

# **INR 3502: International Organizations**

**Fall 2023**

**Class Meeting:**

**Section 0001: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:20 AM – 10:10 AM  
(BEL 0004)**

**&**

**Section 0002: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:40 AM – 11:30 AM  
(BEL 0004)**

Zachary Houser

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Office Hours: by appointment

## **OFFICE HOURS**

I have set aside weekly zoom office hours for this course. Please go to <https://houser-inr-3502.youcanbook.me> to schedule an appointment with me. Appointments must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. If you cannot meet me during the available time slots, please contact me via email. As a general rule, I am unavailable for most morning appointments.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course covers the role of global and regional international organizations in contemporary world politics. Special emphasis is placed on the United Nations system, including its structure, activities, influence, and role in world integration.

## **REQUIRED BOOK**

Hurd, I. (2020). *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice* (4th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108888653

We will be using Canvas extensively in this course. There you will find and complete your reading discussion questions, view grades, and receive announcements from your professor: <https://canvas.fsu.edu/>. It is your responsibility to have access to Canvas and to link it to your email address. Check your Canvas notification settings to avoid missing announcements. In addition, you should make a habit of reading at least one reputable newspaper or periodical — such as the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, or Economist. You can access these news sources free of charge through the library. Lectures will frequently reference current international events, and exams will reference current events. Being conversant with what is going on in the United States and the world will be important to contribute to discussions and do well on assignments.

## **EARNING YOUR GRADE**

Please read this section carefully. Registration in this course implies that you agree with all elements of evaluation herein described. Though I reserve the right to modify this syllabus with advance notice to students, I will not do so with respect to the parameters of student evaluation.

To accomplish the course goals and ensure your success in the course, I strongly encourage you to do the following (at a minimum):

Complete all reading in advance of the exam, complete quizzes, and attend all lectures. These reading assignments are required, not optional. I will not necessarily cover all the reading in my lectures, so it is imperative that you complete the assigned readings in advance of the exams. Complete the online quizzes and practice material for the exams; Contact your professor early and often if you have questions or concerns about course materials, course expectations, or your grade.

You will be evaluated based on your performance on the following assignments:

- Participation: 15%
- Assignments: 20%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Final Project 15%

***Participation:*** Active participation in our discussions is an important and required element of the course and will be critical to successfully learning the material. Hence, you should be prepared to answer questions that are posed, ask questions about concepts that are not clear, challenge viewpoints expressed in the reading or class discussion, and be involved in the classroom conversations. These discussions must always be conducted with an air of respect for differing viewpoints and the people who present them, and with an open mind (e.g., arguing for positions even if you are not yet certain of them, and being willing to consider new arguments or information). **Participation grades will be based not just on attendance but on the quality and quantity of your active involvement.** I reserve the right to deduct points for disrespectful behavior and to dismiss anyone from the classroom who continuously disrupts the learning environment.

***Assignments:*** Throughout the semester there will be periodic **online quizzes** on the course readings and **5 in-class activities**. Quizzes will consist of short answer and/or multiple-choice questions. You will only have one attempt for each quiz; however, you will have as much time as you need to finish the quiz. Activity dates can be found below. **Activities can NOT be made up. I will drop your lowest assignment grades.**

***Midterm Exam:*** The midterm exam accounts for 25% of your final grade. The exam will test your recollection of facts from the readings, videos, and lecture materials. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.

***Final Exam:*** The final exam accounts for 25% of your final grade. The exam will test your recollection of facts from the readings, videos, and lecture materials. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.

***Final Project:*** The final group presentation accounts for 20% of your final grade. You and your group will present a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation to the class during the last three days of the semester. Further instructions on the presentation can be found below.

**Final grades:** Please note that the “Total” column that is automatically calculated on Canvas is NOT an accurate reflection of your grade. You will likely need to do some additional calculations to get a correctly weighted estimate of your grade. Finally, note that I adhere to the number-to-letter grade conversion chart below for your final grades. Final grades ending in .5 or higher are rounded up to the nearest whole percentage point.

Final letter grades will be assigned that correspond to the following numeric scale:

A 93-100	A- 90-92	
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72
D+ 67-69	D 63-66	D- 60-62
F below 59		

\*An A is the highest grade you can earn in this class.

### EMAIL POLICY

Though I strive to give all students my personal attention, I am responsible for many of you each semester. As such, it is much easier for me to help you if you include the course number (INR 3502) and a short description of your question in the subject line of your email. When I receive your email, I will make every effort to respond in a timely manner, usually within 48 hours, except for weekends and holidays. Though you may receive a reply sooner than that, you should not expect an immediate response. Finally, I will contact you via your FSU email address, so please see to it that your account is set up such that you are able to receive these communications.

### COURSE PROTOCOL

I do not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form and will pursue the full penalties for violations thereof. For your reference, the University Academic Honor Policy is listed below. **All assignments will be run through Turnitin.com.** Do not copy your classmates’ answers or plagiarize online resources – it’s not worth it and you will be caught.

### UNIVERSITY POLICIES

**Academic Honor Policy:** The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.”

See <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>.

**University Attendance Policy:** Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid written excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Academic Success:** Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Office of Accessibility Services 874 Traditions Way 108 Student Services Building Florida State University Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167 (850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD) oas@fsu.edu <https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

**Confidential campus resources:** Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

- Victim Advocate Program University Center A, Room 4100, (850) 644-7161, Available 24/7/365, Office Hours: M-F 8-5 <https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>
- Counseling & Psychological Services Askew Student Life Center, 2ndFloor, 942 Learning Way (850) 644-8255 <https://counseling.fsu.edu/> University
- Health Services Health and Wellness Center (850) 644-6230 <https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

**Syllabus Change Policy:** Except for changes that substantially affect parameters of evaluation, including grading and the scheduling of the last exam, this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. I will provide you with advance notice in class and via your university-registered email contact.

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## International Organizations Final Project

You have been asked to analyze a transnational problem and create of a new international organization to address the problem (or reform an existing international organization). You must use a realist, liberal, or constructivist understanding of international politics as a basis for your international organization. You must also explain the key components, characteristics, and rules of your international organization.

**This project will involve substantial research and careful thought.** You must use a minimum 10 references. You must first master the details of a specific transnational problem, then think

theoretically about how realists, liberals, or constructivist would approach solving the problem, and finally, you must think about the institutional design of your international organization.

The project has four purposes. First, it provides an opportunity to apply your understanding of theory to an important issue in international relations. Second, it provides an opportunity to apply your understanding of how international organizations operate to a current transnational problem. Third, it allows you to dive into a transnational problem that interests you! Fourth, it allows you to apply everything you learn in a creative way while also improving your research and writing skills.

### Project Outline

Your project will include the following parts:

- **Introduction - Bottom-Line Up-Front (BLUF) Explanation**
    - Introduction of the transnational problem or issue you are going to address.
    - Explain how you plan on solving the problem you chose (creating a new IO or reforming an existing IO).
    - *\*This is essentially the “abstract” of your presentation\**
  - **Background information & Current International Response -**
    - Group provides any other background information that is needed to understand the problem they chose.
    - Review the current international response to the problem and what IOs, NGOs, Countries, etc. are currently involved.
    - Statement on the Necessity for Change: What circumstances (e.g., changes in government, war, global stability, etc.) have changed that make a new approach advisable or necessary?
  - **Solution**
    - Explain what your solution is to the problem (new IO or reform existing IOs) and explain why your solution is better than the status quo (the current IO/ international response).
    - Explain why a realist/liberal/ or constructivist theorist would recommend your solution (new IO or reforms) given their assumptions about international politics.
  - **International Organization Design**
    - *Name* your International Organization.
    - Explain the *purpose* of your IO.
    - Explain the *membership criteria* for your IO.
    - Explain the *obligations* countries make when joining your IO.
    - Explain what powers of *enforcement* your IO has.
    - Explain your IO’s rules and procedures for making *decisions*.
  - **Conclusion**
    - Detail the goals of your IO.
    - Explain why countries would want to join your IO.
    - Explain what will happen if your IO is NOT created and what will happen if your IO is created.
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## INR 3502, Fall 2023

### Course Calendar

#### **PART I. ANALYTICAL AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS**

##### **Week 1: Analytical and Theoretical Foundations**

**Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

- Syllabus day
- No readings

**Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 1: Introduction to International Organizations

**Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 2: Theory, Methods, and International Organizations

##### **Week 2: IR Theory**

**Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**

- **NO CLASS – Labor Day**

**Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**

- **Activity 1 (in-class)**

**Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

- Mearsheimer, John. 1994. The False Promise of International Institutions. *International Security* 19 (3): 5-49. (skip pp. 26-37.)

##### **Week 3: IR Theory**

**Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Keohane, Robert and Lisa Martin. 1995. The Promise of Institutional Theory. *International Security* 20 (1): 39-51.

**Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

- Wendt, Alexander. 1995. Constructing International Politics. *International Security* 20 (1): 71-81.

**Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

- Theory lecture continued (no readings)

#### **Part II. Institutional Design and Institutional Effects**

##### **Week 4: Institutional Design**

**Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Koremenos, Barbara Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. The Rational Design of International Institutions. *International Organization* 55 (4): 761-799.

**Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

- Charles Lispon. 1991. "Why Are Some International Agreements Informal?" *International Organization* 45, pp. 495-538.

- **Activity 2 (in-class)**

**Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Informal International agreements continued (No Readings)

#### **PART III. THE UNITED NATIONS**

### Week 5: United Nations

**Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 3: The United Nations I: Law and Administration

**Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 4: The United Nations II: International Peace and Security

**Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

- UN Lecture Continued
- International Whaling Commission (No readings)

### Week 6: United Nations

**Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- Weiss, Thomas. 2003. The Illusion of UN Security Council Reform. The Washington Quarterly 26

**Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

- **Activity 3 (in-class)**

**Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

- **Exam 1**

## IV. HUMAN RIGHTS

### Week 7: Human Rights

**Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Moravcsik, A. (2009). The paradox of US human rights policy. In American exceptionalism and human rights (pp. 147-197). Princeton University Press.

**Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Vreeland, James Raymond. 2008. Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture. International Organization 62 (1): 65-101. (skip pp. 80-92 and 95-101)

**Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**

- Somalia lecture

### Week 8: Human Rights

**Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

- Rwanda lecture
- **Hotel Rwanda Quiz Due**

**Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Rwanda and R2P lecture

**Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

- Power, S. (2001). Bystanders to genocide. Atlantic Monthly, 288(2), 84-108.

### Week 9: Courts

**Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 10: The International Criminal Court

**Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

- **Activity 4 (in-class)**

**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 9: The International Court of Justice

## V. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ACTION

### Week 10: NATO & WHO

**Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-nato>

**Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

- **Activity 5 (in-class)**

**Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- World Health Organization <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-does-world-health-organization-do>
- INTERPOL lecture

### Week 11: Economic IOs

**Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

- Bretton Woods lecture

**Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 6: The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

**Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

- **NO CLASS – Veterans Day**

### Week 12: Economic IOs

**Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

- IMF and World Bank cont.

**Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 5: The World Trade Organization
  - \*recommended\* Crowley, Meredith A. 2003. An Introduction to the WTO and GATT. Economic Perspectives 42-57.

**Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 7: The International Labor Organization

### Week 13: Thanksgiving

**Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

- BRICS - <https://www.cfr.org/expert-brief/how-brics-got-here>

**Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**

**Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

- **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**

### Week 14: European Union

**Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Hurd, Chapter 11: The European Union

**Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Brexit lecture

**Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

- Wrapping up the Semester & The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea/  
South China Sea lecture

**Week 15**

**Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

- **Group Presentations**

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

- **Group Presentations**

**Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

- **Group Presentations**