

International Institutions and Law
Dr. Christina Fattore (she/her/hers)
Spring 2023

Instructor Information:

306H Woodburn Hall

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30AM-1PM and by appointment

Course Information:

POLS 361, Woodburn 101

Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:15PM

What Will You Learn In This Class?

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of international order, organization, and cooperation. This course focuses on exploring the institutional design and effectiveness of international organizations within the context of world politics. Students will concentrate on institutional theory, human rights, international security, trade, and monetary integration.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply the classical theories of international relations to understand the concept of cooperation;
2. Analyze how hegemons, regimes, and norms shape international order;
3. Judge the value/success of various international organizations using different methods of institutional design and measures of institutional effectiveness;
4. Evaluate the UN's ability to create and implement effective global policy regarding international security, human rights, and international development;
5. Summarizing the creation and integration of the current European Union, while assessing the current, continuing Euro crisis;

I invite and expect you to develop your own learning aspirations and I look forward to hearing about how these evolve during our discussions.

Course Materials: There is no main text for this class. The readings will be available either on ecampus or on the web. All other readings are available via ecampus or electronic journal via the WVU Libraries website (<https://libwvu.on.worldcat.org/atoztitles/#article>)

What Will Class Be Like?

This course will be conducted as a combination of lecture, activities and discussion. Preparation is vital for meaningful class discussion as well as for the daily assignments, so keeping up with the reading schedule is imperative.

Students are required to:

1. Complete the assignments scheduled for each class meeting, and be prepared to summarize and discuss the material in class on the appropriate day by taking appropriate reading notes;
2. Participate actively and intelligently in class discussion;
3. Fully engage in all forms of classroom activities;
4. Participate fully in the podcast assignment.

Students are asked to keep an extra copy of each assignment until the instructor has returned the graded copy of that assignment. Students are also required to keep graded, returned copies of all essays and quizzes. Failure to do so will invalidate any potential question or protest about assignment or course grades.

In-Class Activities: In this class, we will be doing a short daily activity that will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and critical thinking skills. These activities will always deal with that day's assigned topic and/or readings, so be sure to complete the readings beforehand. These activities can only be completed in class. Therefore, if you miss a class, you will receive a zero for that day. Your three lowest scores will be dropped at the end of the semester. The in-class activities will be graded pass/fail and will make up 15% of your total course grade.

Quizzes (6.25 points each; 25 points total) You are expected to come prepared to every scheduled session, having read the assigned material, and ready to discuss the material. Each month, you will take a short quiz that encompasses all material covered (readings, lectures, movies, etc) through the dates listed below. These will be in class quizzes. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions as well as one essay question. Makeup quizzes will only be administered in case of emergency and only when the student contacts the professor prior to the quiz. The quiz schedule for this class is listed below:

Quiz 1: Thursday, February 2

Quiz 2: Thursday, March 2

Quiz 3: Thursday, March 30

Quiz 4: Thursday, April 20

Podcast Assignment

Instead of a more typical final paper, this class will focus on a podcast assignment. The assignment will have both individual and group components, with assignments and deadlines throughout the quarter. This document provides all the details you'll need to

complete this assignment, so please read it carefully and consult it often as you work through the project.

Project Overview

Each podcast will explore the **history** behind a current political event that relates to international law or international organizations/institutions. The style should be similar to the podcast Backstory, including an introduction that briefly outlines the current event, main segments that discuss historical events that relate to the topic, and a concluding segment that wraps up and identifies relevant connections. Each group will be responsible for researching, recording, and editing the podcast, which should be around 12-15 minutes in length. Each group member will take the role of an “expert” for one of the historical segments, as well as the role of “interviewer” for a different historical segment.

Creating a successful podcast will take a substantial amount of out-of-class time. You will need to coordinate with your group members to find times to work on research, writing, recording, and editing. This type of project is typically most successful when students commit to working and collaborating together in person, as opposed to breaking it up into chunks to be completed separately.

Major Component Assignments and Deadlines

The following schedule lists the major assignments that make up the podcast project. We’ll go over each of these assignments in class, and you can also find more information on Ecampus. Please don’t hesitate to be in touch with Dr. Fattore if you have any questions!

In addition to these larger assignments and deadlines, there will be various less formal checkpoints along the way. We will discuss these smaller assignments in class. Unless a specific time is noted, all assignments are due by the end of the day (11:59pm) on the date listed. Because this is a collaborative assignment, though, I advise you to work ahead and not wait until the last minute to submit.

Week 2: Podcast Reflection (individual grade, due January 20): You’ll listen and reflect on two podcasts, one from a list of BackStory episodes and one of your choosing.

Week 4: Group Contract (group grade, due in class February 9): Once we form groups and select topics, you’ll meet to discuss your expectations for yourselves and others. Together, you’ll draft and sign a group contract. I’ll provide time to work on this during class.

Week 6: Proposal and Timeline (group grade, due February 16): You'll submit a proposal that includes your podcast name and title, a timeline of events related to your topic, and a brief description of your planned segments. Each group member will take responsibility for being the "expert" for one of the segments.

Week 8: Secondary Source Analysis (individual grade, due March 2): You'll identify a scholarly secondary source (book or journal article) related to your segment and write a critical analysis of the author's argument and evidence.

Week 9: Primary Source Analysis (individual grade, due March 9): You'll identify a primary source related to your segment and write a critical analysis.

Week 13: Draft Script (group grade, due April 6): Each group will submit a draft script outlining their planned segments in detail. In class, we'll take some time to workshop the drafts and provide suggestions for improvement.

Week 16: Podcast and Final Script (group grade, due May 5th at 11AM): Each group will submit a .mp3 or .wav file containing their podcast recording (see project overview above). In addition to the podcast itself, groups will submit a final script and a reference list.

Podcast Grading Breakdown (60 points total)

Podcast Reflection: 7 points

Group Contract: 4 points

Proposal/Timeline: 4 points

Secondary Source: 7.5 points

Primary Source: 7.5 points

Draft Script: 10 points

Podcast and Final Script: 20 points

This entire project will count for 60 points of your final course grade and includes both group and individual grades. More information on the various components of this assignment is available on ecampus.

Grade Calculations for POLS 361:

In Class Activities	15 points
Four Monthly Quizzes	25 points
Podcast Assignment	60 points
Total	100 points

Grade Scale:

A	90-100 points
B	80-89 points
C	70-79 points
D	60-69 points
F	0-59 points

WVU Inclusivity Statement: The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in your classes, please advise your instructors and make appropriate arrangements with [the Office of Accessibility Services](#). More information is available at the [Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) as well.

WVU Academic Integrity Statement: The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, instructors will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of their courses. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the West Virginia University [Academic Standards Policy](#). Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see your instructor before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

WVU Adverse Weather Statement: In the event of inclement or threatening weather, everyone should use his or her best judgment regarding travel to and from campus. Safety should be the main concern. If you cannot get to class because of adverse weather conditions, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible. Similarly, if your instructor(s) are unable to reach the class location, they will notify you of any cancellation or change as soon as possible, using agreed upon methods to prevent students from embarking on any unnecessary travel. If you cannot get to class because of weather conditions, instructors will make allowances relative to required attendance policies, as well as any scheduled tests, quizzes, or other assessments.

Sale of Course Material Statement: All course materials, including lectures, class notes, quizzes, exams, handouts, presentations, and other course materials provided to students for their courses are protected intellectual property. As such, the unauthorized

purchase or sale of these materials may result in disciplinary sanctions under the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Course Schedule

Week One (January 10 and 12): Intro to the Class and International Law/Institutions
No readings

Week Two (January 17 and 19): Sources of International Law
Hafner, Burton, Emilie, David G. Victor, and Yonatan Lupu. 2012. "[Political Science Research on International Law: The State of the Field](#)." *American Journal of International Law* pp. 47-97.

Week Three (January 24 and 26): Breaking and Upholding International Law
Round Robin Discussions on Podcast Topics, Tuesday Jan 24
[Abbott, Kenneth and Duncan Snidal. 1998. "Why States Act Through Formal Organizations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42: 3-32.](#)
[Wendt, Alexander. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics."](#)

Week Four (January 31 and February 2): Finish Breaking International Law + QUIZ
ONE FEBRUARY 2

Week Five (February 7 and 9): Hegemons, Regimes, and Norms
[Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52\(4\): 887-917.](#)

Week Six (February 14 and 16): Armed Conflict
Reading TBA

Week Seven (February 21 and 23): Human Rights
[Hafner-Burton, Emilie and Kiyoteru Tsutsui. 2005. "Human Rights in a Globalizing World: The Paradox of Empty Promises." *American Journal of Sociology* 110 \(5\).](#)

Week Eight (February 28 and March 2): Trade and Investment
Goldstein, Judith. 1996. "[International Law and Domestic Institutions: Reconciling North American "Unfair" Trade Laws](#)." *International Organization* 50(4).
QUIZ TWO MARCH 2

Week Nine (March 7 and 9): Environmental Protection

Hardin, Garrett 1968. "[The Tragedy of the Commons](#)" *Science* 162: 1243-1248
Von Stein, Jana. 2008. "[The International Law and Politics of Climate Change](#)." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(2): 243-268.

SPRING BREAK March 13-20—No Classes

Week Eleven (March 21 and 23): Understanding the Study of International Organizations

Downs, George W., David M. Rocke, and Peter N. Barsoom. 1996. "[Is the Good News about Compliance Good News about Cooperation?](#)" *International Organization* 50(3): 379-406.

Week Twelve (March 28 and 30): United Nations

Weiss et al Chapter 1 and 5

QUIZ THREE MARCH 30

Week Thirteen (April 4 and 6): The United Nations

[Funding the United Nations](#)

[The UN Has Turned Turtle On the Ukraine War](#)

Week Fourteen (April 11 and 13): International Court of Justice and the ICC

Zvobgo, Kelebogile. 2021. "[Stay the Hand of Justice? US Resistance to the International Criminal Court](#)." In Boyer, Mark A., and Cameron Thies (Editors). Symposium: Did "America First" Construct America Irrelevant? *International Studies Perspectives* 22(4): 483–486.

Zvobgo, Kelebogile. 2019. "[Human Rights versus National Interests: Shifting US Public Attitudes on the International Criminal Court](#)." *International Studies Quarterly* 63(4): 1065–1078.

Week Fifteen (April 18 and 20): Regionalism and Brexit

Watch [Why Brexit Happened](#)

Watch [Everything You Know about Brexit is Wrong](#)

Read [The Benefits of the Euro](#)

QUIZ FOUR APRIL 20

Week Sixteen (April 25 and 27): Group Meetings For Podcast Assignment

