Course overview
This course examines the politics of global governance, also known as the study of international organizations and international law. It focuses on the fundamental problems of cooperation among states that international organizations (IOs) are designed to address. It begins with a general overview of approaches to studying IOs and international law, highlighting the role of international and domestic political considerations. It then turns to examining the role of IOs in various issue-areas in international politics, ranging from international trade and investment to security and conflict to human rights and the environment. Through our study of these issues, we will learn about both the design and influence of IOs in each and the underlying politics of each issue. We will learn about the major IOs that influence global politics, including the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations. We will also look at some less well-known IOs such as the International Labor Organization and the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Prerequisites
One course in international relations at the undergraduate level. If you have not fulfilled this requirement, please speak with me before enrolling in the course.

Course requirements
Students are expected to attend lectures, to participate actively in class exercises and discussion sections, to complete the assigned readings prior to class, and to complete the written assignment on time.

Grades for this course will be based on: three in-class midterm exams (20% each, 60% total); participation in seven class exercises (10% total); one op-ed assignment (20%); and participation in discussion sections (10%).
• **Midterms** will be in-class during the regularly scheduled lecture time. They will include a mix of identification questions and short-answer questions. We will not be using the official final examination period assigned for this course.

• **Class exercises:** We are going to use the “jigsaw method” in class to develop a deeper understanding of how specific international organizations operate. You will be divided into teams (randomly assigned, and different each time). Each member of the team will be tasked with mastering information about some aspect of the IO and teaching other members of the team about what they have learned. Team learning success will be assessed with a brief in-class quiz. We will provide more details on these exercises as they approach.

• **Op-ed assignment:** Students will write an 800-1000 word op-ed on an international organization of their choice. The op-ed should make an argument about why the international organization is achieving or not achieving its stated goal(s). Grading will be based on the clarity of the position taken, concise writing, well-reasoned support of the argument, and inclusion of concepts from the relevant literature covered in the course. **All work must be original.** Because this is a “mock” op-ed for an academic assignment, all sources must be properly documented using endnotes. Please ask for assistance if you are not familiar with endnotes.

  The written assignment must be submitted in class on **December 7**. Please use a 12 point standard font such as Times New Roman or Arial, and at least one-inch margins.

• **Section participation:** Discussion sections will cover the course material in more depth, include a Model UN-type simulation, and introduce you to library resources to develop your op-ed. You are expected to come to sections prepared and to participate actively in all discussions.

**Readings**

The following book is required for the course and is available at the University Bookstore and via online sellers:


Please note that the Hurd book is also available as a Kindle ebook at a reduced cost. If you find a used copy of the first edition of the Hurd book for a lower price, that should also be acceptable.

In addition, there are a number of articles available on LearnUW or online via the links in this syllabus. Reserve readings are marked with an asterisk (*). **Please note that these readings are also required and will be of equal importance.**

**Important notes/class policies**

• Anything covered in lectures or in the readings is fair game for the exams. So just
doing the reading on the last night before the exam means an almost certain failing grade. Attend lectures and do your readings carefully and on time. Note that even readings that have not been explicitly addressed in lecture or discussion groups may be covered in the exams!

- **Grading:** My policy for re-evaluating grades is the following:
  - You have to wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints. You then have to draft a 1-2 page double-spaced memo outlining why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work, i.e., it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students.
  - Your grade will then be fully re-evaluated. This means that I may revise the grade downward as well as upward. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes – this is not a risk-free process!

- **Accommodations:** I aim to provide an inclusive and accommodating learning environment. Students needing special accommodations to ensure full participation in this course should contact me or the TA as early as possible. All information will remain confidential. You also may contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center regarding questions about campus policies/services.

**Cheating** and **plagiarism** are very serious offenses that will not be tolerated in the course. You will receive a failing grade for the class, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript.

**September 2: Introduction**

- Hurd chp. 1

  *No discussion sections the week of Sept. 1.*

**September 9 and 14: International Law and Norms**

- Hurd chp. 2

  *Discussion sections, week of Sept 7:* Introductions, overview of Model UN simulation. Students who do not have section on Monday, Sept. 7 are welcome to attend an alternative section that week.

  *Discussion sections, week of Sept. 14:* Library session. Please see course website for information about where section will be held this week.
September 16: Monetary Regimes

- Hurd chp. 4, pp. 71-80

September 21: Class exercise, The International Monetary Fund

*Discussion sections, week of Sept. 21:* Model UN simulation, part 1.

September 23: Regional Monetary Arrangements


September 28: The World Bank

- Hurd chp 4, pp. 81-100

*Discussion sections, week of Sept. 28:* Model UN simulation, part 2.

September 30: The Asian Development Bank


October 5: Class exercise, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

*Discussion sections, week of October 5:* Review for first midterm.

October 7: The International Labor Organization

- Hurd chp. 7

October 12: Midterm 1

*Discussion sections, week of October 12:* Model UN simulation, part 3.

October 14: Alliances

October 19: Class exercise, NATO

Discussion sections, week of October 19: General discussion.

October 21: Collective Security

- Hurd chp. 6

October 26: Class exercise, The UN Security Council

Discussion sections, week of October 26: Library session. Please see the course website for information about location of this week’s meetings.

October 28: Human Rights Conventions

- Hurd chp. 8

November 2: Class exercise, The International Criminal Court

Discussion sections, week of November 2: General discussion.

November 4 and 9: The European Union

- Hurd chp. 10

Discussion sections, week of November 9: Review for second midterm.

November 11: Midterm 2

November 16: Class exercise, European Monetary Union

Discussion sections, week of Nov. 16: Presentation of op-ed assignments.

November 18: International Trade

- Hurd chp. 3

November 23: Class exercise, The WTO

No discussion sections the week of Nov. 23.

November 25: No lecture, office hour availability to discuss work on op-ed
November 30: Regional Trade Organizations


Discussion sections, week of Nov. 30: General discussion.

December 2: Preferential Trade Arrangements


December 7: The Global Environment


- Op-ed assignment due in lecture

Discussion sections, week of Dec. 7: Review for third midterm.

December 9: The Future of Global Governance

- No required reading

December 14: Midterm 3