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. Instead, students will learn how to think critically and analytically about topics in international affairs, how to conceptualize puzzles in international relations, and how to think through the political, economic, and social factors influencing policymakers and other key actors involved in global governance and foreign policymaking. This knowledge 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 4**. 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 **September 30**. The paper is due at the end of the semester on **December 16**. You will also give a **15-minute oral presentation** of your report on **December 9** 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:


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:

Important notes/class policies

• The best way to reach me is via email at copelovitch@wisc.edu or to speak with me before/after class.

• **Attendance**: If you know that you will be absent from class for religious or other reasons that can be known in advance, please let me know. If you have to miss class due to sickness or family emergencies, please keep me informed as possible. Remember that attendance/participation is fully 20% of your grade, and unexcused/unexplained absences will be noted accordingly.

• **Grading**: Re-evaluating grades (please read very carefully!): My policy is the following:
  o You have to wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints. You then have to draft a 1-2 page double-spaced memo outlining why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work, i.e., it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students.
  o Your grade will then be fully re-evaluated. This means that I may revise the grade downward as well as upward. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes – this is not a risk-free process!

• **Assignments**: The assignment schedule is set. Clear your schedules now. There will be no make-up assignments or extensions unless you can provide proper documentation that your absence is due to a) a genuine family emergency, b) illness or injury, or c) travel away from Madison for university-related (!) obligations. If an assignment is missed for a valid reason, I will give you a substitute assignment.

• **Late policy**: All late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/2 letter grade per day, including weekends (e.g., a “B” paper one day late will earn a “B/C”). If you have conflicts with deadlines for any reason (illness, scheduling, religious holidays, or otherwise) please discuss them with me as early as possible.

• **Accommodations**: Students needing special accommodations to ensure full participation in this course should contact me as early as possible. All information will remain confidential. You also may contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center regarding questions about campus policies/services.

• **Cheating** and **plagiarism** are very serious offenses that will not be tolerated in the course. You will receive a failing grade for the class, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript.
PART I – FOUNDATIONS: THEORY AND KEY CONCEPTS

September 2: Introduction

• Lecture slides, “Tools and Concepts in IR” & “Historical Overview”

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


September 9: Theoretical foundations of global governance I

• Lecture slides, “IR Theories: Realism” and “IR Theories: Liberalism”

• Karns and Mingst, Chapters 1-3


September 16: Theoretical foundations of global governance II

• Lecture slides: “IR Theories: Social Theories” & “International Organizations”


• Bolton & Nash, “The Role of Middle Power-NGO Coalitions in Global Policy: The Case of the Cluster Munitions Ban,” Global Policy, 1 (May 2010);
September 23: NO CLASS (YOM KIPPUR)

September 30: Introduction to public policy analysis


- (*) “Professional Writing: The Policy Memorandum.”

- MIPA capstone handouts [distributed in class]

October 7: Actors and institutions of global governance

- Lecture slides, “The UN System”

- Karns and Mingst, Chapters 4-6


PART II – INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE: KEY ISSUES

October 14: Global financial governance

First paper due in class

- Lecture slides, “International Financial Relations”


October 21: Foreign aid and development

• Lecture slides, “International Development I, II, and III”


October 28: Human rights and intervention (Guest lecture: Jon Pevehouse)

• Karns and Mingst, Chapter 10


**November 4: Climate change and the environment**

*Second paper due in class*

- Karns and Mingst, Chapter 11


**November 11: Nuclear weapons and non-proliferation**

- Lecture slides: “Weapons of Mass Destruction”


November 18: International trade

• Lecture slides: “IPE and International Trade I & II”


• Reading: something on TPP

November 25: NO CLASS

December 2: The future of international governance

• Karns and Mingst, Chapter 12


December 9: Policy memo presentations

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

*Final papers due Tuesday, December 16*