

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Political Science 651  
Kansas State University  
Spring 2003

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Office Hours:  
Tuesday 2:00-3:30 pm  
Thursday 2:00-3:30 pm  
-and by appointment

### Purpose

At its core, this is a course about global problems and how humanity is organizing itself to respond to these problems. The objectives of the course are threefold. First, it will provide an overview of international organization — or the shape of the world order — from a historical perspective. Such an historical introduction highlights how leaders have strived over the past two centuries to make the world more stable and secure. Second, it will provide information about the types of international organizations that have operated in different historical world orders and their relevance for world politics. Third, it will increase understanding of current global problems and the roles that international organizations play in ameliorating them. Among the problems examined are the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, transnational crime, the spread of infectious disease, and environmental threats.

This course has one prerequisite: Political Science 333. Exposure to other policy-making and/or international relations courses would be useful as well.

### Readings

Three textbooks have been assigned:

- G. John Ikenberry, *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*, Princeton University Press, 2001.
- Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns, *The United Nations in the Post-Cold War Era*, second edition, Westview, 2000.
- Maryann Cusimano Love, *Beyond Sovereignty: Issues for a Global Agenda*, second edition, Wadsworth, 2003.

These texts are available at the KSU bookstore and at Varney's for purchase. A few additional readings will be used to supplement our texts. When supplements are used, they will be placed on reserve in the library (and some will available on K-State on-line).

### Requirements

You will be expected to contribute to the above purposes in several ways - by reading, writing, speaking, and questioning. To this end we have several set pieces: two exams, one group presentation in the context of a classroom 'mini-conference,' one detailed, group outline that accompanies the presentation, and one 10 page research paper. Exams will cover assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions and will include both objective and essay questions. Class presentations will be given near the end of the semester and are explained on the last two pages of this syllabus. Details on the research paper will be handed out well in advance of its deadline.

Examinations will be given on **March 13** and **May 13**. The research paper is due **May 1**. The course grade is weighted in the following way:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Professionalism*     | 15% |
| Presentation/Outline | 15% |
| Research Paper       | 20% |
| Midterm Exam         | 25% |
| Final Exam           | 25% |

\* “Professionalism” refers to factors such as attendance, promptness, participation, courtesy, overall improvement, and other intangibles, to be evaluated and assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

### Further Considerations

As should be apparent from the above weighting, attendance is considered an essential element of the course. Even more important, students who pay close attention to lectures and discussions tend to earn higher exam scores. Attendance during and participation in the active learning components of the course – the UN Security Council simulation (March 25-April 3) and the Ackert Hall Mini-conference (April 22 - May 1) – are given special consideration when calculating the professionalism score.

Also, it should be noted that make-up exams will be given only if arranged *before* an exam, and late papers will be penalized the standard one letter grade for each day late. (A paper handed in more than one hour after the deadline is considered a day late).

If there are any factors that are likely to interfere with your performance in this class, please notify the professor immediately. Measures for students with disabilities, non-native English writers, and other special issues will be taken in compliance with the university’s policies.

On a less restrictive note, the professor is available for any questions and/or concerns about the course. Please do not hesitate to visit during office hours or by appointment.

## CALENDAR OF REQUIRED READINGS

### I. Introduction to the Study of International Organization and International Organizations

- Jan. 16-21 Introduction  
Jan. 23-30 The Rise and Relevance of International Organizations in World Politics

Readings: 1) Cusimano Love, *Beyond Sovereignty*, ch. 1  
2) Ikenberry, *After Victory*, chs. 1-2

### II. International Organization and World Order: A Historical Perspective

- Feb. 4-6 The 19<sup>th</sup> Century: The Napoleonic Wars and the Concert of Europe  
Feb. 11-13 The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: The World Wars and Attempts at Global Order  
Feb. 18-20 The Post-Cold War Era and the Crafting of Order

Readings: 1) Ikenberry, chs. 3-8  
2) Treisman, "Russia Renewed?" *Foreign Affairs*, December 2002. *On Reserve*  
3) Eberstadt, "Russia: Too Sick to Matter," *Policy Review*, June 1999. *On Reserve*  
4) DiManno, "HIV Engulfs former Soviet Union," *Toronto Star*, July 2002.  
*On Reserve*

### III. International Organizations: IGOs, with a focus on the United Nations

- Feb. 25- Mar. 4 The United Nations  
March 6-11 UN Peacekeeping

Readings: 1) Cusimano Love, ch. 2  
2) Mingst and Karns, *The United Nations in the Post-Cold War Era*, chs. 1-3

### **March 13 Midterm Exam**

- March 18-20 Spring Break  
Mar. 25- Apr. 3 UN Security Council Simulation

Readings: 1) Mingst and Karns, ch. 4-7

### IV. International Organizations: NGOs

- Apr. 8-10 Review of NGOs and an American example (Bowling Alone)  
Apr. 15-17 NGO case studies

Readings: 1) Cusimano Love, ch. 3  
2) Edwards and Gaventa, *Global Citizen Action* (Lynne Rienner, 2001), chs. 9 and 16. *On Reserve*

### V. International Organization, International Organizations, and Global Problems in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Apr. 22-May 1 The Ackert Hall Mini-conference: Outlining and Responding to Trans-sovereign Problems  
**May 1 Research Papers Due**  
May 6-8 Conclusions

Readings: 1) Cusimano Love, chs. 5-14.

### **May 13 Final Exam, 2:00 pm to 3:50 pm**

## The Ackert Hall Trans-sovereign Problem Mini-conference

### Project Summary:

Throughout this semester, teams of roughly 5 students will independently study prominent global problems and the roles that international organizations play in ameliorating them. We will divide into teams in the first few weeks of the semester, and each team's **semester long project** will be to **research one particular global problem and the activities of international organizations in this issue area**. The problems we will study are typically termed "trans-sovereign" or "transnational" issues, because they affect many, if not most, of the countries on this planet, and they can be solved by none alone. Attempting to find remedies for these global dilemmas typically requires international cooperation and the active involvement of international institutions. Your group assignment will be to trace the history of your specific global problem, the actions that have been taken by international organizations (IGOs primarily, but also NGOs) working in this area, and finally to discern what the future holds.

Your research findings will be disseminated in three ways —

**1. First, your group will give a 30 minute presentation** to the class where you will briefly outline: 1) the nature of the problem, 2) the accomplishments and the failures of international organizations working in this area, and 3) the likely magnitude of this problem in the future — the first decades of the twenty-first century. *Your group presentations are an important component of learning in this course, and hence they will be approached with high expectations on the part of the professor.*

Presentations will be given in the context of a two week long mini-conference, which will be held from April 22 through May 1. As with academic or policy conferences on pressing issues, time will be allotted for questions from the class and the professor. To be adequately prepared, it is recommended that you meet with the professor at least two weeks before your presentation to discuss the structure and content of your talk, and well before then if assistance is needed researching your topic.

This conference will prove both challenging and rewarding for students. Part of the pay-off will be the increased understanding your group will have of the topic that you research -- which is among the most prominent trans-sovereign problems in the world today. More than that, as a whole the class will acquire a better grasp of no less than a half dozen such problems. In other words, through our presentations we will **collectively survey** some of the most pressing international problems of the coming decades, and will be better able to grasp the complexities inherent in them and their likely impact on the future (which is, of course, our future). We may well gain a broader understanding of where the world is heading in the first decades of the new century by focusing on and discussing these critical trans-sovereign problems.

**2. Second, each group will turn in a detailed outline** of their presentation on the day of their talk. As with the presentation, the outline will: 1) provide a thorough overview of the global problem, 2) summarize the activities of the international organizations working in this area, and 3) discuss the prospects for the future. A complete bibliography of the sources used for the presentation will be attached, and these sources will be referenced throughout the outline.

**3. Third, students will submit individual 10 page research papers** on their topic near the end of the semester. Details on the paper will be handed out well before its deadline.

A schedule of mini-conference dates, topics, and readings follows on the next page.

## MINI-CONFERENCE PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Issue</u>   | <u>Readings</u>                                |
|-------------|--|--|
| April 22    | Terrorism<br>Global Crime                                      | Cusimano Love, ch. 5<br>Cusimano Love, ch. 6   |
| April 24    | Global Drug Trade<br>Cyberthreats                              | Cusimano Love, ch. 7<br>Cusimano Love, ch. 8   |
| April 29    | Nuclear Smuggling<br>Spread of Infectious Diseases             | Cusimano Love, ch. 9<br>Cusimano Love, ch. 10  |
| May 1       | Ecosystem Degradation (wetlands, rainforests, etc)<br>Refugees | Cusimano Love, ch. 11<br>Cusimano Love, ch. 12 |