PS420/520: International Organization
Ronald Mitchell
Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time: T-Th 10:00-11:20</th>
<th>Office Hours: PLC-921 on Tues/Thurs 11:30-1:00, by signup and appt.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Website on Blackboard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmitchel@uoregon.edu">rmitchel@uoregon.edu</a>; Phone: 346-4880</td>
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, we will answer three main questions:

- What types of problems do governments have to overcome in the international realm? How does the structure of these problems influence how hard they are to resolve?
- What sorts of solutions do governments devise to address those problems? What factors determine which solutions are successfully negotiated and which are rejected?
- What determines why some of those solutions are effective and some are not? How can we accurately assess the effectiveness of international institutions at influencing state behavior?

We will examine these questions by studying international security, trade, human rights, and environment. We will discuss the roles that non-state actors, information, and norms play in international relations. It is NOT a course describing the United Nations system or the bureaucratic structure of other international bureaucracies. It is a course on the “organization” of the international system rather than on international organizations. The course will study theories that explain why states succeed or fail at creating institutions for international governance and theories of which institutions are effective and under what conditions. You will develop a theoretical perspective on these questions and learn to evaluate trends across issue areas, with the goal of improving your ability to analyze how well theories do at explaining particular patterns of facts (rather than simply learning the facts themselves).

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND I-C ticker**

The reading load is quite heavy in this class. Readings will be on the course Blackboard site. Although the class is large, I try to make discussion a valuable part of most class sessions. Having done the reading will be essential to classes being interesting and enlightening.

- Online readings: all readings besides Young are on Blackboard and are designated as Online Reading.
- For required quizzes, you will need to have an I-clicker. You can buy/use your own, borrow one from a friend, or buy an I-clicker app for your smartphone. Instructions will be available on the Blackboard site.
- Daily reading of the *New York Times* is encouraged. Read online, in the library or check the UO Bookstore.

**EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Understand how the political structure of international problems varies across the issues of security, trade, human rights, and environment. Recognize the ways in which the power and incentives that lead states to engage in behaviors that cause collective problems make some problems harder to resolve than others.
- Recognize the relationship between problem structure characteristics and the design of the international institutions that states create. Understand why certain design features will never be used to address certain types of problems. Know the difference between regulatory, procedural, programmatic, and generative regimes, when they are likely to be adopted, and the different core elements of any international institution.
- Be able to assess whether an international institution has influenced state behavior and identify the key factors that make it more or less likely that an international institution will succeed in doing so.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills, including the use of counterfactuals, through midterms and a final exam. Show the ability to using empirical evidence to assess theoretical claims about the design and effectiveness of international institutions.

**ESTIMATED STUDENT WORKLOAD / HOW GRADES WILL BE DETERMINED**

Student workload involves 120 hours for this 4-credit course. Time and percent for components are detailed below.

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<tr>
<th>Class element</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grad students only: 5 “Additional readings” (see end of syllabus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plagiarism assignment: required but no points: Read Blackboard assignment and my plagiarism policy (below), Come in with questions.</td>
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Two quizzes: quizzes will end at 10:10 sharp. See dates below.

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>5% each (10% total)</th>
<th>2 each (prep) (4 total)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Two in-class midterms:</td>
<td>25% each (50% total)</td>
<td>13 each (prep) (26 total)</td>
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<td>Take-home final:</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Graduate student research paper (instead of final): 25 pages / 35% of grade</td>
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Graduate students only: 25 page research paper instead (see below)

Students with disabilities who have a disability, I encourage you to notify me if any aspects of my instruction methods or course design result in barriers to your participation. If you contact Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or uoac@uoregon.edu If you have already been in contact with Accessible Education Center and have a notification.
letter, please provide me with a statement from Accessible Education Center during the first week of class so that we can make appropriate arrangements. University policy requires that students present a notification letter from AEC to receive testing accommodations (see http://aec.uoregon.edu/students/current.html ).
PS 420/520: International Organization

Introduction

Tues., Week 1:  Introduction:
No readings. First day of class

Thurs., Week 1:  International Organization: an introduction
Assignment “Plagiarism” due by end of week 1: Complete online readings regarding plagiarism!

- Young, Ch. 1

Differences in the Structure of International Problems

Tues., Week 2:  Problem Structure Theory: Part 1
- Young, Ch. 3

Thurs., Week 2:  Problem Structure Theory: Part 2
Quiz #1 at beginning of class – quiz will end at 10:10 for all students, even those who show up late.


Tues., Week 3:  Problem Structure: Trade, and the European Union (guest lecture by Dr. Craig Parsons, UO Political Science)

Thurs., Week 3:  Problem Structure: Security

Tues., Week 4:  Problem Structure: Human Rights and Environment

Thurs., Week 4:  Midterm Exam #1
Midterm Exam #1 in class

The Formation and Design of International Institutions

Tues., Week 5:  Institutional Formation Theory: Part 1
- Young, Ch. 2

**Thurs., Week 5: Institutional Formation Theory: Part 2**

| Grad students only: 1st draft of paper: 5-10 pages that lay out your research question, including at least 5 citations to references not from the course due on October 30. |


**Tues., Week 6: Institutional Formation: Security and Trade**

| Quiz #2 at beginning of class – quiz will end at 10:10 for all students, even those who show up late. |


**Thurs., Week 6: Institutional Formation: Human Rights and Environment**


**Tues., Week 7: Midterm Exam #2**

| Midterm Exam #2 |

**The Effects and Effectiveness of International Institutions**

**Thurs., Week 7: Institutional Effectiveness Theory: Part 1**

- Young, Ch. 4 AND Ch. 5

**Tues., Week 8: Institutional Effectiveness Theory: Part 2**


**Thurs., Week 8: Institutional Effectiveness: Security and Trade**

| Grad students only: 2nd draft of paper: 7-15 pages that demonstrate clear progress in providing a developed lit review and the beginnings of the application of that lit review to the case or cases of institutions that you plan to analyze with your theory. |

- Syria’s Chemical Weapons: Read the following websites and think about the influence of international institutions on Syria’s destruction of its chemical weapons
  - Various. 2014. Destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons. *Wikipedia*

**Tues., Week 9: Institutional Effectiveness: Human Rights and Environment**


**Thurs., Week 9:**

*Thanksgiving Break -- No Class*
Conclusions

**Tues., Week 10: Institutional Effectiveness: Review**
- Young, Ch. 6 AND 7

**Thurs., Week 10: Review of Class Theory and Substance and “The Future of Global Governance”**
- Young, Ch. 8
- Review all previous class readings and come to class with questions

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<th>Undergraduates Take-Home Final Exam</th>
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Additional Optional Readings

Below are additional readings that I have not assigned for the class but that interested students may want to read. They also provide a place for graduate students to start (and include in) their research. Also, ANY articles in the journals: International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, World Politics, or International Studies Perspectives are great places to start doing further research on international organization and the topics covered in this course. These are NOT available online (despite below) but are available via http://libweb.uoregon.edu/