HSPS Tripos 2018-19

Pol 3 - International Organization

Paper Convener: Jason Sharman

Lecturers: Core: Jason Sharman, Giovanni Mantilla

Streams: Maja Spanu, Ian Shields

Supervisors: Giovanni Mantilla, Jason Sharman, Ian Shields, Mark Shirk

Aims

POL 3 (International Organization) aims to expand students’ knowledge and understanding of co-operation and conflict in the global system as introduced in POL 2. It does so by focusing on co-ordinated attempts to address global problems, on the many forms such co-ordination takes, and the role of power in these processes.

The course has the following objectives:
- to develop students’ understanding of the main theoretical approaches to the study of co-operation and conflict in international politics.
- to provide students with a basic grasp of the core purposes and functions of global governance institutions and actors (such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization and World Bank, and various non-state actors, such as Non-Governmental Organizations and private regulatory organizations).

Paper Description

How can international organizations (IOs) help to address the range of global security, economic, human rights and other problems we face today? How is power exercised over, within and by IOs? The course will analyze the major international institutions with the purposes of (a) developing students’ understanding of how the current system of global governance has evolved, (b) encouraging students to consider whether and how current patterns of international co-operation solve problems, and (c) inviting students to assess the extent to which these processes entrench or reduce power differentials in world politics.

At the theoretical level, the course will introduce students to competing perspectives on IOs, variously conceived as functional instruments of states in general and/or great powers in
particular, or culturally empowered bureaucratic actors with interests and agency of their own.

At the empirical level, the course will explore how co-operation problems in areas of international security, trade and finance, international law and human rights are addressed by states, IOs and other international actors, including NGOs and private actors.

**Course Structure**

The paper is divided into three main parts. Lectures and supervisions in the first survey major theoretical and conceptual debates in International Relations relating to processes of international organization. It begins by examining the demand for institutionalized co-operation in world politics, before analyzing how co-operation is possible under anarchy. Next, it introduces the major theoretical approaches to the study of international institutions.

The second part focuses on practices of institutionalized co-operation among states and non-state actors in different areas of global politics, from international security and arms control, to human rights, international law, trade, and financial regulation. This section of the paper further develops and applies the theories and concepts already introduced.

The third part consists of thematic streams that encourage students to explore more specific aspects of contemporary international governance in greater depth. Each stream consists of five or six lectures and two small-group seminars. One stream, taught by Maja Spanu examines international organizations in history with reference to international hierarchy and equality. A second stream, led by Ian Shields, will consider the role of non-state actors in global politics. Students will choose ONE stream. A brief description of each stream along with a list of lecture topics and readings can be found towards the end of this paper guide.

**Learning Aims**

POL 3 aims to help students develop a theoretical as well as practical understanding of the major institutions that govern contemporary global affairs, the nature of the problems these institutions strive to solve, and the causes and consequences of the strategies adopted to address these problems. After completing the course, students should be able to articulate the leading theoretical explanations within the field of International Relations for why international organizations and other actors involved in global governance exist, how they operate, and how they influence the behaviour of both states and non-state actors. Come exam time, students should be able to apply a range of theoretical arguments to analyze cases of international co-operation and conflict.

**Teaching and Assessment**

Students will attend a total of 25 or 26 lectures (depending on which track they choose) + one revision lecture for the course as a whole. In addition, they will have two group seminars, and four supervisions plus one revision supervision over the course of the academic year.

Supervisions are designed to allow in-depth discussion of the major themes and topics introduced in lectures in a small group setting. Students will submit a 2000-3000 words essay in advance of each supervision. The list of questions for each of the four supervisions can be found at the end of this course guide. The supervisions will take place around weeks 4, 6 and 8 in Michaelmas term and week 2 in Lent term, with the revision supervision in Easter.

The seminars will support the specialized streams, and are designed to help students grasp and reflect upon the broader themes introduced in the lectures and assigned readings for each track and relate those to the knowledge they have acquired in the core part of the course.
(lectures 1-20). This will in turn help prepare students for the final exam, which will feature questions that invite students to draw on knowledge gained throughout the course as a whole (as opposed to focusing on distinct weekly topics) in answering thematic questions. Seminars will be taught primarily through structured debate and discussion. There is no essay requirement for the seminars, but students may be asked to prepare ahead of seminars to discuss specific themes or questions.

Preparation for Lectures and Seminars

In order to get the most out of the paper, students are strongly encouraged to come fully prepared to lectures, having completed the required readings for each lecture. A list of supplementary readings is provided for each lecture topic to enable students to broaden and deepen their knowledge of individual topics.

Assessment

Assessment will be by written examination in Easter Term. Students will be given three (3) hours to answer two (2) questions. Questions will be thematic, being designed to encourage students to draw on and combine their knowledge of several lecture topics. A list of exam questions from the 2017/2018 exam is supplied at the end of this paper guide.

Readings

Below you will find a list of preparatory readings, grouped into two categories. The first category contains a couple of classic texts which can be considered foundational in the field of IO. Many later works build on and reference these classic texts, and it will therefore be a good idea for you to familiarize yourself with these as this will help you build a base of knowledge that will enable you to absorb the weekly readings more effectively. The second category is general textbooks on International Organization that you may wish to consult to gain a basic understanding of what types of IOs are out there and how they operate.

The weekly readings consist predominantly of journal articles and book chapters, which will generally be available electronically from the University Library’s e-journal resources or e-books provisions.

BACKGROUND TEXTS


RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS


1. International Organization before International Organizations? (JCS)

Thursday 4 October 2018, 10:00-11:00


Further Reading


2. US Hegemony and World Order (JCS)

Tuesday 9 October 2018, 10:00-11:00


Further Reading


3. Achieving Co-operation under Anarchy: The Role of Institutions (GM)

*Thursday 11 October 2018, 10:00-11:00*


Further Reading


4. Achieving Co-operation under Anarchy: The Role of Power (GM)

*Tuesday 16 October 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**


5. Rational Institutionalism (GM)

*Thursday 18 October 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**


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6. Whose Global Economy? (JCS)

**Tuesday 23 October 2018, 10:00-11:00**


**Further Reading**


7. Sociological Perspectives on International Institutions (GM)

*Thursday 25 October 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**


8. Making Poverty History? Development and Foreign Aid (JCS)

*Tuesday 30 October 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**


9. From Crisis to Crisis: Regulating Global Finance (JCS)

*Thursday 1 November 2018, 10:00-11:00*


Further Reading:


*Tuesday 6 November 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**


11. **Taming Violence in World Politics: The Laws of War, Arms Control, and Non-Proliferation** (GM)

*Thursday 8 November 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**

“Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”

“The Chemical Weapons Convention”


- Is Arms Racing Always Bad?


- Sources of Proliferation/Restraint


- More on Weapons Taboos


- Insider Views


For a basic introductory overview of the global non-proliferating regime, see

Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, Mette (2014) “Weapons Proliferation Regimes and Networks in International Governance’. In *International Relations: Continuity and Change in Global Politics* (Open University), Chapter 12.

12. The Politics of International Peace Keeping (GM)

*Tuesday 13 November 2017, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**


**13. Outside In: International Sources of Domestic Policies (JCS)**

*Thursday 15 November 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**


14. **Private Ordering of the Global Economy** (JCS)

*Tuesday 20 November 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Readings**


15. **International Law** (JCS)

*Thursday 22 November 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**


**16. Policing the Globe (JCS)**

*Tuesday 27 November 2018, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**


**17. Expanding International Governance: NGOs and Civil Society Actors** (GM)

*Thursday 29 November 2018, 10:00-11:00*

Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink (1998) *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Cornell University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.


**Further Reading**


**Lent Term**

**18. How Does International Law Enhance Respect for Human Rights?** (GM)

*Thursday 17 January 2019, 10:00-11:00*


**Further Reading**

- Some key readings on Compliance


- Human Rights Compliance


**19. How Do International Courts Impact World Politics?**

**Tuesday 22 January 2019, 10:00-11:00**


Recommended Readings:

20. From Global Governance to World Government? (JCS)

*Thursday 24 January 2019, 10:00-11:00*


Further Reading

** There follows a separate lecture/reading list for each of the three specialized tracks, which will comprise lectures 21-26. Each track will also feature two seminars. Students can ONLY follow seminars for ONE track **
Supervision Essay Questions,

**Supervision 1 Questions:**

1. How does the assumption of anarchy affect the prospect of international cooperation? Compare and contrast how Realists, Liberals and Social Constructivists theorise anarchy and its consequences.

2. Select and compare two of the main theoretical approaches discussed in the lectures and readings for this course. According to these approaches, why and how do states cooperate?

3. Barnett and Duvall argue that, "Since E.H. Carr, Realists have tended to treat power as the ability of one state to use material resources to get another state to do what it otherwise would not do. The tendency of the discipline to gravitate toward realism's view of power leads, ironically, to the underestimation of the importance of power in international politics." Evaluate this argument by discussing how other forms of power influence international politics.

4. How important is US leadership for global governance? Is the US still capable of playing the role of hegemon?

5. What lessons do historical instances of solving international co-operation problems provide us with today?

**Supervision 2 Questions:**

6. To what extent are international organizations the answer in preventing or responding to crises like the Great Depression of the 1930s or the financial crisis from 2007?

7. Can international organizations defend and advance the interests of the poor, weak and marginalized? As a general rule, do they?

8. What explains UN Security Council decision-making on military intervention? Why do states resort to it?

9. Has the United Nations since 1945 helped reduce the incidence of violence in world politics? In what areas has it proven more or less effective and why?

10. What are the main challenges facing the global non-proliferation regime today? How can these best be addressed?

**Supervision 3 Questions:**

11. Would the international trading system be more or less fair if the current system of global trade governance were abolished?

12. How can governmental and non-governmental international organizations become autonomous from states? Is such autonomy good or bad?

13. Does the rise of cross-border crime represent an example of the declining power of states or the increasing scope of their authority?
14. To what extent can firms and NGOs substitute for states in addressing global problems?

15. Do international rules and international organizations undermine democracy within states?

Supervision 4 Questions:

16. Does human rights law make a difference to respect for human rights globally? How can be best conceptualize and observe the impact of human rights law?

17. How do the laws of war work? To what extent can we assert that they are effective in curbing violence and why?

18. Is popular legitimacy important for international organizations? If so, why? If not, why not?

19. Is international law a restraint on power politics or a creature of it? In general, how do different theories approach the operation of international law?

20. How do international courts and tribunals shape the conduct of states and non-state actors? What factors explain their relative success or failure in doing so?

FINAL EXAM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

POL 3: International Organization

Exam Questions – Spring 2018

PLEASE ANSWER ANY TWO (2!) OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. What is the biggest impediment to international cooperation—distributional conflict or enforcement problems? Please consider how the two are related.

2. Can NGOs be trusted any more that states or for-profit companies in addressing global governance problems?

3. What are the most effective mechanisms through which NGOs influence global policies and practices?

4. In general, are international organizations more successful at preventing and responding to security crises or economic ones?

5. How might international organizations make states and their domestic institutions more alike? Would this be a positive or negative development?
6. The current US government is highly sceptical of the value of intergovernmental organizations. Is this because the US exercises less control over such organizations than previously?

7. Empirical investigations into UN peacekeeping suggest significant limitations to the UN’s ability to halt on-going conflicts or to prevent a recurrence of conflict in war-torn societies. What are the chief problems, and what might be done to render UN peacekeeping more effective?

8. Through what mechanisms do international human rights treaties produce changes in domestic practices? What is the general effectiveness of such treaties?

9. Barnett and Duvall distinguish between compulsory power and other, perhaps more subtle forms of power, such as ‘structural’, ‘institutional’ and ‘productive’ power. Discuss how different forms of power shape cooperation in an area of international cooperation of your choice.

10. Does the spread of increasingly powerful weapons of mass destruction mean that a world government is necessary or desirable?

11. Must humanitarian considerations prevail over the international prohibition on the use of force?

12. Discuss the proposition that there is no room for a right to self-defence in a system of functioning collective security?

13. Why do states delegate management and implementation of foreign aid to multilateral development organizations?