Syllabus
International Cooperation
Instructor: Oliver Westerwinter
Fall Semester 2016

Time & room
Thursday, 10:15-12h in 01-208

Office
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This syllabus may be subject to adjustments.

Overview and goals
In this course, we will read, discuss, and engage the modern literature on international institutions, regimes, and organizations. International politics is increasingly institutionalized in all issue areas. Understanding the dynamics of international conflict and cooperation therefore requires that we understand the sources and consequences of institutionalization in world politics. In addition to intergovernmental agreements and organizations, we will also cover institutions in which states cooperate with non-state actors, such as companies and non-governmental organizations.

The course will be theory-driven, with each session devoted to studying a particular theoretical framework or family of frameworks used by international relations scholars to understand international institutions. In addition to theoretical arguments, each session will engage with empirical applications of these theories. We will address most of the major issue areas in international politics, including political economy, security, and environmental issues. In terms of research questions, the course focuses on the emergence, design, and functioning of international institutions with a lesser emphasis on their consequences.

The goal of this course is to enable students to read and understand theoretical arguments about international institutions and research designs developed to empirically test these arguments. The course will also enable students to develop their own ideas for research and writing. To that end, if students are interested, it is possible to set aside the last session of class for presentation of research designs by students to obtain feedback prior to the submission of their final assignment. The assignments for the course are designed to move you toward identifying researchable questions for study, and preparing a research design to answer these questions.

Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites for this class.

Class requirements
Final grades will be based on:

- Research design (40% of final grade)
- Topic identification (20% of final grade)
- Two discussion papers (20% each of final grade)
- Participation in lectures and discussions

Your final grade will be determined by two discussion papers (20% each), an identification of a research topic (20%), and a research design paper (40%). The discussion or response papers (1-2 pages) focus on a particular article and serve to start the group discussion of a selected class session. Each student has to select two class sessions to write a response paper for a particular article in each of these two class sessions. Students will give brief summaries of their response papers (5-10 minutes) in class to start the group discussion.

The research topic identification is a short (2-3 pages) paper that outlines a research topic of your choice and identifies a researchable question. The research design paper (5-7 pages) builds on the topic identification and develops the topic and question into a executable research design (as would be required, for example, for a BA or MA thesis project). For each type of assignment, there will be short guidelines available after the first class session. Discussion papers have to be submitted as hard copy at the beginning of the class session to which they are related. The topic identification has to be handed in as hard copy at the beginning of the session for which they are due. The deadline for the research design paper has to be submitted either as hard copy or electronically (pdf) by January 20, 2017. Late submissions will not be accepted for any assignment.

If interested, students can hold short presentations of their research designs to obtain feedback prior to submit their final assignment in the last session. In combination, the assignments will help students to deepen and broaden their understanding of the materials covered in class. In general, students should come to class having completed the required readings and being prepared to participate in the group discussions.

Course website
We use StudyNet as communication platform for the class. The course site at StudyNet can be accessed here: [https://loginpages.unisg.ch/studynet](https://loginpages.unisg.ch/studynet). The course website at StudyNet will provide readings and other materials.

Textbooks
The course will be taught without using a single textbook. The required readings in combination with the slides provided throughout the course will be the primary teaching materials. Students may find it useful to purchase one or several of the following books. These are seminal contributions to the study of international cooperation and are useful not only in this class but may also be relevant later on in your studies.


**Schedule**

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. The assigned required and optional readings are listed in the class schedule for each session. The required readings should be completed prior to the session for which they are listed and studied carefully. In addition, it is recommended to consult the optional readings. The optional readings may prove useful to students looking for additional coverage of some of the course topics as well as for developing the topic of your assignments. This schedule is subject to adjustments.

**September 22: Introduction and general background**

*Required readings:*


*Optional readings:*


September 29: International regimes and international organizations

Required readings:


Optional readings:


October 06: Workshop “The Politics of Informal Governance”

Required readings:

Optional readings:


October 13: Delegation

Required readings:


Optional readings:


October 20: No class

October 27: Institutional design

Required readings:


Optional readings:


**November 17: Monitoring and enforcement (topic identification papers due)**

*Required readings:*


*Optional readings:*


**November 24: Domestic politics**

*Required readings:*


*Optional readings:*


December 01: Socialization

Required readings:


Optional readings:


December 08: Informal governance

Required readings:


Optional readings:


December 15: Non-state actors and transnational governance

Required readings:


Optional readings:


December 22: Regime complex (student presentations if sufficient interest exists)

Required readings:


Optional readings:


