GVPT 803: Seminar in International Political Organizations

Fall 2022
Wednesdays 10:00am - 12:45 pm
Tydings Hall 1118

Dr. Deniz Cil (she/her) dcil@umd.edu
Chincoteague Hall 2117D
Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Course Description

This seminar reviews major theories of international institutions and challenges in global governance that have emerged in recent decades. Against this background, we will review the most recent research on institutional change, examine key issues regarding political influences on the behavior and effectiveness of global and regional organizations, the challenges facing these organization, and potential future reforms. These organizations include some of the most important international economic institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and regional development and investment banks. In addition, key security institutions such as the UN, NATO, and the International Criminal Court will be examined. After completing this seminar, students will develop an improved understanding of central debates in the academic and policy literature regarding the functioning and effectiveness of major international political organizations.

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course:

1) Students will be able to critically analyze existing theories and empirical analyses of questions related to institutional effectiveness, change, and reform and apply their understanding to formulate relevant policy recommendations based on current political science research.

2) Students will gain a deeper understanding of major global and regional organizations examined in the seminar and will be able to assess the future research and policy implications of existing academic scholarship on these organizations.

3) Students will become familiar with current challenges facing major global and regional organizations and the most recent policy debates about reforming these organizations.
4) Students will be able to develop a systematic approach to answering questions regarding the effectiveness of major global and regional organizations and will be able to apply these skills in their future research and policy analysis.

Course Structure

We will meet in person every Wednesday at 10:00 am in Tydings Hall (1118). Please note that according to University health and safety guidelines (effective August 29, 2022) wearing a KN95 mask indoors is not required but recommended for added protection.

Each week, we will discuss the assigned readings building on the response papers posted ahead of the class for that week. You are expected to read assigned readings and response papers before the class and participate in the discussion. Your participation is critical to your success in the class. In case of an emergency that prevents you from attending the class, please let me know so that we can arrange make-up work together. I will announce any changes to the class structure via ELMS.

Required Resources

All reading material will be posted on the course ELMS page (elms.umd.edu). All articles are also available online through the University Library (https://www.lib.umd.edu).

Assignments

1) Participation (30%)

Your contribution to in-class discussion and engagement (e.g., questions posed after response paper or research presentations) will constitute your participation grade. Make sure to read all material, including the response papers and come prepared to ask questions, make comments, and discuss the topics covered each week.

2) Response paper and presentation (25%)

You will write one response paper, 3-4 pages long (double-spaced) (15%). You will select one class sessions to write your response paper about on the first day of class (August 31, 2022). The response paper should focus on several articles (at least 2) from the selected session. The purpose of the response paper is to “respond” to these articles. You should advance an argument in response to the readings, examine or critique underlying assumptions of theoretical arguments, and/or question research methods employed in these articles. You should avoid summarizing the articles at length.

Your response paper is due on Tuesday, one day before the selected class session. There will be a discussion board to upload your response papers on the ELMS page (by 10 am on Tuesdays). At the beginning of the selected class session, you will give a summary of the articles and your response (5-10 minutes) (10%) to start in-class discussion. You are welcome to bring up
additional points you were not able to cover in your response paper or pose additional questions to the class during and following your presentation.

3) Research Paper Introduction (45%)
   a. Research paper first draft 10% (due September 30th)
   b. Research paper peer reviews 5% (due October 28th)
   c. Research paper presentation 5% (due November 30th and December 7th)
   d. Research paper final draft including response memo 25% (due December 20th)

You will identify a theoretical or empirical puzzle related to international institutions, develop a novel theoretical argument to address it, describe how you plan to test your argument, and identify the contributions of this research paper to the literature and/or policymaking. You will do the background work required to write a full research paper which includes reading existing literature, planning steps to collect original data and/or utilize existing datasets to test theoretical argument and reflecting on policy implications. You will then write the introduction of this research paper that is 5-6 pages long (double-spaced).

You will submit the first draft (10%) of your introduction on September 30th. Each student will be assigned to review two papers (5%). Each review should briefly summarize the paper’s main theoretical argument, point out the parts that are well executed, critique and provide suggestions for the parts that can be improved. The reviews are due on October 28th. I will circulate the reviews and my comments for each paper. You will incorporate these comments to the final draft of your paper.

You will present your research paper on November 30th (Group 1) and December 7th (Group 2) (5%), for 3-5 minutes, in Flash Talk style, followed by 5-7 min Q&A session (10-12 minutes in total). The International Studies Association describes Flash Talks as follows: “Unlike a full research talk given in traditional panels, a Flash Talk is an overview of a study. Presenters must draw out the most important aspects of their research in a compressed timeframe and then field a series of questions immediately thereafter. This is a great opportunity to present and discuss new ideas on working or completed papers and get valuable feedback from peers.” You are expected to incorporate questions/comments that come up during your presentation to the final draft of your paper. Your group number will be generated randomly and announced before the Thanksgiving break.

The final draft of your research paper introduction is due on December 20th. The final draft should include a separate response memo, 2-3 pages in length (double-spaced), summarizing how you addressed the comments from me, the two peer reviewers, and any relevant questions and comments from the Flash Talk session (25%).
**Grading Scale**

Grades will be based on a straight scale.

- 98 – 100 = A +
- 94 – 97 = A
- 90 – 93 = A -
- 87 – 89 = B +
- 84 – 86 = B
- 80 – 83 = B -
- 77 – 79 = C +
- 74 – 76 = C
- 70 – 73 = C -
- 67 – 69 = D +
- 64 – 66 = D
- 60 – 63 = D -
- 59 & below = F

**Course Policies**

**Attendance**

Attendance in each class session is required. If you are not able to attend the class for reasons that align with university policy for excused absences, please let me know as soon as possible. If you are not able to attend the class for any reason, you will be required to submit a written make-up assignment reviewing assigned readings. Please note that this assignment should be submitted within a week of your absence (unless we agree on an alternative deadline).

**Absence due to COVID-19:** If you are not feeling well, please stay home and contact me as soon as possible. You do not need documentation if you miss one to two classes due to COVID-like symptoms. To make-up your participation and engagement, you can submit a written assignment reviewing assigned readings. If you need more than two weeks due to severe illness/emergency, please contact me for alternative arrangements. Please note that you will need documentation for absences more than two weeks.

**Grading**

All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page. I am happy to discuss any of your grades with you and correct any mistakes if identified. Any formal grade disputes must be submitted in writing and within one week of receiving the grade. I will review your request and schedule a time to discuss it.

**Late Assignments and Extensions**

To request an extension for an assignment you should contact me at least 24 hours prior to the due date of the assignment (except in cases of emergency). Late assignments will be penalized 10 percent per day unless you contact me beforehand. Please plan to have your papers submitted before the scheduled deadline to avoid running into technical issues resulting in late submission.

**Communication with Instructor**

**Email:** If you need to reach out and communicate with me, please email me at dcil@umd.edu. Please DO NOT email me with questions that are easily found in the syllabus or on ELMS (e.g.,
When is this assignment due? How much is it worth? etc.) but please DO reach out about personal, academic, and intellectual concerns/questions.

ELMS: I will send IMPORTANT announcements via ELMS. Make sure that your email & announcement notifications (including changes in assignments and/or due dates) are enabled in ELMS so you do not miss any messages. You are responsible for checking your email and Canvas/ELMS inbox with regular frequency.

Campus – Wide Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland’s policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please see the University's website for graduate course-related policies at: https://gradschool.umd.edu/course-related-polices

Statement on Diversity and Inclusivity

The Government and Politics department deeply values the voices and perspectives of all people. We are committed to having a diverse department that recognizes and appreciates the differences in race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, abilities, class, nationality, and other factors. Our department prioritizes diversity and seeks to foster a diverse community reflected in its faculty, staff, and students.

In this class, students are invited to share their thoughts and a diversity of opinions is welcome. Respectful communication is expected, even when expressing differing perspectives. Supporting one’s statement with research findings is encouraged. In accordance with free speech statues, speech that contains threats of violence is prohibited.

Reporting Racism and Other Forms of Hate and Bias

If you experience racism or other forms of bias in this class or any GVPT course, I encourage you to do at least one of the following:

- Please report the experience to me.
- Report the experience to David Cunningham, the GVPT Director of Undergraduate Studies at dacunnin@umd.edu
- Report the experience to the GVPT Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, led by Professor Antoine Banks at abanks12@umd.edu
Please also report all incidents of hate and bias to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at https://diversity.umd.edu/bias/.

**Names/Pronouns and Self-Identifications**

The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering inclusive and equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Visit trans.umd.edu to learn more.

Additionally, how you identify in terms of your gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity, is your choice whether to disclose (e.g., should it come up in classroom conversation about our experiences and perspectives) and should be self-identified, not presumed or imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly, and I ask you to do the same for your fellow Terps.

**Course Evaluation**

Please submit a course evaluation through CourseEvalUM to help faculty and administrators improve teaching and learning at Maryland. All information submitted to CourseEvalUM is confidential. Campus will notify you when CourseEvalUM is open for you to complete your evaluations for fall semester courses. Please go directly to the Course Eval UM website to complete your evaluations. By completing all of your evaluations each semester, you will have the privilege of accessing through Testudo the evaluation reports for the thousands of courses for which 70% or more students submitted their evaluations.

**Seminar Readings**

**Note:** This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course ELMS page for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.

**Week 1 – Introduction (August 31, 2022)**


Week 2 – Review of institutional design and agency theories
(September 7, 2022)


Week 3 – Review of institutional effectiveness and state compliance theories (September 14, 2022)


Week 4 – Emerging Challenges in Global Governance (September 21, 2022)


Week 5 – No Class (September 28, 2022)

Dr. Cil will be attending a conference at Leipzig University, Germany. The first draft of the Research Paper Introduction is due on September 30th.

Week 6 – The United Nations I (October 5, 2022)


**Week 7 – The United Nations II: New research on Peacekeeping**

*(October 12, 2022)*


**Week 8 – International Criminal Court** *(October 19, 2022)*


Week 9 – World Trade Organization and International Monetary Fund (October 26, 2022)


Week 10 – Development Aid I (November 2, 2022)


Week 11 – Development Aid II (November 9, 2022)


Week 12 – NATO and Replication Week (November 16, 2022)


Was NATO enlargement a mistake? Paul Poast, April 23, 2022 @ProfPaulPoast
https://twitter.com/ProfPaulPoast/status/1517841141231755266

Week 13 – Thanksgiving Break (November 23, 2022)

Week 14 – Research Paper Presentations I (November 30, 2022)

Students in Group 1 will present their research papers.

Week 15 – Research Paper Presentations II (December 7, 2022)

Students in Group 2 will present their research papers.

***** Final Research Paper due December 20, 2022 *****