Course Overview:

This is a graduate political science/government seminar studying international organizations and institutions. International institutions, meaning both formal organizations and less formal sets of rules, norms, and expectations, are now a common and increasing presence in international affairs. This prompts a number of questions from international relations scholars: Why do states form and act through international institutions? Can international institutions alter states’ behavior? If so, through what mechanisms? How do international institutions influence domestic politics? How does power play out in international organizations? Can international organizations create and spread new norms about appropriate behavior?

These are some of the questions that we will address throughout the semester. As a graduate seminar in the government department, most of the reading will be in the tradition of positive social science. That means that there will be a heavy emphasis on the careful exploration and development of theoretical ideas and expectations and attention to empirical evidence that can arbitrate between competing theoretical explanations.

This seminar also aims to prepare graduate students for comprehensive exams in international relations and/or conducting original and cutting edge research in the area of international organizations. The readings and assignments are organized with these goals in mind.

Readings:

We will cover approximately four to six professional journal length articles or a book equivalent each week. Students are expected to have carefully completed the readings in advance to facilitate useful discussion.

If you are planning on taking comprehensive exams in international relations, you should be familiar with, at a minimum, the required readings on the syllabus. The recommended readings are meant to provide additional, but by no means exhaustive, works that can help you prepare for exams and/or generate and conduct original research.

The following books will be available for purchase at the University coop:


All other readings are available electronically through the library e-journals page (http://www.lib.utexas.edu).

Assignments:

*Short analytical papers:* Four times during the semester you will write a 3-5 page analytical paper addressing a question from the week’s reading. Your paper should lay out the question clearly, discuss how existing work (especially from the class reading) has attempted to answer it, and identify potential extensions or areas that are not suitably “settled.” This will be worth 25% of your grade.

*Replication paper:* Pick one empirical study (qualitative or quantitative) and, building off of your short analytical papers, develop a critique of the research design employed in the paper. Your chosen study need not be listed on the syllabus, though it must be published in a peer-reviewed political science journal and be relevant to the course (i.e. somehow related to international governance). Show, through replication and extension, how the results are either (a) robust to alternative research design choices or (b) don’t hold up to changes to research design choices. These changes may include, but are not limited to, alternative measures for core variables, alternative estimation techniques, alternative case comparisons, alternative experimental design, or extensions to temporal or cross-sectional extensions of the data. During the last two weeks of class you will deliver a conference-style presentation (15 minutes for presentation, 15-30 minutes for q&a). Combined the paper and presentation will be worth 50% of your grade. Absolutely no late papers will be accepted, pending a serious illness that physically prevents you from completing the paper, a death in the family that prevents you from completing the paper, or an otherwise legitimate life catastrophe that prevents you from completing the paper. Please notify me immediately if any of these events occurs.

*Class attendance and active participation:* Class attendance is required. The success of this seminar, in terms of what you get out of it, depends crucially on the active participation and input of everyone. 25% of your grade will therefore come from how actively you participate by asking questions, raising relevant points, and maintaining a respectful scholarly atmosphere.

*Students with disabilities:* Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic
accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, [http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/)

**Course Schedule:**

**Week 1 Why States Cooperate**


**Recommended:**


Week 2: Delegation


Stone, *Controlling Institutions*, chapters 1-3


Recommended


Week 3: Compliance and Cooperation


Recommended:


**Week 4 Enforcement**


**Recommended:**


**Week 5 Monitoring and Institutional Design**


**Recommended:**


Week 6 Flexibility

Stone, Controlling Institutions, Chs. 4-6.

Recommended:

****Topic Due for Replication Paper*****
Week 7 International Law I


Recommended:


Beth Simmons, *Mobilizing for Human Rights*.


**Week 8 International Law II**


**Week 9 Credible Commitments and Treaty Entry**


**Recommended:**


**Week 10: Institutions and Domestic Politics**


****Outline Due for Replication Paper****

**Recommended:**


*** Required Meeting with Professor Chapman regarding replication paper***
Week 11 Dispute Settlement/Forum Shopping


*Recommended:*

Week 12 Institutions and Security


*Recommended:*


Week 13 Institutions and Markets


Recommended additional reading on Regionalism that I used to assign but didn’t know where to put this time:


Week 14

Presentations
Week 15 (last day of class)

Presentations
Replication Paper Due in class