

International Order and Disorder: Global Challenges and Responses

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Time Slot:	Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.
Language of Instruction:	English
Contact Hours:	45
ECTS Credits:	6

Course Description

Today's world is beset by a host of problems that no one country appears able to resolve. Environmental problems, such as biodiversity loss, climate change or plastic pollution, appear to spiral out of control. A global pandemic has recently disrupted lives around the world and led to untold suffering and deaths. Global economic inequalities have reached unprecedented levels, and hundreds of millions still struggle with hunger and poverty. Meanwhile, more "traditional" problems have not gone away, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 underlines. Tensions between China and the United States are already commonly described as a "New Cold War". International institutions often appear powerless to act.

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the major problems of international politics, focusing on the ways in which they are – or are not – addressed at the global level. To this end, students will learn key concepts, revisit historical developments and apply major theories from the field of International Relations to better understand why international problems are difficult to resolve. This is often understood as the problem of providing global governance in the absence of a global government. A major role is played here by international organizations (IOs), such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations (UN) or the World Trade Organization (WTO), but also by a host of other transnational actors, including business and civil society organizations. At the end of the course, students will be able to understand major problems of contemporary international politics through the lens of relevant contemporary theories, and be able to apply such knowledge critically and confidently as engaged citizens.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students will achieve:

1. Substantive knowledge and understanding of global governance processes and their importance in contemporary international relations;
2. critical thinking skills based on theoretical and methodological competence to analyze current events and evaluate competing interpretations and explanations;
3. effective oral and written communication skills to articulate and present ideas, opinions, and arguments on global governance topics; and
4. social and intercultural skills required to collaborate and lead in a culturally diverse environment.

Please note: This is an interactive seminar in which students' active participation is crucial! While I am happy to provide ample support, all students need to take responsibility for their own learning and be willing to play their part in making the seminar a success.

Student Profile

Should be in their fourth semester of college/university education or beyond.

Assignments and Grading

Active Participation: 100 Points

In-class presentation*: 200 Points

Independent Project Report: 100 Points

Midterm Exam: 300 Points
Final Exam: 300 Points

* Depending on the number of students, presentations will be done alone or in small groups.

Completion of the Midterm Exam as well as the Final Exam is needed for a grade.

FUB Grade	Points of 1,000
1.0	980-1,000
1.3	950-979
1.7	900-949
2.0	850-899
2.3	800-849
2.7	750-799
3.0	700-749
3.3	650-699
3.7	600-649
4.0	500-599
5.0	< 500

Attendance

Attendance in class is mandatory. We also expect you to be punctual out of respect to both your instructor and your fellow students. If you cannot attend class because you are ill, please report sick to the FU-BEST office (info@fubest.fu-berlin.de) and to your instructor by e-mail before class.

Absences are **excused** in case of **illness**; however, for the fifth sick day and every other sick day after that (consecutive or cumulative, counted not per individual course but for the program overall), you will need to turn in a doctor's notice ("Attest" in German) to the FU-BEST office in order for them to count as excused, too.

If you miss an exam due to an excused absence, your instructor and the FU-BEST team will arrange a make-up exam for you; you may also be entitled to a term paper deadline extension. If you, however, do not fulfill all course requirements needed for a grade by the (later) date determined by the program, passing the course is no longer possible.

Please also note that if you miss more than half of a course's sessions (even if due to excused absence), passing the course is no longer possible.

Personal travel and visits by relatives or friends are **not** accepted as reasons for absence (i.e., absences for these reasons always count as unexcused).

Regarding **unexcused** absences, please note the following:

- Any unexcused absence has consequences for at least the participation portion of the grade.
- Two unexcused absences lead to a formal warning and a lowering of the course grade by a fraction.
- Three unexcused absences will result in an "F" (5.0) on the transcript.

An absence for more than half of a particular day's session will be considered an absence for that day.

Literature

Digitized readings posted on the online learning platform Blackboard.

Course Schedule

Calendar	Topics, Readings, etc.
Session 1	<p>Topic: Introduction to the course & brainstorming of governance problems</p> <p>Core question: What is “global governance”, and why do we need it?</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drezner, Daniel W., and Amrita Narlikar. 2022. “International Relations: The ‘How Not to’ Guide.” <i>International Affairs</i> 98(5), pp. 1499-1513. Weiss, Thomas and Rorden Wilkinson. 2015. “Change and Continuity in Global Governance.” <i>Ethics & International Affairs</i> 29(4), pp. 397-406.
Session 2	<p>Topic: Global governance and international organizations since 1815: from the Congress of Vienna to the UN Security Council</p> <p>Core question: How did the current international system come into being?</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herren, Madeleine. 2016. “International Organizations, 1865-1945”, in Jacob Katz Cogan, Ian Hurd, and Ian Johnstone (eds.) <i>The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press), pp. 91-112. Murphy, Craig. 2014. “The Emergence of Global Governance”, in Thomas G. Weiss and Rorden Wilkinson (eds.) <i>International Organization and Global Governance</i> (Abingdon: Routledge), pp. 23-34.
Session 3	<p>Topic: Theory I – Power-based institutionalism</p> <p>Core question: To what extent are international institutions instruments of state power?</p> <p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gilpin, Robert. 2002. “A Realist Perspective on International Governance.”, in David Held and Anthony McGrew (eds.) <i>Governing Globalization</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 237-248.
Session 4	<p>Topic: Theory II – Functionalist institutionalism</p> <p>Core question: To what extent are international institutions designed to solve international problems?</p> <p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. “The Rational Design of International Institutions.” <i>International Organization</i> 55(4), pp. 761-799.
Session 5	<p>Topic: Theory III – Sociological institutionalism</p> <p>Core question: To what extent do international institutions embody cultural norms? (And which norms do they embody?)</p> <p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finnemore, Martha. 1996. “Norms, Culture, and World Politics: Insights from Sociology's Institutionalism.” <i>International Organization</i>, 50(2), pp. 325-347.
Session 6	MIDTERM EXAM
Session 7	<p>Topic: Global Challenges I – Development (poverty, inequality, foreign aid)</p> <p>Core question: Why are some rich while others are poor?</p>

	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moyo, Dambisa. Dead Aid. Introduction + TEDxBrussels - Dambisa Moyo - 11/23/09. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= QjiiM4jhbK. • Nogueira, João Pontes. "Inequality," in Arlene B. Tickner and Karen Smith (eds.) <i>International Relations from the Global South</i> (New York: Routledge, 2020), pp. 240-258.
Session 8	<p>Topic: Global Challenges II – Sustainability and the triple planetary crisis / Introduction to postcolonial approaches ("climate (in)justice")</p> <p>Core question: How badly has the "triple planetary crisis" been governed?</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sultana, Farhana. 2022. "The Unbearable Heaviness of Climate Coloniality." <i>Political Geography</i> 99, Art. 102638.
Session 9	<p>Topic: Global Challenges III – Global Health (pandemics) / Introduction to feminist and intersectional approaches</p> <p>Core question: How is health a global issue?</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levy, David L. 2021. "COVID-19 and Global Governance." <i>Journal of Management Studies</i>, 58(2), pp. 562-566. • Wenham, Clare, Julia Smith, and Rosemary Morgan. 2020. "COVID-19: The Gendered Impacts of the Outbreak." <i>The Lancet</i> 395 (10227), pp. 846-848.
Session 10	<p>Topic: Global Challenges IV – International Security</p> <p>Core question: How can world peace be attained?</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry R. Posen. 2025. "Putin's Preventive War: The 2022 Invasion of Ukraine." <i>International Security</i> 49(3), pp. 7-49. • Paukkunen, Samu, and James Black. 2024. "Arctic Cooperation with Russia: at what Price?" <i>International Affairs</i> 100(6), pp. 2637-2648.
Session 11	<p>Topic: Global Challenges V – International Migration</p> <p>Core question: Who controls the world's borders?</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koser, Khalid. 2010. "Introduction: International Migration and Global Governance." <i>Global Governance</i>, 16(3), pp. 301-315. • Messari, Nizar. "Migration," in Arlene B. Tickner and Karen Smith (eds.) <i>International Relations from the Global South</i> (New York: Routledge, 2020), pp. 259-274.
Session 12	<p>Topic: The liberal international order in crisis</p> <p>Core question: How might the international system evolve?</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acharya, Amitav. 2017. "After Liberal Hegemony: The Advent of a Multiplex World Order." <i>Ethics & International Affairs</i> 31(3), pp. 271-85. • Walter, Stefanie. 2021. "The Backlash Against Globalization." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i>, 24(1), pp. 421-442.
Session 13	FINAL EXAM