

## International Organizations

POLI 345

McGill University

Winter 2024

[Preliminary and subject to change]

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**Office hours:** Mondays, 2-3pm (or by appointment)

- Priority given to students signed up via <https://calendly.com/colinchia>

### Description

This course examines the politics of global governance in the twenty-first century. Tracing the evolution of the international system since 1945, the course will examine the multilateral system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and questions of power and legitimacy. Students will critically evaluate the role of international organizations in world politics and how they define the ways that global problems are identified and acted upon.

### Assessment

- **Briefing memo** – 30% (due March 27 at 11:59pm)  
You will research an issue area of your choice, identify the key international organizations working in that area, analyze what they are doing and any relevant controversies, and present this information in a concise briefing memo.
- **Participation** – 10%  
This grade will be awarded for active engagement in the class, which includes the quality of your contributions to discussion seminars led by the teaching assistants.
- **Midterm exam** – 20% (February 19, in class)
- **Final exam** – 40%  
Exams will ask you to define and explain key terms, as well as to answer essay questions. The emphasis of the exams is on your ability to grasp key concepts and ideas, and apply them to concrete issues and problems.

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

Last updated November 22, 2023

## COURSE POLICIES

### **Late penalties**

The instructor may apply a late penalty of one full letter grade to any work submitted late, followed by an additional 10% per 24 hours it is late.

### **Communications**

Please note that any class-wide announcements will be made through myCourses or to student McGill email accounts. Furthermore, to ensure protection of student privacy, only mcgill.ca email address should be used.

### **Language of submission**

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

### **Academic integrity**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures" (see McGill's guide to academic honesty for more information). Text-matching software may be used to ensure academic integrity by checking submitted assignments for plagiarism or the unauthorized use of text-generating software (such as ChatGPT and similar tools).

Students found to have represented another person's work as their own, or to have contributed or aided another student in doing so, may be subject to disciplinary measures according to university policy. See <https://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/academicrights/integrity/cheating>

Content generation tools (also known as "generative AI") are very new and the full implications for educators are yet to be fully understood. The key concern is that the mental and cognitive exercise of producing written work is a key part of learning and cognitive training that students will not fully benefit from if they resort to such tools as replacements for their own efforts. Consistent with university policy, text generated by tools like ChatGPT may not be submitted in any assignment in this course.

### **Extraordinary circumstances**

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

### **Copyright of course content**

All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, class handouts, etc. are and remain the instructor's intellectual property. You may use these only for your own learning and research (with proper

citation/referencing). You may not disseminate or share these materials. Doing so may violate copyright and could be cause for disciplinary action.

**Inclusive learning environment**

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

Students who are unable to meet academic obligations because of a religious commitment are responsible for informing the instructor with two weeks' notice of any conflicts. See the university policy for the accommodation of religious holy days:

[https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/religious\\_holy\\_days\\_policy\\_on\\_accomodation\\_of.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/religious_holy_days_policy_on_accomodation_of.pdf)

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Readings listed immediately under the headings are *required* and you must be prepared to discuss them during conferences or lectures. Recommended further readings are provided as starting points for your own research and interest, outside and beyond this class.

**Textbook:** Ian Hurd. 2020. *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*. 4th edition. Cambridge University Press.

### Week 1: Introduction / Do IOs matter?

- Hurd, chp. 1
- Roberto Domínguez and Rafael Velázquez Flores. (2018). Global governance. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*. Oxford University Press.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.013.508>

### Week 2: Understanding IOs / Legitimacy and authority

- Hurd, chp. 2
- Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore. 2004. *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics*. Cornell University Press (chp. 2).

#### Further reading

- Ole Jacob Sending. 2015. *The Politics of Expertise: Competing for Authority in Global Governance*. University of Michigan Press.
- John Mearsheimer. 1994. "The false promise of international institutions", *International Security*, 19 (3): 5-49.
- Vincent Pouliot and Jean-Philippe Thérien. 2018. "Global governance: a struggle over universal values", *International Studies Review*, 20: 55-73.

## CONFERENCES START ON JANUARY 22

### Week 3: The United Nations

- Hurd, chp. 3
- Ian Johnstone. 2003. "The role of the UN secretary-general: The power of persuasion based on law," *Global Governance* 9(4): 441-458. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27800496>

#### Further reading

- Ian Hurd. 2007. *After Anarchy: Legitimacy and Power in the UN Security Council*. Princeton University Press.

### Week 4: Security and peacebuilding

- Hurd, chp. 4
- Séverine Auteserre. 2019. "The Crisis of Peacekeeping: Why the UN Can't End Wars," *Foreign Affairs*, 98(1): 101-116.
- Alex J. Bellamy. "R2P and the Use of Force", *Global Responsibility to Protect*, 14: 277-280.

#### Further reading

- Celeste A. Wallander. 2003. "Institutional assets and adaptability: NATO after the Cold War", *International Organization*, 54(4): 705-735.
- Séverine Auteserre. 2014. *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention*. Cambridge University Press.

### **Week 5: International economic governance**

- Hurd, chp. 5-6
- Kristen Hopewell. 2021. *Clash of Powers: US-China Rivalry in Global Economic Governance*. Cambridge University Press (conclusion).

#### *Further reading*

- Juanita Elias. 2013. "Davos woman to the rescue of global capitalism: Postfeminist politics and competitiveness promotion at the World Economic Forum," *International Political Sociology*, 7(2): 152-169.
- Eric Helleiner. 2014. *The Status Quo Crisis*. Cornell University Press.
- Marc L. Busch. 2007. "Overlapping institutions, forum shopping, and dispute settlement in international trade", *International Organization*, 61(4): 735-761.
- Paul Blustein. 2009. *Misadventures of the Most Favored Nations*. Public Affairs.

### **Week 6: Human rights / Laws of war**

- Hafner-Burton, Emilie. 2008. "Sticks and Stones: Naming and Shaming the Human Rights Enforcement Problem," *International Organization*, 62(4): 689-716.
- Matthew Evangelista. 2017. "How the Geneva Conventions Matter", in *Do the Geneva Conventions Matter?* Matthew Evangelista and Nina Tannenwald (eds.), 323-348. Oxford University Press.

#### *Further reading*

- Kathryn Sikkink, Thomas Risse, and Steve C. Ropp (eds.). 2013. *The Persistent Power of Human Rights: From Commitment to Compliance*. Cambridge University Press.

## **MIDTERM EXAM: FEBRUARY 19**

### **Week 7: Global civil society - NO CONFERENCES FEBRUARY 19-23**

- John S. Dryzek. 2012. "Global civil society: The progress of Post-Westphalian politics," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 15: 101-119.

#### *Further reading*

- Martha Finnemore & Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change", *International Organization*, 52(4): 887-917.

## **READING WEEK MARCH 4-8**

### **Week 8: International law**

- Hurd, chp. 9-10
- Ryan Brutger and Julia C. Morse. 2015. "Balancing law and politics: Judicial incentives in WTO dispute settlement", *Review of International Organizations*, 10:179-205.

#### *Further reading*

- International Committee of the Red Cross. n.d. "Customary law". <https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/customary-law>
- Beth A. Simmons and Allison Danner. 2010. "Credible Commitments and the International Criminal Court," *International Organization*, 64(2): 225-256. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818310000044>
- Alyssa K. Porok. 2017. "The (In)compatibility of Peace and Justice? The International Criminal Court and Civil Conflict Termination", *International Organization*, 71(2): 213-243.

- Gregory Shaffer, Manfred Elsig and Sergio Puig. 2016. "The Law and Politics of WTO Dispute Settlement", in *The Politics of International Law*, eds. Wayne Sandholtz and Christopher Whytock (eds.), 269-306. Edward Elgar.

### **Week 9: Labour / Migration**

- Hurd, chp. 7
- Colleen Thouez. 2018. "Strengthening migration governance: the UN as 'wingman'", *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 45(8): 1242-1257.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1441604>
- Philip Alston. 2004. "'Core Labour Standards' and the Transformation of the International Labour Rights Regime", *European Journal of International Law*, 15(3): 457-521.

#### *Further reading*

- David Leblang and Margaret E. Peters. 2022. "Immigration and Globalization (and De-Globalization)", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 25: 377-399.
- H  l  ne Pellerin and Beverley Mullings. 2012. "The 'diaspora option', migration and the changing political economy of development", *Review of International Political Economy*, 20(1): 89-120.
- Jill Murray. 2002. "Labour rights/corporate responsibilities: the role of ILO labour standards", in *Corporate Responsibility and Labour Rights*, eds. Ruth Pearson, Gill Seyfang, and Rhys Jenkins, 31-42. Routledge.
- Layna Mosley. 2017. "Workers' rights in global value chains: possibilities for protection and for peril", *New Political Economy*, 22(2): 153-168.  
doi:10.1080/13563467.2016.1273339

### **Week 10: Refugees / Development**

- Hurd, chp. 8
- Megan Bradley. 2019. "Unresolved and Unresolvable? Tensions in the Refugee Regime", *Ethics & International Affairs*, 33(1): 45-56.
- Katherine Marshall. 2008. *The World Bank: From reconstruction to development to equity*. Routledge (pp. 1-22).
- Sarah Babb. 2012. "The Washington Consensus as transnational policy paradigm: Its origins, trajectory and likely successor", *Review of International Political Economy*, 20(2).

#### *Further reading*

- Patrick Kingsley. 2016. *The New Odyssey: The Story of Europe's Refugee Crisis*. W.W. Norton.
- Joseph E. Stiglitz. 2008. "Is there a post-Washington Consensus consensus?", in Narc  s Serra and Joseph E. Stiglitz (eds.), *The Washington Consensus Reconsidered: Towards a New Global Governance*, 41-56. Oxford University Press.

### **Week 11: Sustainable development / Global environment**

- Amartya Sen. 2000. *Development as Freedom*. Anchor Books (pp. 1-37).
- Vincent Pouliot and Jean-Philippe Th  rien. 2023. *Global Policymaking*. Cambridge University Press (chp. 3).
- Micha  l Aklin and Marro Mildenerger. 2020. "Prisoners of the Wrong Dilemma: Why Distributive Conflict, Not Collective Action, Characterizes the Politics of Climate Change", *Global Environmental Politics*, 20(4): 4-27.

#### *Further reading*

- David Adler and William B. Bonvillian. 2023. "The long, slow death of global development", *American Affairs*, 7(3).
- Jessica F. Green. 2021. "Climate Change Governance", in Michael Barnett, J. Pevehouse, and K. Raustiala (eds.), *Global Governance in a World of Change*, 109-129. Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108915199.004
- Thomas Hale. 2020. "Transnational actors and transnational governance in global environmental politics", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 23: 203-220. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-050718-032644>

## **Week 12: Regionalisms**

- Hurd, chp. 11
- Amitav Acharya. 2018. *Constructing Global Order: Agency and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge University Press (chp. 6).

### *Further reading*

- Christopher Changwe Nshimbi. 2020. "African Union and European Union Politics: The Veiled Account of Long-standing Interregional Relations", in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1128>
- Charles T. Hunt. 2016. "African regionalism and human protection norms: an overview", *Global Responsibility to Protect*, 8(2-3): 201-226. <https://doi.org/10.1163/1875984X-00803007>
- Haroldo Ramanzini Júnior and Bruno Theodoro Luciano. 2020. "Regionalism in the Global South: Mercosur and ECOWAS in trade and democracy protection", *Third World Quarterly*, 41:9, 1498-1517, doi:[10.1080/01436597.2020.1723413](https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2020.1723413)
- Deepak Nayyar. 2015. "BRICS, developing countries, and global governance," *Third World Quarterly*, 37(4): 575-591.

## **Week 13: Technology governance / Looking ahead**

- Daniëlle Flonk, Markus Jachtenfuchs & Anke S. Obendiek. 2020. "Authority conflicts in internet governance: Liberals vs. sovereigntists?" *Global Constitutionalism*, 9(2): 364-386.
- Acharya, Amitav. 2016. "The Future of Global Governance: Fragmentation May be Inevitable and Creative." *Global Governance*, 22(4): 453-460.

### *Further reading*

- Thomas G. Weiss. 2009. "What happened to the idea of world government", *International Studies Quarterly*, 53(2): 253-271.