can learn more about confidential mental health services available on campus at <http://www.marquette.edu/counseling/>. Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do – for yourself and for those who care about you.

If someone you know needs support, is distressed, or exhibits concerning behavior, help them by reaching out and offering to accompany them to the counseling center or to identify relevant services.

## Schedule

### **I. The History and Origins of Modern Internationalism**

**January 17:** Course introduction

- No assignment.

**January 19:** The Concert of Europe and the modern origins of internationalism

- *Read course syllabus and instructions for “Global issue expert research project”*
- Mazower, Introduction, Prologue, and Ch. 1.

**January 24:** Scientific internationalism and other varieties of internationalism

- Mazower, Chs. 2 and 4.

**January 26:** The League of Nations

- Mazower, Ch. 5.

**January 31:** Competing internationalisms in the inter-war period, and the creation of the UN

- Mazower, Chs. 6 and 7

**February 2:** The modern liberal internationalist order

- John Ikenberry, “Liberal Internationalism 3.0: America and the Dilemmas of Liberal World Order.” *Perspectives on Politics* (vol. 7, no. 1, 2009).
- Antony Blinken, “What Is America Without Influence? Trump Will Find Out.” *New York Times* (Dec. 13, 2016).

**February 7:** The structure and operation of the UN

- Margaret Karns, Karen Mingst, and Kendall Stiles, "The United Nations: Centerpiece of Global Governance." Ch. 4 in *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance* (2015), pp. 109-140.
- Somini Sengupta, "António Guterres, Sworn In as U.N.'s Next Leader, Must Factor Trump Into His Plans," *New York Times* (Dec. 12, 2006).

**II. The Global Governance of Security and Conflict Resolution**

**February 9:** The UN's role in safeguarding international peace and security

- Margaret Karns, Karen Mingst, and Kendall Stiles, "The Search for International Peace and Security." Ch. 7 in *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance* (2015), pp. 279-317.
- UN Charter (skim).  
Pay particular attention to the Preamble and Articles 2(1), 2(4), 2(7), 24(1), 24(2), 42, and 51.
- Somini Sengupta and Jane Perlez, "U.N. Stiffens Sanctions on North Korea, Trying to Slow Its Nuclear March," *New York Times* (Nov. 30, 2016).

**February 14:** The UN Security Council and the Iraq Wars

- James Cockayne and David Malone, "The Security Council and the 1991 and 2003 Wars in Iraq." Ch. 8 in *The United Nations Security Council and War*, ed. Lowe et al. (2008).

**February 16:** The legitimacy of the UN Security Council

- Ian Hurd, "Legitimacy, Power, and the Symbolic Life of the UN Security Council." *Global Governance* (vol. 8, no. 1, 2002).
- Somini Sengupta and Rick Gladstone, "Rebuffing Israel, U.S. Allows Censure Over Settlements," *New York Times* (Dec. 23, 2016).

**February 21:** How peacekeeping works

- Virginia Fortna, "Peacekeeping and the Peacekept." Ch. 1 in *Does Peacekeeping Work?* (2008), pp. 1-8 only.
- Virginia Fortna, "A Causal Theory of Peacekeeping." Ch. 4 in *Does Peacekeeping Work?* (2008).
- Meressa Dessu, "The UN Mission in South Sudan Has Failed – But It Wasn't Given the Support to Succeed," *Mail & Globe Africa* (Dec. 7, 2016).

**February 23:** Case studies of where peacekeepers go

- Virginia Fortna, "Where Peacekeepers Go." Ch. 3 in *Does Peacekeeping Work?* (2008).

**February 28:** Case studies of how peacekeeping works

- Virginia Fortna, "How Peacekeeping Works." Ch. 6 in *Does Peacekeeping Work?* (2008).

**March 2:** What's wrong with peacekeeping: Ignoring local grievances

- *Preliminary bibliography due*
- Séverine Autesserre, "The Trouble with Congo," *Foreign Affairs* (vol. 83, no. 3, 2008).
- Séverine Autesserre, "Trouble in Peaceland," *Foreign Policy* (Oct. 6, 2015).
- "Never-ending Mission," *The Economist* (May 21, 2016).

**March 7:** What's wrong with peacekeeping: Bureaucratic culture

- Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, "Genocide and the Peacekeeping Culture at the United Nations." Ch. 5 in *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics* (2004).



**March 9: MIDTERM**

*SPRING BREAK!!*

### **III. The Global Governance of Development and Finance**

**March 21:** The evolution of the modern development regime

- Sarah Babb and Nitsan Chorev, “International Organizations: Loose and Tight Coupling in the Development Regime,” *Studies in Comparative International Development* (vol. 51, no. 1, 2016).
- Clár Ní Chonghaile, “What's the Best Bit of the UN? No 9: UN Development Programme,” *The Guardian* (Sep. 11, 2015).
- Shawn Donnan, “World Bank Lending at Record Since Aftermath of Financial Crisis,” *Financial Times* (Apr. 10, 2016).

**March 23:** From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals

- John McArthur, “Own the Goals: What the Millennium Development Goals Have Accomplished,” *Foreign Affairs* (vol. 92, no. 2, 2013).
- Malcolm Langford, “Lost in Transformation? The Politics of the Sustainable Development Goals,” *Ethics & International Affairs* (vol. 30, no. 2, 2015).
- Kate Donald and Sally-Anne Way, “Accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals: A Lost Opportunity?” *Ethics & International Affairs* (vol. 30, no. 2, 2015).

**March 28:** The IMF’s response to the global financial crisis

- Tamar Gutner, “The IMF and the Global Financial Crisis.” Ch. 8 in *International Organizations in World Politics* (2017).

### **March 30:** Change in the World Bank and IMF

- Andrew Rice, “Is Jim Kim Destroying the World Bank – or Saving It from Itself?” *Foreign Policy* (Apr. 27, 2016).
- Lesley Wroughton, Howard Schneider and Dina Kyriakidou, “How the IMF’s Misadventure in Greece is Changing the Fund,” *Reuters* (Aug. 28, 2015).
- Alexander Kentikelenis, Thomas Stubbs and Lawrence King, “Did the IMF Actually Ease up on Structural Adjustment? Here’s What the Data Say,” *The Monkey Cage* (Jun. 2, 2016).

### **April 4:** Why states work through IOs

- Kenneth Abbot and Duncan Snidal, “Why States Act through Formal International Organizations,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (vol. 42, no. 1, 1998), pp. 3-5, 9-23 only.
- Joby Warrick, “U.N. Watchdog: Iran Nuclear Deal Appears to be Working So Far, But Inspectors are ‘Stretched,’” *Washington Post* (Jun. 3, 2016).

### **April 6:** The World Health Organization’s responses to Ebola and Zika

- Laurie Garrett, “Ebola’s Lessons: How the WHO Mishandled the Crisis.” *Foreign Affairs* (vol. 94, no. 5, 2015).
- Amy Patterson, “Here’s why the WHO responded so differently to Zika and Ebola,” *The Monkey Cage* (Apr. 4, 2016).

## **III. The Global Governance of Humanitarian Relief**

### **April 11:** The international humanitarian system and humanitarian relief under state breakdown in Somalia

- Holmes, Introduction, Chapter 6
- Christian Caryl, “If You Think Europe Has a Refugee Crisis, You’re Not Looking Hard Enough,” *Foreign Policy* (Jan./Feb. 2016).

## EASTER BREAK

### **April 18:** Humanitarian relief in civil wars: South Sudan and Sri Lanka

- Holmes, Chapters 3 and 4.

### **April 20:** Humanitarian relief following natural disasters: Myanmar and Haiti

- Holmes, Chapters 6 and 10.
- Clár Ní Chonghaile, "What's the best bit of the UN? No 3: The World Food Programme," *The Guardian* (Sep. 8, 2015).

### **April 25:** Humanitarian relief in geopolitical hotspots: Gaza, Afghanistan, and Pakistan

- Holmes, Chapters 8 and 9.

### **April 27:** Humanitarian relief for Syrian refugees and the future of crisis aid

- Holmes, Chapter 14.
- Eliza Griswold, "Why Is It So Difficult for Syrian Refugees to Get Into the U.S.?" *New York Times Magazine* (Jan. 20, 2016).

### **May 2:** TBA

### **May 4:** What is the future of the liberal internationalist order?

- Stewart Patrick, "World Weary," *Foreign Affairs* (Oct. 20, 2015).
- Amitav Acharya, "The Future of Global Governance: Fragmentation May Be Inevitable and Creative," *Global Governance* (vol. 22, no. 4, 2016).
- Jane Perlez, "China Creates a World Bank of Its Own, and the U.S. Balks," *New York Times* (Dec. 4, 2015).