DESCRIPTION: The international system is often characterized as anarchic and scholars focus on the interactions between nation states. However, since World War II, the number of international organizations has increased considerably and international organizations have become more prominent players in the international arena. Why do international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, or the European Union exist? What role do they play in solving global problems?

This course exposes students to seminal research on the role of international organizations in world politics. The first part of the course will seek to explain how, if at all, international organizations (IOs) obtain some measure of authority in international affairs. We will consider the legalization of world politics and ask why states delegate certain tasks to international organizations instead of dealing unilaterally or multilaterally outside of an institutional context. We will also consider the role of domestic politics, both as a source of international cooperation and as a limitation. The second part of the course focuses on the design and influence of IOs. We assess the rational design line of explanation and its critics and consider in detail enforcement and flexibility features of organizations. We also assess whether and how IOs influence state compliance with agreements and explore the conditions under which IOs have influence on political behavior. The final part of the course explores organizational evolution and change and also the pathologies and complexities associated with growing legalization.

REQUIREMENTS: Students will be graded based on class participation (60%) and a final exam (40%).

- Class participation: You will be responsible for leading the discussion of the required reading material for one or two classes. A good discussion debates the broader issues, themes and questions underlying the readings, it identifies problems with theory, research design or other potential flaws in the particular readings, and discusses potential for improvement. Your discussion should be organized around 2 to 4 central questions from the readings; you must clear those central questions with me by class time in the previous week. These questions will serve as a starting point for a more focused in-class discussion. A good presentation will encourage a lively discussion focused on controversies, debates and puzzles in the literature as well as foster critical thinking about the implications. You will submit a short paper (3-4 pages) summarizing the readings for your presentation. The short papers will provide an opportunity to hone your skills in providing an analytical summary of a complex literature; a skill that will be quite useful for your dissertation
and later writing of academic papers. 60% toward your grade will be based on class participation, including the short papers and discussions you will lead, as well as your general participation in each session of class.

- **Final exam:** The grade for your final exam is 40% of your overall course grade. You have two options:
  
  - You will write a 15-20 page research paper which will be due at 5pm on the last day of classes. The topic has to be cleared with me by the end of week 2. The work has to be original and should not be used to receive a grade for any other courses in the department:
    
    1. You can write a research paper that proposes to resolve some of the limitations of the literature we discuss in class. The proposal has to identify a question or puzzle, discuss how you would try to answer that question (theoretical argument, hypotheses, and research design), lay out the necessary steps of the project, and suggest how this project would advance the literature.
    
    2. You can empirically evaluate one of the theories we have discussed in class using one or multiple international organizations, or alternatively, compare theories using case studies or quantitative data analysis.
  
  - You write a mock comprehensive exam at the beginning of finals week. I will give you comprehensive exam questions related to the topic of the course and you will have six hours to complete the exam under typical comprehensive exam conditions.

**Academic Integrity.** It is your responsibility to inform me of any factor(s) that might interfere with your class performance well in advance of any problems. Under all circumstances, plagiarism is a violation of your academic integrity. If you have questions about what constitutes original research, or how to reference the work of others, please ask me.

**Disability.** If you are a student with a documented disability who will be requesting accommodations in my class, please make sure you are registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities (University Center 202; 858.534.4382) and provide me with documentation outlining your accommodations. I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs.

**READINGS:** Most of the readings for the course are journal articles. The articles are available electronically on JSTOR or through the UCSD library home page. Interests will vary and time is often scarce, but at a minimum you should read the assigned required readings for each week ahead of our meetings. As most of you will build your profession in this area (and will take comprehensive exams in this or adjacent fields) the additional (highly recommended) reading will be of considerable interest as well.

**SCHEDULE:** The weekly schedule is subject to change.

**PART 1: COOPERATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION**


**Highly Recommended**

Week 2: Legalization


Highly Recommended


Week 3: Delegation and Pathologies


Updated: October 2, 2018


Highly Recommended


Updated: October 2, 2018


**Week 4: The Domestic Politics of International Organizations**


**Highly Recommended**


Updated: October 2, 2018


PART 2: DESIGN AND INFLUENCE

Week 5: Design (Part I): Rational Design


Highly Recommended


Week 6: Design (Part II): Bargaining


Updated: October 2, 2018

Highly Recommended

Week 7: Design (Part III): Enforcement, Dispute Settlement and Flexibility

Highly Recommended


Week 8: Compliance and Effectiveness


Highly Recommended


Part 3: Complexity and Change

Week 9: Complexity and Forum Shopping

Highly Recommended

Updated: October 2, 2018

Week 10: Evolution and Change


Highly Recommended


Updated: October 2, 2018