

POLS 3315
International Organizations
University of Houston-Sugar Land Campus
Spring Semester 2014 (16 weeks)
T 5:30pm-8:30pm, Room: TBA

Instructor: Laila Sorurbakhsh, PhD
Contact: lfsorurbakhsh@uh.edu
Office Location: PGH 369, UH Main
Office Hours MW: 230pm-4pm, Sat: 12pm-1pm, or by appt.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will attain knowledge of the politics surrounding international organizations and their role in global politics. We begin by learning theories on the goals and intentions of IOS, later moving on to discuss their roles in promoting peace, security, financial prosperity, human rights, and environmental protection. We highlight various international actors including (but not limited to) the IMF and World Bank, the UN, the EU, NATO, and the WTO, as well as transnational network communities.

Course Website: www.uh.edu/blackboard. Students must log in and sign into the class POLS 3315.

Required Texts: None. Weekly readings are accessible on the course website.

Optional Texts: *The Democracy Sourcebook*. 2003. Eds. Robert Dahl, Ian Shapiro, and Jose Chieub.

Additional Readings: Students will access additional readings on J-STOR, from the class website, and from the library when not provided in class.

Classroom Behavior: All cell phones and electronic devices will be turned off for the duration of the class. Students engaging in inappropriate behavior in the classroom (i.e. sleeping, texting, talking, etc) will be requested to leave the class. If the behavior persists, the student will be dropped from the course. Fighting or threats of any kind will be reported immediately to the police and the student will not be permitted to return to the class.

General Statement: The instructor has the right to add, delete, or modify segments of this course or syllabus during the semester.

Instructor Guidelines and Policies:

ATTENDANCE: You cannot gain much from this course unless you attend class, thus attendance is required and will be to complete this course regularly. Attendance will be taken everyday, and students who are regularly tardy or leave early will not be counted as present.

Any student with more than 3 absences will receive 10 points off their final average, while any student with more than 5 absences should drop the course, otherwise the professor will give the student a grade of F for the course. Should you need to miss a class or leave early, you must come talk to me to approve or excuse it.

EXAMS: There will be 2 exams- one midterm and one final exam. The final exam is NOT cumulative. These exams will consist of 4 short essay questions which the students will receive beforehand. Exams will be administered online.

Discussion Week: Over the course of the semester, students will be required to choose one week in which to be the leader of the class discussion on the readings. The student must make a 15 minute presentation in the beginning of class on the class topic and prepare at least 5 questions to ask the other students about the material. These questions should be prepared and distributed to the professor and the students by 5pm the Sunday night before class on the class website so that students can begin thinking about how to answer these questions.

Weekly Worksheets: To demonstrate reading and comprehension, students will prepare weekly worksheets and present them at the beginning of class for credit. Unprepared students will lose valuable preparation and participation points.

Grading:

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Exam I | 25% |
| Exam II | 25% |
| Weekly Worksheets | 25% |
| Discussion Week | 10% |
| Attendance/Participation | 15% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Letter Grade:

| | | | |
|----|--------|----|-------|
| A | 93-100 | C | 73-76 |
| A- | 90-92 | C- | 70-72 |
| B+ | 87-89 | D+ | 67-69 |
| B | 83-86 | D | 63-66 |
| B- | 80-82 | D- | 60-62 |
| C+ | 77-79 | F | <60 |

Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by UH System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating on a test includes:

- Copying from another students' test paper;
- Using materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating with another student during a test without authorization;
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test that has not been administered; and
- Bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered.

Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit.

Collusion mean the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F in the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System. (See the Student Handbook.)

ADA/Disability Policy: If you have a disability of any kind, please make arrangements with me to take exams at the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), should you think it necessary. Students with disabilities can make arrangements with the professor AT THE START OF THE SEMESTER for any special accommodation requests.

Topical Outline and Reading Schedule: (Exam dates and assignments subject to change.)

January 14th:

Syllabus and Introduction

-Kant: "Perpetual Peace", *The Democracy Sourcebook*

January 21st:

-Russett: "How Democracy, Interdependence, and Ios Create a System for Peace," *The Democracy Sourcebook*

-Keohane 1998: "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?"

-Abbott and Snidal 1998: "Why States Act through Formal Ios"

-Grant and Keohane 2005: "Accountability and Abuses of Power in World Politics"

January 28th:

-Kagan 2004: "America's Crisis of Legitimacy"

-Brooks and Wohlforth 2005: "International Relations Theory and the Case Against Unilateralism"

-Mearsheimer 1995: "The False Promise of International Institutions"

February 4th:

-WTO reader

-Mansfield et al 2002: "Why Democracies Cooperate More"

-Huber et al: "The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy," *The Democracy Sourcebook*

February 11th:

February 18th:

-UN Millenium Declaration

-Tharoor 2003: "Why America Still Needs the United Nations"

February 25th:

-The Economist: "Towards the End of Poverty"

-Woods 2008: "Whose aid? Whose influence?"

-Easterly 2002: "The Cartel of Good Intentions"

Midterm Review

March 4th:
MIDTERM EXAM

SPRING BREAK MARCH 10TH-16TH NO CLASS

March 18th:

- Talbot 2002: "From Prague to Baghdad"
- Reiter 2001: "Why NATO Enlargement Does Not Spread Democracy"
- Wallander 2000: "Institutional Assets and Adaptability"

March 25th:

- Kuziemko and Werker 2006: "How Much is a Seat on the Security Council Worth?"
- Pevehouse and Russett 2006: "Democratic International Governmental Organizations Promote Peace"
- Pevehouse 2002: "Democracy from the Outside-In?"

April 1st:

- Selected Chapters from European Union textbook
- McNamara 2006: "Economic Governance, Ideas and EMU"
- Norris: "Representation and the Democratic Deficit," *The Democracy Sourcebook*

April 8th:

- Thakur 1994: "Human Rights: Amnesty International and the UN"
- Landman 2005: "The Political Science of Human Rights"

April 15th:

- Held: "The Transformation of Political Community," *The Democracy Sourcebook*
- Raustiala 1997: "States, NGOs, and International Environmental Institutions"
- Keck and Sikkink 1999: "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics"

April 22nd:

- First World Problems*
- Hardin: "Democracy and the Collective Bads," *The Democracy Sourcebook*
- Wolf 2008: "Why a new Bretton Woods is vital- and so hard"
- Sorurbakhsh, forthcoming: "Interest Groups in Coalition: The Case of Biofuel Policy in the EU" Review

May 1st- May 9th: Final Exam Period

Your final is Tuesday, May 6th: 5-8pm