

# RPOS 375: International Organization

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University at Albany, SUNY  
Spring 2020

**Class Time:** M-W-F: 11:30AM-12:25PM

**Classroom:** LC 3B

**Office:** Humanities B-16

**Office Hours:** M & F, 10am-11am; 12:30pm-1:30pm

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## Course Description

This course studies the role of **international organizations** (IOs) in world politics and the development of global governance in international politics since the rise of the international liberal order. We learn about what the major theories of international relations say about international institutions and organizations, focusing our study in this course on understanding the role and functions of the United Nations, European Union, & World Trade Organization (WTO). We will also examine the role of the IMF and World Bank, African Union, and ASEAN and briefly study alternatives to the US-dominated international order. From our comparison of various IGOs, regimes, and institutions, we explore how international organizations help states work together to confront a number of challenges facing the international system, such as human rights and humanitarian intervention, climate change, collective security, and international trade to name a few.

## Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, students should:

1. have an understanding of major international organizations in the world politics, how they work, and how they influence world politics in the international system.
2. be able to discuss why states cooperate through international institutions and know the differences between institutions, regimes, and international organizations, why states create them, and how they enhance (or do not enhance) cooperation.
3. become familiar with key issues facing the international system and how international institutions, organizations, and/or regimes work to ameliorate them.
4. understand the theoretical debates about international institutions and international organizations and how these debates influence real-world policy.

## Required Materials

- iClicker (You must have the iClicker by Friday, January 31!)

Make sure your iClicker has working batteries and be sure to bring with you to each lecture. Students should have the iClicker ready by Friday, January 31 and register it through Blackboard.

## Required Textbooks

The following textbooks are required for the course:

- **WTO** – Narlikar, Amrita. 2005. *World Trade Organization: A Very Brief Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- **EU** – McCormick, John. 2017. *A Concise Introduction to the European Union*. 7th Edition. New York: Routledge.
- **UN** – Fasulo, Linda. 2015. *Insider's Guide to the UN*. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN: 9780300203653. [Be sure you get the 3rd edition!; **This work is available through the library as an ebook, however the library only has a single-use license so only one student can use the ebook at any given time; there is also a paper copy on reserve, too.**

Additional readings for the course can also be found in our course's Dropbox folder:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jofnb9svxg0etkb/AAAbWX7m1exwTE4mCZuz3iGBa?dl=0>

## Grading Policy

The course will be assessed on the University's **A-E scale**: A (93-100), A- (92-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77), C (76-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-67), D (66-63), D- (62-60), E (less than 60).

## Course Assessments

### iClicker & Class Participation: 20%

Students will need to purchase or rent an iClicker<sup>1</sup> from the University Bookstore, which we will use each class period. This is a key component to the course, **so you must bring your iClicker to every class**. You will be able to track your accumulated points in Blackboard.<sup>2</sup>

iClicker questions during lecture will be used to analyze and check your understanding and comprehension of the lecture and readings, generate class discussion, and other activities. **They will be used every class after Friday, January 31 - even during guest lectures.**

<sup>1</sup>I adapted this assessment using iClickers from the syllabus of Dr. Emily Ritter, who teaches at Vanderbilt, <https://www.emilyhenckenritter.com/courses>

<sup>2</sup>Students should **under no circumstances** use another classmate's iClicker to earn points for that student while they are absent. If you are caught engaging in this behavior, you and the absent student will be subject to the rules of academic integrity outlined in the syllabus.

Each lecture is worth **25 points**. Students will receive: **5 points** for “showing up,” **10 points** for answering iClicker questions, and up to **10 points** for correct responses to iClicker questions.

Your class participation grade is determined by the number of participation points you accumulate in each lecture over the course of the semester (which are earned by coming to class):

Participation Points	Participation	Grade	Participation Points	Participation	Grade
1140-1125	A	(93-100)	944-979	C+	(77-79)
1103-1139	A-	(90-92)	895-943	C	(73-76)
1066-1102	B+	(87-89)	859-894	C-	(70-72)
1029-1065	B	(83-86)	821-858	D+	(67-69)
980-1028	B-	(80-82)	772-820	D	(63-66)
			735-771	D-	(60-62)
			less than 734	E	59-0

**Earning additional participation points:** *Students can also earn extra points by submitting no more than two questions to the instructor through the discussion board on Blackboard at least 1 hour before the start of lecture. Questions must be engaging and relate to either the reading or previous lecture(s) to receive credit.*

**Make-Up Opportunities:** I understand that life happens, and you might miss class from time to time for illness, lack of interest, work schedules, and so forth. Students may make-up the missed class by writing a 1-page single spaced response paper. **Students can submit a maximum of four (4) response papers during the semester and no more than 1 response paper per week.** Response papers are not substitutes for attendance. They are due 13 days after Monday lecture in the week you missed (see Blackboard for due dates).

### Quizzes: 15%

To assess your understanding of the reading and to ensure that students are doing the reading, there will be weekly online quizzes of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions that students will take through Blackboard.

The quiz can be taken any time during the week but must be completed by Friday by 11:30 AM (before the start of Friday’s lecture). Quizzes are timed (they last 10 minutes; we can negotiate the time). **Once you begin the quiz, it must be completed.** You should do the reading before completing the quiz. Answers are revealed after Friday’s deadline. Blackboard closes the quiz automatically at 11:30 AM; if you fail to take the quiz, you will automatically receive a zero.

**Exception:** There will be ONE in-class quiz on the syllabus on Wednesday, 1/29.

**Warning on doing quizzes in class:** Students who do quizzes during lecture or class time will receive a zero.

**Midterm: 15%**

There will be a midterm exam consisting of a series of multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions midway through the semester that will take place during one of our 55-minute class sessions. **MIDTERM takes place on Wednesday, March 11 in lecture.** The midterm focuses on the readings between 1/24-2/21.

**Know an IO: 30%<sup>3</sup>**

Students will create a PowerPoint video presentation (5-7 minutes) and short script on an international organization, international institution, or international regime using PowerPoint (I'll provide instructions and a tutorial to show students how to create their video). A list of organizations, institutions, and regimes will be distributed after the add/drop period. Students may suggest their own object of study after consultation with the instructor. *A prompt will be provided.* Students will upload their script and video to Blackboard; the instructor will upload their videos to YouTube. **Due Sunday, March 29 by 11:59 PM.**

After the videos have been graded and screened, students will be responsible for viewing and studying those peers' contributions that we do not get to play/listen to in class. Content from videos will appear on quizzes and the final exam.

Students will be required to come to office hours for updates on the status of their project. Sign-up sheets will be provided online. *Please do not wait until the last minute to complete this assignment.*

**Final Exam: 20%**

The final exam will be an in-class final exam that will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Fifty-percent of the exam will be based **on assigned readings** and the other fifty-percent on class lectures and the videos each of you have made for your Know an IO project.

**Final Exam Takes Place on Thursday, May 7th from 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM in LC 3B. \*\*NOTE THAT THE EXAM TAKES PLACE ON A THURSDAY!**

**Course Policies****Academic Accommodation**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please go here: <http://www.albany.edu/disability/current.shtml>. You can arrange for an academic accommodation letter to be sent to me. If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this course, please also inform me as soon as possible.

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<sup>3</sup>Special thanks to Dr. Bryan Early for this assignment.

## Academic Integrity and Honesty

No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated in this course and will be reported to the Office of Community Standards. If you are struggling with the course, please email me or come see me so I can help you. For a good survey of potential dangers, visit this page: [http://www.albany.edu/etl/academic\\_integrity.php](http://www.albany.edu/etl/academic_integrity.php).

## Attendance Policy

There is no explicit attendance policy, however the majority of attendance points must be earned in lecture. If you miss class, do one of the response papers to make up the lost points. If you have an extenuating situation (illness, death in the family, other issue), please come see me about it.

## Cell Phones/Tablets/Computers

I would prefer that you do not use your phone in class. Tablets and computers may be used for legitimate in-class activities, such as taking notes *only*, although I recommend taking notes by hand. Students may record lectures with prior permission.

## Courtesy

During class discussions, the instructor and students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior. This means cooperating and interacting in a courteous, supportive, and tactful manner based on mutual respect for each other's ideas.

## Email Etiquette

Treat email as a formal means of communication and not as a text message. This means using proper salutations and closings (don't put your entire email in the subject line), having a proper subject line (so I know what your email is about), and being respectful.

## Grade Appeals

Grade appeals are permitted within 1 week of receipt of the grade and must be submitted in writing via email. Take note that *effort* is not a valid reason for a grade change.

## Late Penalties

The only late penalty for this course is the Know-an-IO project. Students lose 7-points per day 15 minutes after the due date; after the third day, the assignment will receive a zero.

## Make-Up Policy

*iClicker Activities*: If you miss a lecture, you can make up the lost iClicker/participation points by writing a short response paper. You can do this four (4) times during the semester but no more than once per week. Exceptions may be made; please come talk to me if attendance is becoming an issue.

**Quizzes:** If you fail to complete a weekly quiz, I may grant an extension, but you need to talk to me after class, come to office hours, or email me.

**Final Exam:** Do your best not to miss the final exam. If you miss the final exam, there may not be an opportunity to do a make-up exam during the exam period, and you will need to take the exam at the start of the Fall Semester.

## Office Hours

Professors have office hours so they can meet with students. You can come talk to me about class, material you do not understand, baseball, and so forth. If you are struggling or need help, my proverbial door (I do not really have a door in HU-16) is always open. I can also refer you to campus services if you need help that does not involve classwork. As a first-generation college student, I understand that being at university can be a lot of work, isolating, and challenging, and that it can be hard to live away from home. If you need help, ask for it!

I always stress to students *to maintain communication!* I can't know if you are going through something unless you tell me. Don't fail the class because of personal struggles. *My office hours are Mondays and Fridays before and after class. I can also be available at other times by appointment.*

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings<sup>4</sup>

Day	Date	Lecture	Reading	Pages <sup>5</sup>
W	1/22	Introduction	No Reading	
F	1/24	What is global governance?	Finkelstein 1995; Weiss and Wilkinson 2014	14
M	1/27	Challenges of Global Governance	Karns and Mingst 2015	44
W <sup>6</sup>	1/29	Liberal International Order 1.0-3.0	Ikenberry 2009	18
F	1/31	The cooperation debate	Mitchell 2006 (pp. 1-22) <sup>7</sup>	23
M	2/3	"False Promise" of International Institutions	Mearsheimer 1994 <sup>8</sup> (pp.1-37; 47-49)	34
W	2/5	Institutions Matter	Keohane 1998	16
F	2/7	All (Global) Politics is Social	Finnemore 1996	33
M	2/10	Intergovernmental Organizations	Cottrell 2018 (pp. 9-19); Greenhill 2015 (pp. 1-15); Pevehouse et al. 2004	45

<sup>4</sup>UN, EU, and WTO refer to the textbooks assigned for this course on p. 2 of the syllabus.

<sup>5</sup>URLs and web links are not included in the page count.

<sup>6</sup>There will be an in-class quiz on the syllabus on this day!

<sup>7</sup>This is a key reading; it will help you understand the readings next week.

<sup>8</sup>Just skim the section on "Critical Theory," pp. 37-47.

W	2/10	Regimes and Institutions	Young 1982	21
F	2/14	Do IOs ever die, Brexit, and IO failure	Cottrell 2018 (36-47); Gray 2018	24
M	2/17	The Introduction and Birth of the United Nations (UN)	UN Charter (in Dropbox); UN: Fasulo, Ch. 1-3 <sup>9</sup>	39
W	2/19	Security Council	UN: Fasulo, Ch. 6	24
F	2/21	<i>Class Canceled: General Assembly</i> <sup>10</sup>	UN: Fasulo, Ch. 7	16
M	2/24	For World Peace?	UN: Fasulo, Ch. 9	23
W	2/26	Human Rights	UN: Fasulo, Ch. 11; Bures 2007 (read pp. 1-15)	32
F	2/28	UN and International Terrorism	UN: Fasulo, Ch. 10; Bures 2007 (read pp. 16-30)	31
M	3/2	Climate Change and Sustainable Development	UN: Fasulo, Ch. 14-16	41
W	3/4	Dispute Resolution v. Justice: ICJ, ICC, & PCA	ICJ web site ( <a href="https://www.icj-cij.org/en/history">https://www.icj-cij.org/en/history</a> ); ICC web site ( <a href="https://www.icc-cpi.int/about/how-the-court-works">https://www.icc-cpi.int/about/how-the-court-works</a> ); PCA web site ( <a href="https://pca-cpa.org/en/about/introduction/history/">https://pca-cpa.org/en/about/introduction/history/</a> )	–
F	3/6	How Nations Vote and UN Reform	UN: Fasulo, Ch. 17-18	15
M	3/9	Political Economy of the United Nations	UN: Fasulo, Ch. 19; Vreeland and Dreher 2014	36
W	3/11	<b>MIDTERM</b>	–	–
F	3/13	Aid, Crises, and R2P	UN: Fasulo, Ch. 13 & 18; Bellamy 2014 (Introduction)	55
–	3/16-3/20	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS	***	***
M	3/23	Introduction to the European Union (EU)	EU, Ch. 1 & 2	48
W	3/25	Ever-changing politics of the EU	EU, Ch. 3	23
F	3/27	EU Institutions	EU, Ch. 4	20
Su	3/29	<b>Know-An-IO Video Presentation Due</b>	–	–

<sup>9</sup>Skim Ch. 4

<sup>10</sup>Please watch the online lecture I have created for this day and complete the response paper OR attend the keynote event on the downtown campus.

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M	3/30	EU & Public Opinion	EU, Ch. 5-6	46
W	4/1	Policy-making in the EU (I)	EU, Ch. 7	24
F	4/3	Policy-making in the EU (II)	<b>No Reading</b>	-
M	4/6	Guest Lecture: Euroscepticism and Brexit	EU, Ch. 8-9	49
W	4/8	Foreign & Security Policies	<b>No Reading</b>	-
F	4/10	GATT & WTO	About the WTO ( <a href="https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm">https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm</a> ); WTO, Ch. 1	21
M	4/13	GATT and WTO: Introduction	WTO, Ch. 2-3	35
W	4/15	How the WTO works	WTO, Ch. 4	26
F	4/17	Disputes and Doha	WTO, Ch. 5 (Read Ch. 6 for the final exam)	14
M	4/20	IMF and World Bank (I)	About the IMF ( <a href="https://www.imf.org/en/About">https://www.imf.org/en/About</a> ); About the World Bank ( <a href="https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/what-we-do">https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/what-we-do</a> ); Woods 2010 (Ch. Intro, Ch. 1)	38
W	4/22	IMF and World Bank (II)	Woods 2010, Ch. 2	26
F	4/24	Case Study: Africa	Woods 2010, Ch. 6	28
M	4/27	Alternatives to the Global Order: BRICS and OBOR/AIIB	Larinova 2018; Zhao 2019	35
W	4/29	Regional Organizations: African Union	Makinda et al. 2015	29
F	5/1	Regional Organizations: ASEAN (Guest Lecture)	Beeson 2008; Davies 2018 (pp. 2-15)	33
M	5/4	Wrap-Up: Final Exam Review and Jeopardy!	<b>No Reading</b>	-
TH	5/7	<b>FINAL EXAM, PART II – 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM</b>	Room: LC 3B	

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## University Policies

### Religious Holidays

As you know, UAlbany changed the way it puts together its academic calendar, and UAlbany no longer closes for religious holidays as it did in previous academic years. New York State Education Law (Section 224-a) states that all campuses are required to excuse, without penalty, individual students absent because of religious beliefs, and to provide equivalent opportunities for make-up examinations, study, or work requirements missed because of such absences.

According to UAlbany, "It shall be the student's responsibility to provide sufficient documentation to support any request (In this context, it should be noted that fraudulent excuses are considered violations of academic integrity and are grounds for academic or disciplinary penalties)."

Please note that students are still required to complete all readings and assignments in the syllabus. If a quiz or exam takes place during a religious holiday to which you have an exemption, please let me know in advance so we can work out alternative arrangements to make-up the missed assessment. No student will be penalized for absences due to religious holidays.

### Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education programs and activities.

The SUNY-wide Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Policies prohibit offenses defined as sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), sexual exploitation, and stalking. The SUNY-wide Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Policies apply to the entire University at Albany community, including students, faculty, and staff of all gender identities. The University at Albany provides a variety of resources for support and advocacy to assist individuals who have experienced sexual offenses.

Confidential support and guidance can be found through the following:

Counseling Center (518-442-5800, [https://www.albany.edu/counseling\\_center/](https://www.albany.edu/counseling_center/))

University Health Center (518-442-5454, [https://www.albany.edu/health\\_center/](https://www.albany.edu/health_center/))

Interfaith Center (518-489-8573, <https://www.albany.edu/spirituality/onCampus.shtml>)

Individuals at these locations will not report crimes to law enforcement or university officials without permission, except for in extreme circumstances, such as a health and/or safety emergency. Additionally, the Advocates at the University at Albany's Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence are available to assist students without sharing information that could identify them (518-442-CARE, <https://www.albany.edu/advocacycenter/>).

Sexual offenses can be reported non-confidentially to:

Title IX Coordinator within The Office for Equity and Compliance

(518-442-3800, <https://www.albany.edu/equity-compliance/>, Building 25, Room 117)

University Police Department  
(518-442-3131, <http://police.albany.edu/>).

**Please note that faculty members are considered “responsible employees” at the University at Albany, meaning that they are required to report all known relevant details about a complaint of sexual violence to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, including names of anyone involved or present, date, time, and location.**

In case of an emergency, please call 911.