

# PS 436G: International Organization

Dogus Aktan

Fall, 2023

## Course Time and Location

T / TR  
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm  
Whitehall Classroom 219

## Contact Information

dogus.aktan@uky.edu  
Office Hours: By Appointment

## 1 Course Description

This course explores the role of international organizations (IOs) in world politics. We examine international organizations through two main analytical perspectives. First, we explore why and how states design IOs to strategically pursue their goals. Second, we look at IOs as from an organizational perspective, examining their own incentives, strengths, and pathologies. Having familiarized ourselves with these analytical approaches, we look at performance of IOs in various issue areas such as development, climate, and human rights.

## 2 Course Objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Be familiar with academic arguments explaining the creation, design, and influence of international organizations.
- Be rigorous consumers of academic research, who can evaluate theoretical arguments as well as empirical evidence on the role of international organizations.
- Be able have a firm basis for analyzing global governance of various issue areas on their own.
- Be sophisticated consumers and participants of policy debates around global governance and international organizations.

### 3 Course Readings and Expectations

There are no required books to buy for this course. We will discuss a variety of readings from academic journals, excerpts from various textbooks, and the popular press. All readings will be made available on Canvas.

I don't assign a lot of readings but I expect you to do *all* of them *before* the class and be prepared to discuss them. I don't expect you to read every single word of every reading, but you should be able to extract key elements such as the author's goals, arguments, and the evidence they present.

I am aware some of the readings can be challenging at a first glance, particularly if they include methodologies you are not familiar with it. Don't be discouraged. The readings (both individual readings and the overall load) are chosen so the main arguments will be accessible to you. I will give you specific instructions (such as what sections to focus on) about each reading when necessary.

### 4 Class Format and Policy

The class format throughout will combine lecture and discussion, but the balance will hopefully shift from the former to the latter as the students gain familiarity with key perspectives and build confidence. While lectures are necessary, they are far from the best way to encourage and retain learning. Consequently, I expect students to come to class prepared and willing to engage with me, their classmates and the material.

Attendance is required and makes a significant portion of your participation grade. However, showing up to class is not sufficient to get a good participation grade and I expect active participation from all students. I understand some students might be too shy to speak up in the class even when they are attentive and interested. For those students, I offer the option of submitting an extra assignment to demonstrate their understanding of the material. Students willing to take this option must commit before the end of week 4.

### 5 Assignment and Exam Policy

All assignments and exams must be completed on time in order to pass this course. Make ups will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances such as documented and verified medical or family emergencies. All documentation corresponding to such emergencies should be forwarded to the professor. Per-

sonal reasons are insufficient excuses for making up missed assignments, exams, or quizzes.

All assignments must be submitted via Canvas. I do NOT accept assignments via e-mail.

I do not grade on a curve. Each student's work will be evaluated independently based on its quality. It is possible for every student in the class to get an A. However, getting such high marks will require hard work on your part.

If a student wishes to dispute their grade on an assignment, they must contact me within 48 hours of receiving their grade and set an appointment to discuss it. At this appointment they must bring a typed summary of the reasons why they believe the grade is unfair. I will then reevaluate the assignment on the basis of these reasons. All revised grades are final, and they may be lower than the original grade.

## 6 Evaluation and Grades

Your final grade is a weighted average of the following components:

- Class Participation: 20%
- Response Papers (2 Papers, 20 each): 40%
- Class Presentation: 10%
- Final Paper: 30%
- Optional Bonus Assignments

### 6.1 Grading Scale

The grading scale is:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
E	Below 60

## **6.2 Response Papers**

Students will prepare two response papers based on readings from a single week (e.g., “Mechanisms for IO Effectiveness”). This paper will review and evaluate the arguments of readings and their contribution to our understanding of IOs. Papers should focus on student’s own ideas and perspective rather than be simple summaries of the readings. The papers should be 3 double-spaced pages in length. They will be assigned after Modules 2 and 3.

## **6.3 Class Presentation**

Depending on the number of students, every student will have 2-3 presentations starting after module 1. These presentations will focus on initiating and leading class discussions around the session’s readings. Presentations can be done in groups or as individuals.

## **6.4 Final Paper**

You are required to write a 5-6 page paper in this course. This paper will choose one of the questions posted on canvas during finals period. Students will be asked demonstrate a firm grasp of analytical tools covered in the class and their application in a given issue area.

## **6.5 Optional Bonus Assignments**

Throughout the semester, there might be optional assignments. These assignments might come up in various ways. For example, there might be relevant current events that the syllabus could not have accounted for. Or, class discussions might come across interesting topics that we don’t get a chance to explore adequately. In these cases, I will come up with short assignments that are entirely voluntary. You will not get penalized for not doing them, but you will get bonus points if you choose to do them.

# **7 Policy on Student Questions**

I am always happy to answer student questions during office hours or over e-mail. I will generally reply to e-mails within 24 hours but make sure you send your questions in a timely manner. Keep in mind that most questions you may have (about assignments, policies, etc. . . ) can be answered by simply taking a close look at the syllabus. Every student should read the entire syllabus carefully at the beginning of the class and before sending me a question. When you have

finished reading the syllabus for the first time, send me an e-mail, telling me what your favorite animal is.

## 8 Administrative Policies

### 8.1 Absences From Classes and Exams

An absence will be considered unexcused unless you give me documentation of the absence as defined by the University (Senate Rule 5.2.4.2). Senate Rules 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor. According to SR 5.2.4.2, a student’s absence is excused for “Significant illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student’s household (permanent or campus) or immediate family.” University Health Services (UHS) has prepared a statement about class attendance and student illnesses. The statement discusses public health and policy reasons why a sufficiently ill student ought to be absent from class and circumstances when a student need not make a visit to UHS. UHS has defined three levels of documentation. A Tier 2 or Tier 3 form is required for an excused absence; Tier 1 forms will not be accepted. Students must forward the email to the professor.

The University Senate has indicated that excused absences for in-person participation include quarantine and other recommended/required absences by a medical, public-health, or government officials. Nonattendance will not be penalized during unscheduled university closings. Per Senate Rule 5.2.4.2, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible for informing the professor about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required) and, for making up the missed work. Senate Rules state that advance notice is required in three circumstances:

- Absence for a major religious holiday requires advance written notification. Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the professor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257- 3737), [http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents\\_ExcusedAbsences.php](http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php)
- Trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational

unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, when advance notice is feasible, require advance written notification. If advance notice is not feasible, the student must provide adequate notification and documentation within one week after the student's return to class.

- Interviews for full-time job opportunities post-graduation and interviews for graduate or professional school require advance notice.

These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Makeup exams will be allowed in the case of an extraordinary circumstance if accompanied by sufficient documentation within two days after the exam. More information on academic policies can be found at: <https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/acadpolicy>

## 8.2 Class Recording Notification

The University of Kentucky Student Code of Conduct defines Invasion of Privacy as using electronic or other devices to make a photographic, audio, or video record of any person without their prior knowledge or consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress. Meetings of this course may be recorded. All video and audio recordings of lectures and class meetings, provided by the instructors, are for educational use by students in this class only. They are available only through the Canvas shell for this course and are not to be copied, shared, or redistributed.

As addressed in the Student Code of Conduct, students are expected to follow appropriate university policies and maintain the security of linkblue accounts used to access recorded class materials. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not enrolled in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

If the instructor or a University of Kentucky office plans any other uses for the recordings, beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use. In anticipation of such cases, students may be asked to complete an "authorization of use" form by a faculty member.

Video and audio recordings by students are not permitted during the class unless the student has received prior permission from the instructor. Any sharing, distribution, and or uploading of these recordings outside of the parameters of the class is prohibited. Students with specific recording accommodations approved by the Disability Resource Center should present their official documentation to the instructor.

All content for this course, including handouts, assignments, and PowerPoint lectures are the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be reproduced or sold without prior permission from the instructors. A student may use the material for reasonable educational and professional purposes extending beyond this class, such as studying for a comprehensive or qualifying examination in a degree program, preparing for a professional or certification examination, or to assist in fulfilling responsibilities at a job or internship.

### 8.3 Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. You are encouraged to review the University's policies regarding academic honesty, outlined in the University Senate Rules (6.3.1 & 6.3.2). The Ombud site also has information on plagiarism, which are available at: [http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents\\_AcademicIntegrity.php](http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_AcademicIntegrity.php). Be sure to familiarize yourself with UK's plagiarism policy. Not only will plagiarism of other work result in an automatic zero, but self-plagiarism, including multiple submissions of the same paper to different courses, will also result in an automatic zero.

### 8.4 Library Services

You can get personalized or group research assistance from reference librarians at Young Library. The Political Science Librarian is Taylor Leigh ([taylor.c.leigh@uky.edu](mailto:taylor.c.leigh@uky.edu)). Taylor can help you:

- Find sources for research projects .
- Identify and evaluate different kinds of sources.
- Navigate databases and the library catalog effectively.
- Perform a literature review
- Brainstorm keywords and subject terms

Taylor also maintains the Political Science Research Guide (<https://libguides.uky.edu/c.php?g=222933&p=1476312>), which is full of useful resources to help you in this class. Please contact Taylor directly with any questions regarding the library or research assistance.

## 8.5 Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. Disability Resource Center

University of Kentucky

725 Rose Street

Multidisciplinary Science Building

Suite 407 Lexington,

KY 40536-0082

(859) 257-2754

<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/>

## 8.6 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The University of Kentucky is committed to our core values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and human dignity, and a sense of community (Governing Regulations XIV). We acknowledge and respect the seen and unseen diverse identities and experiences of all members of the university community <https://www.uky.edu/regs/gr14>. These identities include but are not limited to those based on race, ethnicity, gender identity and expressions, ideas and perspectives, religious and cultural beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, age, ability, and socioeconomic status. We are committed to equity and justice and providing a learning and engaging community in which every member is engaged, heard, and valued.

We strive to rectify and change behavior that is inconsistent with our principles and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. If students encounter such behavior in a course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor of record and/or the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity. Students may also contact a faculty member within the department, program director, the director of undergraduate or graduate studies, the department chair, any college administrator, or the dean. All of these individuals are mandatory reporters under University policies.

For information on non-discrimination and Title IX policy, please visit: <https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/acadpolicy>



## **8.7 Resources Available to Students**

The University offers many resources for students, ranging from computer access to counseling services. More information on these services can be found at:  
<https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/student-resources>

## 9 Class Schedule

### Module 1: Introduction and Analytical Toolkit

#### Week 1: Introduction and Overview

- **August 22:** Introduction, Overview, Logistics
- **August 24:** Overview of Study of IOs
  - Lisa Martin and Beth Simmons “Theories and empirical studies of international institutions.” *International Organization*

#### Week 2: Analytical Toolkit: States and IOs

- **August 29:**
  - Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, “Principles of International Politics” (Introduction)
- **August 31:**
  - Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, “Principles of International Politics” (Chapters 7 & 9)

#### Week 3: Analytical Toolkit 2: IOs as Organizations

- **September 5:**
  - Deborah Avant, Martha Finnemore, Susan Sell, “Who governs the globe?” (Chapter 1)
- **September 7:**
  - Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore “The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations.” *International Organization*

### Module 2: Design & Effectiveness of IOs

#### Week 4: Institutional Design

- **September 12:**

- Barbara Koremenos, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal, “Rational Design: Looking Back to Move Forward” *International Organization*

- **September 14:**

- Kenneth Abbott and Duncan Snidal. “Hard and Soft Law in International Governance.” *International Organization*

### **Week 5: Vitality and Success of IOs**

- **September 19:**

- Julia Gray, “Life, Death, or Zombie? The Vitality of International Organizations.” *International Studies Quarterly*

- **September 21:**

- Michael Barnett and Etel Solingen “Designed to fail or failure of design? The origins and legacy of the Arab League” in *Crafting Cooperation Regional International Institutions in Comparative Perspective*

### **Week 6: Effectiveness of IOs**

- **September 26:**

- Emilie Hafner-Burton, “Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression.” *International Organization*
- Gabriele Spilker and Tobias Böhmelt. “The Impact of Preferential Trade Agreements on Governmental Repression Revisited” *Review of International Organizations*

- **September 28:**

- David Bosco, “Assessing the UN Security Council: A Concert Perspective.” *Global Governance*
- Michael Lipson, “Peacekeeping? Organized Hypocrisy?” *European Journal of International Relations*

### **Week 7: Mechanisms for IO Effectiveness**

- **October 3:**

- Beth Simmons, “Compliance with International Agreements.” *Annual Review of Political Science*

- Xinyuan Dai, “Why Comply? The Domestic Constituency Mechanism.” *International Organization*

- **October 5:**

- Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics.” *International Social Science Journal*
- Amanda Murdie and Dursun Peksen. “The Impact of Human Rights INGO Shaming on Humanitarian Interventions.” *Journal of Politics*

### Module 3: IOs in Specific Issue Areas

#### Week 8: Peacekeeping

- **October 10:**

- Page Fortna, “Does peacekeeping keep peace?: International intervention and the duration of peace after civil war.” *International Studies Quarterly*
- Hegre, Havard, Lisa Hultman, and Havard Mogleiv Nygard. “U.N. Peacekeeping Really can be Effective. Here’s How we Tabulated This.” *Washington Post*

- **October 12:**

- Allison Carnegie and Christoph Mikulaschek, “The Promise of Peacekeeping: Protecting Civilians in Civil Wars” *International Organization*
- Andrea Ruggeri, Han Dorussen, and Theodora-Ismene Gizelis, “Winning the Peace Locally: UN Peacekeeping and Local Conflict”, *International Organization*

#### Week 9: Human Rights

- **October 17:**

- Emilie M. Hafner-Burton, “International Regimes for Human Rights.”, *Annual Review of Political Science*
- Oona A. Hathaway, “Do Human Rights Treaties Make a Difference?” *The Yale Law Journal*

- **October 19:**

- James Raymond Vreeland, “Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture.” *International Organization*
- James R. Hollyer and B. Peter Rosendorff, “Why Do Authoritarian Regimes Sign the Convention Against Torture? Signaling, Domestic Politics and Non-Compliance.” *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*

### **Week 10: Brief Recap and Respite**

- **October 24:** Fall break, no class
- **October 26:** Recap and In-class Activity

### **Week 11: Environmental Protection and Climate Change**

- **October 31:**
  - Robert O. Keohane and David G. Victor, “The Regime Complex for Climate Change.” *Perspectives on Politics*
  - Margaret Karns and Karen Mingst, “International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance (Chapter 11)”
- **November 2:**
  - Daniel L. Nielson and Michael J. Tierney, “Delegation to International Organizations: Agency Theory and World Bank Environmental Reform” *International Organization*
  - Amanda Kennard “The Enemy of My Enemy: When Firms Support Climate Change Regulation.” *International Organization*

### **Week 12: Trade**

- **November 7:**
  - Judith Goldstein and Richard Steinberg “Regulatory Shift: The Rise of Judicial Liberalization at the WTO” in *The Politics of Global Regulation*
  - Richard Steinberg, “In the Shadow of Law or Power? Consensus-Based Bargaining and Outcomes in the GATT/WTO.” *International Organization*
- **November 9:**
  - Simon Lester and Huan Zhu, ”Disciplining China at the WTO.” *Cato at Liberty*

- Tom Miles, “U.S. and China tussle at WTO over legality of Trump tariffs,” *Reuters*
- Marc Wu, “A Free Pass for China.” *New York Times*
- Phelim Kine, “China joined rules-based trading system — then broke the rules” *Politico*

### **Week 13: Development and Aid**

- **November 14:**

- Stephen Nelson, “Playing Favorites: How Shared Beliefs Shape the IMF’s Lending Decisions.” *International Organization*
- Deborah Kay Elms, Review of *IMF and Economic Development* by James Raymond Vreeland

- **November 16:**

- Adam Przeworski, James Raymond Vreeland “The effect of IMF programs on economic growth.” *Journal of Development Economics*
- “UN steps up criticism of IMF and World Bank, the other pillars of the post-World War II global order” AP News

### **Week 14: Subject Determined by Student Vote**

- **November 21:**

- Readings TBD

- **November 23:** Thanksgiving, no class

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### **Week 15: Challenges to Legitimacy of IOs**

- **November 28:**

- Andrew Moravcsik, “Is There a Democratic Deficit in World Politics? A Framework for Analysis,” *Government and Opposition*
- Robert O. Keohane and Ruth Grant, “Accountability and Abuses of Power in World Politics,” *American Political Science Review*

- **November 30:**

- Michael Barnett, Ian Hurd, and Maria Pillinger, “How to Get Away with Cholera: The UN, Haiti, and International Law,” *Perspectives on Politics*

## Module 4: Wrapping Up: Synthesis and Conclusion

### Week 16

- **December 5:** Things that could (should) have been in the syllabus:
  - Readings TBD
- **December 7:** Overview and Final Paper Workshop