Course overview
This is the core foundation course for the Masters in International Public Affairs (MIPA) program. The course is intended to provide a conceptual overview and empirical illustrations intended to help students analyze and understand the foundations and key institutions of contemporary international governance. It seeks to introduce students to key issues, problems, and topics in international relations, as well as to stimulate critical thinking about the policies, politics, and processes of international governance. Along the way, we will also discuss the basic tools of public policy analysis, which will be important both for this course and future work in the La Follette curriculum.

Unlike many other La Follette courses, this a “context” course, not a “how to” course. Students will not pick up concrete tools or skills they can readily apply on their next job, as they do in other courses such as policy analysis and statistics. This does not make the course any less important, however. Indeed, in many ways, the knowledge in this course is a vital prerequisite to the more advanced seminars and “how to” courses that you will take in the next two years. Without this critical background knowledge, the tools/skills are not useful, and vice versa.

Course requirements and evaluation

1. Participation: Students are expected to come to class having done the readings and prepared to discuss them in depth each week. Participation is a major component of the seminar and involves serious discussion of the readings and the ability to critically engage and analyze the material. The class simply cannot function unless you come to class prepared and actively participate in discussions. Participation will count for 20% of your final grade.

2. UNSG briefing memo: A short briefing paper (maximum 5 pages) for a newly-elected Secretary-General of the United Nations. She has had a distinguished career as minister of justice in her home country, but has never had international responsibilities beyond attending regional and global conferences on law and human rights. Your job is to
explain to her what she needs to know on her first day on the job about the key
architectural dimensions of global governance and how they are changing. What’s the
structure (key actors, institutions, etc.)? What are the core dynamics (interactions
between actors, etc.)? What are the key trends? Your sources will be the readings for
Parts I, II and III of the course. This paper will be due in class on **October 14**, and will
count for **20%** of your final grade.

3. *News analysis* – A second short paper (maximum **4 pages**) critically analyzing a news
article (of your choosing) on one international organization’s role in a particular issue
area of global governance (e.g., the UNHCR on Syrian refugees, the World Health
Organization and Ebola, the IMF and Greece). The paper will be due on **November 11**.
This will count for **20%** of your final grade. The paper will (1) give brief background
information as necessary (e.g. IO mission, role, etc.); (2) Critically analyze the article:
Does the evidence support the argument? Do you agree with the conclusions? Why or
why not? (3) discuss the article’s implications for understanding global governance more
broadly.

4. *Final policy memo* : The final assignment is a **15-page paper**, which will take the form of
a policy memo for a policymaker analyzing a key policy issue in international public
affairs. The proposal should address a policy question, analyze current research on the
issue, and utilize these materials to develop a set of policy recommendations. A one-
page prospectus is due by **October 4**. The paper is due at the end of the semester on
**Tuesday, December 16**. You will also give a **15-minute oral presentation** of your report
on **December 2** in class. The paper and presentation will count for **40%** of your final
grade. **You will work in groups of two or three on this final project. We will discuss
more about this and the format of the project in class.**

**Readings**

All of the readings are available online, either through public sources, UW’s library e-journals,
or the course website on LearnUW. One book is required and is available for purchase at the
UW Bookstore:

- Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst. 2004 or 2009. *International Organizations:

You may find it useful to purchase the following primer on policy analysis, which will be
required reading for the MIPA capstone course but may prove useful to you at this point:

PART I – FOUNDATIONS: THEORY AND KEY CONCEPTS

September 2: Introduction

- (*) Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, “Introduction,” in Donahue and Nye, Governance in a Globalizing World


September 9: Theoretical foundations of global governance

- Karns and Mingst, Chapters 1-3


September 16: Introduction to public policy analysis

• (*) Juliet Musso, Robert Biller, and Robert Myrtle, “Tradecraft: Professional Writing as Problem Solving.” [e-reserves]

• (*) “Professional Writing: The Policy Memorandum.”
• MIPA capstone handouts [distributed in class]

September 23: Forms and institutions of global governance

• Karns and Mingst, Chapters 4-5


Important background readings


• WTO, “What is the WTO?” www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/whatis_e.htm


September 30: Non-state actors and global governance

• Karns and Mingst, Chapter 6


2013;


- Bolton & Nash, “The Role of Middle Power-NGO Coalitions in Global Policy: The Case of the Cluster Munitions Ban,” Global Policy, 1 (May 2010);

PART II – INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE: KEY ISSUES

October 7: Global financial governance

- (*) James Vreeland, The International Monetary Fund: Politics of Conditional Lending, Ch. 1 (5-36).


October 14: Human rights and intervention (Guest lecture: Jon Pevehouse)

First paper due in class

- Karns and Mingst, Chapter 10


**October 21: Foreign aid and development**


**October 28: Climate change and the environment**

• Karns and Mingst, Chapter 11


November 4: Nuclear weapons and non-proliferation


• Barack Obama, “Speech at Hradcany Square,” Prague, Czech Republic, April 5, 2009 (http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-By-President-Barack-Obama-In-Prague-As-Delivered/).


November 11: International trade

Second paper due in class

• Karns and Mingst, Chapter 9


November 18: TBD

November 25: NO CLASS (extra office hours to discuss policy memos/presentations)

PART III: CONCLUSIONS

December 2: Policy memo presentations

• Policy memo presentation panels – background readings to be distributed in advance by presenters

*Final papers due Tuesday, December 16*

December 9: The future of international governance

• Karns and Mingst, Chapter 12
