

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.

Presentation Assignment: 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 will be provided in class and on Canvas.

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.

INR 3502, Fall 2023

Course Calendar

PART I. ANALYTICAL AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

Week 1: Analytical and Theoretical Foundations

Monday, August 28th

- Syllabus day
- No readings

Wednesday, August 30th

- Hurd, Chapter 1: Introduction to International Organizations

Friday, September 1st

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

Week 2: IR Theory

Monday, September 4th

- **NO CLASS – Labor Day**

Wednesday, September 6th

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

Friday, September 8th

- 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 11th

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

Wednesday, September 13th

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

Friday, September 15th

- Theory lecture continued (no readings)

Part II. Institutional Design and Institutional Effects

Week 4: Institutional Design

Monday, September 18th

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

Wednesday, September 20th

- Charles Lispon. 1991. "Why Are Some International Agreements Informal?" *International Organization* 45, pp. 495-538.
- **Activity 2 (in-class)**

Friday, September 22nd

- Informal International agreements continued (No Readings)

PART III. THE UNITED NATIONS

Week 5: United Nations

Monday, September 25th

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

Wednesday, September 27th

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

Friday, September 29th

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

Week 6: United Nations

Monday, October 2nd

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

Wednesday, October 4th

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

Friday, October 6th

- **Exam 1**

IV. HUMAN RIGHTS

Week 7: Human Rights

Monday, October 9th

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

Wednesday, October 11th

- 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 13th

- Somalia lecture

Week 8: Human Rights

Monday, October 16th

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

Wednesday, October 18th

- Rwanda and R2P lecture

Friday, October 20th

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

Week 9: Courts

Monday, October 23rd

- Hurd, Chapter 10: The International Criminal Court

Wednesday, October 25th

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

Friday, October 27th

- Hurd, Chapter 9: The International Court of Justice

V. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ACTION

Week 10: NATO & WHO

Monday, October 30th

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

Wednesday, November 1st

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

Friday, November 3rd

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

- INTERPOL lecture

Week 11: Economic IOs

Monday, November 6th

- Bretton Woods lecture

Wednesday, November 8th

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

Friday, November 10th

- **NO CLASS – Veterans Day**

Week 12: Economic IOs

Monday, November 13th

- IMF and World Bank cont.

Wednesday, November 15th

- 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 17th

- Hurd, Chapter 7: The International Labor Organization

Week 13: Thanksgiving

Monday, November 20th

- **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**

Wednesday, November 22nd

- **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**

Friday, November 24th

- **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**

Week 14: European Union

Monday, November 27th

- Hurd, Chapter 11: The European Union

Wednesday, November 29th

- Brexit lecture

Friday, December 1st

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

Week 15

Monday, December 4th

- **Group Presentations**

Wednesday, December 6th

- **Group Presentations**

Friday, December 8th

- **Group Presentations**