Course Description

This is a graduate course that deals with the role of international institutions, broadly defined, in overcoming obstacles to international cooperation. We will focus on formal institutions with an emphasis on their capacity to facilitate international cooperation. The purpose of this course is not to trace the development of particular international organizations. Rather, the goal is to understand the role of international institutions in facilitating cooperation among governments across a broad range of policy areas. We will begin with an overview of why governments have an interest in cooperation, what institutions are, and how international institutions/law operate. The second part of the course will address cooperation in specific policy areas. Topics covered include international trade, monetary policy, environmental regimes, military alliances, the laws of war, conflict intervention, international human rights law, international courts, and nuclear proliferation.

Grades/Assignments

Grades are based upon class discussion, three response papers, and a research design paper. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Class Discussion: 30%
Response Papers (3): 30%
Research Design Paper: 40%

Response papers are 4-5 page papers that offer a (constructive) critical evaluation of the week’s readings. You may focus on as many readings as you like, but you must offer a well-reasoned critique of the arguments/evidence presented in each piece and suggestions on how they could be improved.

The research design paper will be a 15-20 page paper that identifies a relevant topic for study and presents a plan for conducting research on that topic. This will not be a complete research paper, but it must contain a plan for a research project that could actually be executed.
Required Books


Simmons, Beth. 2009. Mobilizing for Human Rights. Cambridge University Press. (e-copy available on course website)

Course Website

Can be accessed through www.elc.uga.edu. You will need to check this site regularly for posted readings.

Syllabus Change Policy

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.

University Honor Code/Academic Honesty Policy

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation
for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

**Reading Schedule**

**Mon. Aug. 12: International Institutions, Organizations, and Law**


**Mon. Aug. 19: Anarchy, Institutions, and Cooperation**


**Mon. Aug. 26: Institutional Design**


Labor Day, September 2

Mon. Sept. 9: Compliance


Mon. Sept. 16: International Law/Legalization


Raustiala, Kal. 2006. “Form and Substance in International Agreements.” American Jour-


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**Mon. Sept. 23: Global Trade Institutions**


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**Mon. Sept. 30: Regional Trade Institutions**


Mon. Oct. 7: International Financial/Monetary Institutions


Mon. Oct. 14: Environmental Regimes


Mon. Oct. 21: Security Institutions


**Mon. Oct 28: Humanitarian Law/The Laws of War**


**Mon. Nov. 4: Conflict Intervention**


**Mon. Nov. 11: International Courts**


**Mon. Nov. 18: International Human Rights Law**


**Thanksgiving Break, Nov. 25-29.**

**Mon. Dec. 2: International Organizations and Social Norms**


