

Professor Elena V. McLean

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Office Hours: TR 1–2pm (or by appointment)

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101 Harkness Hall

Course Description

This course focuses on a key mechanism facilitating international cooperation – international institutions. The course examines institutions ranging from informal institutions, or regimes, to formal, intergovernmental organizations. We ask the following questions: how are institutions established? What makes them change over time? What impact (if any) do they have? How do they influence government policies? How do they operate? How do they structure decision-making? How do international institutions affect domestic politics? The course will begin by focusing on different theoretical perspectives on these questions, and continue by examining international institutions in specific issue areas.

Course Requirements

The final course grade will be based on the following:

- **Pop-up Quizzes: 10%.** I will give very short quizzes throughout the semester without prior notice. The quizzes will be based on the readings assigned for that week and class material from the previous week (or two). I will drop one with the lowest score for each student at the end of the semester.
- **Exams: 60%.** There will be two non-cumulative exams held on October 17 and November 30. Specifics about each exam will be discussed later in the semester, but you can expect each exam to cover the material from both lectures and assigned readings that came before the exam. If you miss an exam without notifying me in advance, you will get zero points for that test. All material presented in lectures, readings and class discussion is relevant for the exam.
- **Participation: 10%.** Attendance is not required, but you will receive credit for coming to class through your active participation in class. Each student begins the semester with 50 out of 100 points for participation and may earn a maximum of 100 points for meaningful participation. By “meaningful participation” I mean discussion contributions that (1) show a good grasp of the issues and substantive information relevant to the course; (2) rely on critical and logical thinking; and (3) indicate good command of factual material and assigned readings.

- **Presentation: 20%.** You will present a group report on an international organization. The report will describe the IO and its objectives. You should then make an argument about why the IO is successful (or not) at achieving its objectives. In general, I will look for four things in your presentations: (1) a clear and informative description of the IO and its role in international cooperation, (2) a well-reasoned explanation of your position on the IO's effectiveness, (3) an illustration of your position with case studies and/or data, and (4) the use of the relevant literature covered in the course. I will present a list of IOs that you will be able to choose from, provide more detailed instructions and give you an opportunity to form groups and choose IOs for presentations during the second week of the semester.

Course Policies

- **Technology Policy:**
The use of laptop computers, tablets, cellphones, smartphones, or any other electronic device is prohibited during lectures and exams. If I catch you using an electronic device during lecture, I will ask you to stop immediately. The second time I catch you, I may ask you to leave the room. I put this policy in place because there is ample evidence that the use of electronic devices distracts not only the user, but those around him/her. The following NPR article summarizes some of this research: *[“Put Your Laptops Away.”](#)* If you need to use electronic devices for medical or disability reasons, please contact me as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.
- **Exam Attendance:**
There are no excused absences for exams short of a documented medical emergency that you could not foresee. If you need to miss a class because of a religious holiday, school function, or some other extraordinary circumstances, contact me in advance. If you are too ill to attend class, email me before class and provide me with a note from the Student Health Center within 72 hours of the missed class.
- **Academic Integrity:**
Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic grade of “F” for the course and possibly further punitive action. You may find more information about academic dishonesty at the website of the College Board on Academic Honesty: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.
- **Grade Disclosure:**
All personal information concerning students' performance in this course is governed by federal privacy legislation, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). No grades or status information can be provided to students by telephone or email.

- Grading Scale:

A	93–100%	B	83–86.9%	C	73–76.9%	D	63–66.9%
A-	90–92.9%	B-	80–82.9%	C-	70–72.9%	F	0–62.9%
B+	87–89.9%	C+	77–79.9%	D+	67–69.9%		

Note that I will not use a curve when calculating grades. There will be no extra credit assignments or make-up exams.

- Grade Appeals:

Students who believe to have received an incorrect grade should formally appeal it to me within 1 week of receiving the grade. The appeal should consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents concrete reasoning as to why you feel your work should be re-evaluated. However, note that a request for re-evaluation means that I will examine your entire work for a second time and may lower the grade upon re-examination.

Reading Materials

The following book is assigned for the course:

- Ian Hurd. 2013. *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press.

Readings not included in the textbook can be found through [the University library](#). I expect that every student will do all the readings assigned for a given week **before** the week begins. In addition, I encourage you to read on the regular basis at least one of the following news sources: [the New York Times](#), [the Wall Street Journal](#), [the Financial Times](#), [the Economist](#), or a comparable publication.

Course Schedule

Note that I reserve the right to change the following schedule in order to ensure that we spend adequate time on each topic. If such changes become necessary, I will make an announcement in class.

August 31: No class

- **APSA Conference: Aug 31–Sept 3**

September 5–7: Introduction to IOs

- Hurd, Chapter 1, pages 1–14.

- Kenneth Oye. 1985. “Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies.” *World Politics* 38(1):1–24.

September 12–14: Theories of IOs

- Hurd, Chapter 2, pages 15–40.
- John Mearsheimer. 1994. “The False Promise of International Institutions.” *International Security* 19(3): 5–49.

September 19–21: Formation and Design of IOs

- Abbott, Kenneth and Duncan Snidal. 1998. “Why States Act through Formal Organizations.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42:3–32.
- Barbara Koremenos, Charles Lipson and Duncan Snidal. 2001. “The Rational Design of International Institutions.” *International Organization* 55(4): 761–799.

September 26–28: The UN (Part I)

- Hurd, Chapter 5, pages 101–135.
- Carter, David B., and Randall W. Stone. 2015. “Multilateralism and Democracy: The Case of Vote Buying in the United Nations General Assembly.” *International Organization* 69(1): 1–33.

October 3–5: The UN (Part II)

- Hurd, Chapter 6, pages 136–164.
- Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon. 2014. “Beyond Keeping Peace: United Nations Effectiveness in the Midst of Fighting.” *American Political Science Review* 108(4): 737–753.

October 10: No class

- **Fall term break**

October 12: Collective Security Organizations vs. Alliances

- Jyoti Khanna, Todd Sandler, and Hirofumi Shimizu. 1998. “Sharing the Financial Burden for U.N. and NATO Peacekeeping, 1976-1996.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(2):176–195.

- James D. Morrow. 1994. “Alliances, Credibility, and Peacetime Costs.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 38(2): 270–297.

October 17–19: Trade Institutions; the WTO

- **October 17 – Exam #1**
- Hurd, Chapter 3, pages 41–70.
- Emilie Hafner-Burton. 2005. “Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression.” *International Organization* 59(3): 593–629.

October 24–26: International Financial Institutions; the IMF and the World Bank

- Hurd, Chapter 4, pages 71–100.
- Eric Neumayer. 2003. “The Determinants of Aid Allocation by Regional Multilateral Development Banks and United Nations Agencies.” *International Studies Quarterly* 47(1): 101–122.

October 31–November 2: The ILO

- Hurd, Chapter 7, pages 165–189.
- Baccini, Leonardo and Mathias Koenig-Archibugi. 2014. “Why do States Commit to International Labor Standards? Interdependent Ratification of Core ILO Conventions, 1948–2009.” *World Politics* 66(3): 446–490.

November 7–9: The ICJ

- Hurd, Chapter 8, pages 190–221.
- Powell, Emilia J. and Mitchell, Sara M. 2007. “The International Court of Justice and the World’s Three Legal Systems.” *Journal of Politics* 69(2): 397–415.

November 14–16: Human Rights Institutions; the ICC

- Hurd, Chapter 9, pages 222–250.
- Simmons, Beth, and Allison Danner. 2010. “Credible Commitments and the International Criminal Court.” *International Organization* 64(2): 225–256.

November 21: Regional Organizations; the EU

- Hurd, Chapter 10, pages 251–279.
- Schneider, Christina J. 2007. “Enlargement Processes and Distributional Conflicts: The Politics of Discriminatory Membership in the European Union.” *Public Choice* 132(1/2): 85–102.

November 23: No class

- **Thanksgiving recess**

November 28–30: Environmental Organizations

- Keohane, Robert O., and David G. Victor. 2011. “The Regime Complex for Climate Change.” *Perspectives on Politics* 9(1): 7–24.
- Nielson, Daniel L. and Michael J. Tierney. 2003. “Delegation to International Organizations: Agency Theory and World Bank Environmental Reform.” *International Organization* 57(2): 241–276.
- McLean, Elena V. 2015. “Multilateral Aid and Domestic Economic Interests.” *International Organization* 69(1): 97–130.
- **November 30 – Exam #2**

December 5–7: The Future of IOs (Part I)

- Hurd, Chapter 11, pages 280–287.
- Charles Boehmer, Erik Gartzke, and Timothy Nordstrom. 2004. “Do Intergovernmental Organizations Promote Peace?” *World Politics* 57(1):1–38.

December 12: The Future of IOs (Part II)

- Abbott, Kenneth W., Jessica F. Green, and Robert O. Keohane. 2016. “Organizational Ecology and Institutional Change in Global Governance.” *International Organization* 70(2):247–277.
- Tallberg, Jonas, Thomas Sommerer, Theresa Squatrito, and Christer Jonsson. 2014. “Explaining the Transnational Design of International Organizations.” *International Organization* 68(4): 741–774.