P0497p: International Organisations and Public Policy

Wilfrid Laurier University

Fall 2016

Instructor: Rianne Mahon

Lecture: TR 8:30-1130a.m.

Classroom: Room 127, BSIA

Email: rmahon@wlu.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5p.m. (or by appointment)

Office: 316 Balsillie School

Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier's Accessible Learning Office (https://www.wlu.ca/accessible-learning/index.html) for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Academic Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

Additional information on Foot Patrol, Counselling Services the WLUSU Food Bank can be found on the last page out this outline.
Course Description

Students of public policy are increasingly aware that the transnational flow of policy ideas, in which international organisations play an important part, cannot be ignored. This is as true for OECD countries as it is for the countries of Eastern and Central Europe and the Global South. At the same time, in international relations, both rational choice theorists and social constructivists have come to recognise that international organisations are not simply instruments of nation states. Rather what they do and how they ‘think’ is at least in part shaped by internal dynamics.

At the macro level, this course explores international organisations' contributions to the complex field of transnational or "global" governance and the instruments (both hard and soft) to which they have recourse. At the micro and meso-levels, it assesses the role international organisations play in the transnational diffusion of public policy ideas and “best practices.” It examines major international organisations such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the OECD, and then considers their role in the governance of key policy areas. Focusing on policy areas such as poverty reduction, migration, food and the environment, makes it easier to trace the relations of competition and cooperation into which they enter into with each other and with other actors, national and transnational.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of key global policy issues and processes;
2. Comprehend alternative theoretical approaches to the study of global policy and governance and use them to identify and explore new research problems;
3. In written and oral work, frame questions and identify and assess possible solutions by using core concepts, theories and methods;
4. Synthesise information from the scholarly literature and primary sources, including official documents produced by international organisations or resulting from major international conferences

5. Communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written and oral media to audiences, both academic and non-academic

6. Recognise the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches used by political scientists and other social scientists to make sense of global policy issues and processes

7. Describe how political science can - and cannot - adequately contribute to the understanding of various global problems

8. Improve the development of organisational, time management, research and analytical skills through independent and group work

**Required Text**

Most of the readings can be accessed online via the library’s electronic journal database. Websites for a few readings are listed and I will post several others on our course site. The required readings not available on line have been placed on reserve at the main library. Compulsory readings are marked with a single asterisk.

**Course Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar participation</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First written paper</td>
<td>20 October</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>8 December</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
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Seminar Participation

The course follows a seminar format, with students expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Students will occasionally be asked to initiate discussion of one or more of these readings, identifying the key issues for discussion and reflecting on the arguments made in ways that bring out the connection to readings and themes discussed in previous classes as well as those assigned for that week. It is important to try to situate any particular text, and the issues it raises, as a development of the broader themes that run through, and define, this course.

As you can assume that the other participants have read the material, you should keep your initial presentation to no more than 10 minutes. No one will be penalised for being on the quiet side but informed and inspired participation on a regular basis and incisive presentations of the readings you have been assigned, could help raise your final grade.

First assignment:

You are required to do a preliminary review of the relevant literature on the topic you plan on which you plan to write your final paper and then to write a short paper, between 800-1000 words, describing your proposed research, setting it in relation to the literature you have reviewed and showing how it relates to one of the core themes or ideas covered in this course. It is important to consult with me early about your topic. I can help you to identify useful sources and to develop a clear focus for the paper. This assignment is due 20 October 2016.

Final paper:

You have a choice between a standard essay of between 3500 and 4000 words and a review of the literature on a global policy question prepared as if it were written for an international organisation, an INGO, or a transnational think tank. If you choose the essay format, the paper must engage with some of the theoretical material covered in this course but it may do so by way of a more empirically oriented paper. Whichever option you choose, I expect to see an engagement with at least some of the concepts discussed in this course as well as material you have found through your own research. The list of
supplementary readings for each week is provided to help get you started. Further details will be given in class.

The paper is due 8 December.

Course Policies

Academic Misconduct and the Need for Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is greatly valued in this course. Academic misconduct occurs in a variety of forms. Students are required to familiarise themselves with the University policies on Plagiarism Academic Dishonesty as well as the associated penalties which can be severe. Plagiarism: According to the Academic Calendar (2016-17), plagiarism “involves using the thoughts, ideas, or writings of another person passing them off as your own (adapted from the Oxford English Dictionary definition). It can involve taking credit for ideas that were not your own or using the words of others without properly citing them.” Further information can be found at https://students.wlu.ca/academics/academic-integrity/index.html. Should you have any questions about these issues please feel free to discuss them with me. Collaboration: all of the work produced by students needs to be the product of their own individual efforts. Although discussion of topics is to be expected this work needs to reflect original individual ideas be written independently.

Submission:

Please submit your papers to me electronically at rmahon@wlu.ca using Word rather than a pdf so that I can make my comments on the text.

Late Penalties
I do accept late papers but an extension must be requested in advance. If papers come in very late, I may grade them, but am under no obligation to provide comments.

**Communication:**

An active WLU e-mail account is required as a means of communication. Please ensure that your account is active and check it regularly. I encourage students to come and see me in office hours with specific questions or more general issues. If you require clarification on any aspect of the course please arrange to see me. Please feel free to set up a meeting outside of regular office hours.

**Accommodations:**

Accommodations, including for emergencies, serious illness or religious observances will be made for both class attendance and written work. Documentation may be required. Where possible – such as in the case of religious observances - it is expected that I be notified in advance. Should you feel uncomfortable discussing the need for accommodation with me directly please feel free to contact accessible learning to discuss your situation.

**University Resources**

The University provides a large selection of professional, academic and personal support services to assist students to succeed in their academic careers. Please consult the University website for available resources.
Lecture Outline and Required Readings

Required Readings:

It is important that you do the required readings for each week. I have also provided a list of supplementary readings. You are **not** required to do these. They are there simply to help you to delve deeper into that topic should you decide to focus on it for your paper.

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1: **Introduction** (8 September)

- No required readings

**Part 1: International Organisations and Global Governance**

Week 2: **International Organisations as Organisations** (15 September)


**Week 3: International Organisations and Global Governance: Theory** (22 September)


**Week 4: International Organisations: Governing Instruments** (29 September)


Part 2 – International Organisations: Some Key Examples

Week 5: The UN System (6 October)


Week 6: The World Bank (20 October)

Kate Bedford (2009) Developing partnerships: gender, sexuality and the ‘reformed’ World Bank U of Minnesota Press Intro only


**Week 7: The OECD (27 October)**


- J. C. Sharman (2012) ‘Seeing like the OECD on Tax’ *New Political Economy* 17(1)


J.C. Sharman (2009) “The bark is the bite: International organizations and blacklisting” 
*RIPE* 16:4 573-596

*JEPP* 15:5 669-696

**Part III – Global Issues**

Week 8: **Poverty Reduction: Millennium Development Goals** (2 November)

- Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and David Hulme ((2011) ‘International Norm Dynamics and the “End of Poverty” and the Millennium Development Goals’ *Global Governance* 17(1)


Naila Kabeer (2015) ‘Women/MDGs: Tracking the gender politics of the MDGs. Struggles for interpretive power in the international development agenda’ *Third World Quarterly* 36(2)


Git Sen and Avanti Mukherjee (2014) ‘No empowerment without rights; no rights without empowerment: Gender equality, the MDGs and the post-2015 Development Agenda’ *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities* 15(2-3)
David Hulme and James Scott (2010) ‘The political economy of the MDGs: Retrospect and Prospect for the world’s biggest promise’ New Political Economy 15(2)


For some readings on the broader topic:


Week 9 – **Migration** (10 November)


Ishan Ashutosh and Alison Mountz (2011) ‘Migration management for the benefit of whom? Interrogating the role of the International Organization for Migration’

*Citizenship Studies* 15(1)


Alexander Betts and Gil Loescher eds. *Refugees in International Relations* Oxford University Press


Rianne Mahon and Sonya Michel (forthcoming) ‘Not in Focus: Migrant women caregivers as seen by the ILO and the OECD’
Week 10: **Health: The Ebola Crisis** (17 November)


- Adam Kamradt-Scott (2016) ‘WHO’s to blame? The WHO and the 2011 Ebola outbreak in West Africa’ *Third World Quarterly* 37(3)

  Sophie Harman (2016) ‘Ebola, gender and the conspicuous invisibility of women in global health governance’ *Third World Quarterly* 37(3)


  Clare Wenham (2016) ‘Ebola respons-ibility: moving from shared to multiple responsibilities’ *Third World Quarterly* 37(3)

For some additional readings in global health governance see:


**Week 11: Food** (24 November)

Crisis: Governance, Challenges and Opportunities Jennifer Clapp and Marc Cohen ends WLU


Matias Margulis (2014) ‘Trading out the global food crises? The WTO and the geopolitics of food security’ *Geopolitics* 19(2)


Matias Margulis ‘The regime complex for food security: Implications for the global hunger challenge’ *Global Governance* 19(1)


Philip McMichael and Mindi Schneider (2011) ‘Food security politics and the MDGs’ *Third World Quarterly* 32(1)


**Week 12:** *The Environment: Climate Change* (7 December)


- Caroline Kuzenko (20150 ‘Climate change benchmarking: Constructing a sustainable future? *Review of International Studies* 41(5)


N. Betsill, N. Dubash, M. Paterson, H. Van Assell, A. Vihma, H. Winkler,(2015) ‘Building productive links between the UNFCC and the Broader Climate Governance Landscape’ *Global Environmental Politics* 15(2)

Jonathan Kuyper and Karin Bäckstrand (2016) ‘Accountable representation: Non-state actors in UN Climate Diplomacy Global Environmental Politics 16(2)

David Ciplet (2014) ‘Contesting Climate Injustice: Transnational advocacy struggles for rights in UN Climate Politics’ Global Environmental Politics 14(4)

Michael Hanegraff (2015) ‘Transnational advocacy over time: Business and NGO Mobilization at UN Summits’ Global Environmental Politics 15(1)

On behalf of WLUSU (wlusu.com)

Foot Patrol Walk Home Service:

1.519.886.FOOT x3668

Foot Patrol is a volunteer operated walk-home service, available daily during evening hours. Male-female, radio-dispatched teams trained in Emergency First Aid are available on request to escort students to and from campus as well as to off-campus destinations, either by foot or by van.

Counselling Services and Peer Help Line:

1.886.281.PEER x7337

Counselling Services are available to help students deal with emotional, psychological and social challenges of university. Counselling, consultation or referrals are available at the Student Wellness Centre. Peer Help Line, a confidential listening, referral, information and support line, is available during evening hours to provide support.

Student Food bank
All Laurier students are eligible to use the Student Food Bank. Anonymous requests can be made online at wlusu.com under the Services tab. All dietary restrictions are accommodated, and food hampers typically last up to a week.