INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION: THE INSTITUTIONS OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE (IR200)

Course duration: 54 hours lecture and class time (Over three weeks)

LSE Teaching Department: Department of International Relations

Lead Faculty: Dr Mathias Koenig-Archibugi and Dr Ulrich Sedelmeier

Pre-requisites: Candidates must have passed at least one university-level course in the social sciences (politics, sociology, economics, history, law). The course is of particular interest to undergraduate students in politics and international relations, and those with a professional interest in international institutions.

Course Description:

International organizations (IOs) are created and expected to provide solutions whenever governments face transnational challenges, such as international and civil wars, humanitarian emergencies, flows of refugees, outbreaks of infectious diseases, climate change, financial market instability, sovereign debt crises, trade protectionism, and the development of poorer countries. But their role in world politics is controversial. Some perceive them as effective and legitimate alternatives to unilateral state policies. Others regard them as fig leaves for the exercise of power by dominant states. Others yet are regularly disappointed by the gap between the lofty aspirations and their actual performance in addressing global problems, and want to know the causes of that gap. While some commentators tend to lump all international organizations together, in reality there are big differences in how IOs function, how much power they have, and in how effective they are – across organisations, issues, regions, and over time. A key aim of the course is to understand these differences and their implications for the solution of transnational problems. The goals of the course is to provide participants with a comprehensive toolbox that will allow them to perform sophisticated analyses of international organizations and the opportunity to see these analytical tools applied to several of the most important IOs operating today, such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the International Criminal Court.

The course will start by introducing the central analytical approaches that help us to understand key aspects of international organisations: their creation and design, their decision-making processes, their impact and policy effectiveness, and their interactions with other international organizations. This analytical toolbox is then used to explain the role of the main international institutions in specific policy domains, including security, human rights, trade, finance, health, environment, migration and workers’ rights. For each of those domains, the course will analyse the construction of global policy problems, the creation or selection of international organisations aimed at addressing them, the way in which policies are negotiated and decided within those institutions (with special attention to the exercise of various forms of power), the impact of the institutions on the behaviour of states and other actors, and their ability to solve the problems that motivated their creation. Students will complete the course with a deeper understanding of both similarities and differences between international organizations and of their effective contribution to the governance of global issues.
The twelve daily sessions for the course consist of a 3-hour lecture in the afternoon that includes discussion, followed by a 1.5-hour class the following morning, which will allow for further group work.

**Reading:**

Textbooks you might want to consider purchasing:

**Course Structure:**
- Lectures: 36 hours
- Classes: 18 hours

Formative course work:
- An essay of 1500 words, submitted to the class teacher.
- A presentation in class on a topic agreed with the class teacher.

**Assessment:**

The assessment consists of:
- An essay of 1500 words (bibliography does not count, word-count must be stated on the first page of the essay), submitted as an email attachment to be sent to the class teacher by Monday 25 July at 10:00. The essay will count for 33% of the final mark. Students must choose a question from among those provided for class discussion.
- A two-hour written exam at the end of the programme (students will be asked to answer two out of eight questions). The exam will count for 67% of the final mark.

**Lecture Schedule:**

**Day 1 – Introduction and Overview**

Ulrich Sedelmeier

- Introduction to the Summer School
- Introduction to the study of international institutions
- Approaches to the study of international institutions: overview
- Why do states create international institutions?
Day 2 – Design and decision-making in international institutions
Ulrich Sedelmeier
- How do international institutions differ from one another and why?
- Who decides within international institutions and how?

Day 3 – The domestic politics and impact of international institutions
Ulrich Sedelmeier
- How does politics within countries influence international decision-making?
- When and how do international institutions have an impact?

Day 4 – Autonomy, change and interactions of international institutions
Ulrich Sedelmeier
- How do international institutions survive and change?
- How do institutions interact with one another?

Day 5 – Environment
Mathias Koenig-Archibugi
- The regime for the protection of the ozone layer
- International treaties on climate change

Day 6 – Health
Mathias Koenig-Archibugi
- The World Health Organisation
- Sectoral regimes of global health governance

Day 7 – Security
Ulrich Sedelmeier
- The United Nations
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Day 8 – Trade
Ulrich Sedelmeier
Day 9 – Human Rights
Ulrich Sedelmeier
- Human Rights in the UN system
- The European Convention on Human Rights and the Council of Europe
- The International Criminal Court

Day 10 – No lecture

Day 11 – Finance
Mathias Koenig-Archibugi
- The International Monetary Fund
- The World Bank

Day 12 - Workers’ rights
Mathias Koenig-Archibugi
- The International Labour Organization
- Multi-stakeholder labour rights initiatives

Day 13 – Migration
Mathias Koenig-Archibugi
- The International Organisation for Migration
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Day 14 – No lecture

Day 15 – EXAM
Seminar Schedule:

Day 2 - Seminar 1: Introduction to the study of international institutions

Key questions:
- What are the key aspects for studying and comparing different international organisations?
- What are the main differences between the most important theories of international institutions?
- Under what conditions do states create or join international institutions? Compare the answers suggested by realist, rational institutionalist and constructivist scholars.

Required Reading:

Additional Reading:

Day 3 - Seminar 2: Design and decision-making in international institutions

Key questions:
- What are the main dimensions of variation in the institutional design of international institutions?
- What explains differences in design across institutions?
- How does the institutional context affect the way in which states negotiate with each other?

Required Reading:

Additional Reading:
Day 4 - Seminar 3: Domestic politics and impact of international institutions

Key questions:
- How does domestic politics affect governments' negotiations in international organisations?
- What is ‘impact’ and which international and domestic factors determine how much impact an international institution has?

Required Reading:

Additional Reading:

Day 5 - Seminar 4: Autonomy, change and interactions of international institutions

Key questions:
- Can inefficient international institutions persist?
- Can international institutions act independently of the interests of its member states?
- How can different international institutions affect each other’s functioning and impact?

Required Reading:

Additional Reading:

Day 6 - Seminar 5: Environment

Key questions:
- Is self-interested state behaviour a necessary and sufficient condition for the creation and effectiveness of environmental regimes?
- Why has it proved much more difficult to create a robust international regime to prevent climate change than for the protection of the ozone layer?

Required Reading:

Additional Reading:

Day 7 - Seminar 6: Health

Key questions:
- How has international cooperation for health changed since the 1990s, and why?
- Why and how does the World Health Organisation act with autonomy from its member states?

Required Reading:

Additional Reading:

Day 8 - Seminar 7: Security

Key questions:
- How did the UN Charter aim to address the failure of the League of Nations?
- How can we explain the evolution of UN peace-keeping?
- Why is it so difficult to reform the UN Security Council?
- Why did NATO persist after the end of the Cold War?

Required Reading:

Additional reading

Day 9 - Seminar 8: Trade

Key questions:
- Why is regional integration more highly institutionalised in Europe then elsewhere?
- Are EU institutions independent from the member states?
- How did the increasing institutionalisation of the international trade regime affect the behaviour of powerful states?
Required Reading:

Additional Reading:

Day 10 - No seminar today

Day 11 - Seminar 9: Human Rights

Key questions:
- What is the role of the UN system in the international protection of Human Rights?
- Why is the European Human Rights regime more robust than in other regions of the world?
- How does the position of the U.S. affect the role of the ICC?

Required Reading:

Additional Reading:
Day 12 – Seminar 10: Finance

Key questions:

- What functions have states delegated to the World Bank and the IMF and why??
- Are IMF and World Bank instruments of U.S. hegemony?

Required Reading:


Additional Reading:


Day 13 - Seminar 11: Workers’ rights

Key questions:

- Why are there international rules on the treatment of workers who do not migrate from one country to another?
- Are international institutions effective in improving working conditions?

Required Reading:


Additional Reading:

Day 14 - Seminar 12: Migration

Key questions:
- Why are international institutions stronger in the area of refugee protection than in the area of economic migration?
- What are the prospects for the international regulation of economic migration?

Required Reading:

Additional Reading:
Credit Transfer: If you are hoping to earn credit by taking this course, please ensure that you confirm it is eligible for credit transfer well in advance of the start date. Please discuss this directly with your home institution or Study Abroad Advisor.

As a guide, our LSE Summer School courses are typically eligible for three credits within the US system and 7.5 ECTS in Europe. Different institutions and countries can, and will, vary. You will receive a digital transcript and a printed certificate following your successful completion of the course in order to make arrangements for transfer of credit.

If you have any queries, please direct them to summer.school@lse.ac.uk