POLI 343 International Organizations

Instructor Spring 2022: Dr. Claire Cutler

Course delivery: In the Spring 2022 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
International governmental organizations (IOs) are the heart of global governance. Since the mid-20th century, IOs have played a central role in defining, implementing and enforcing rules and norms to resolve international collective action problems and provide public goods ranging from peace and security to financial stability and growth. Many policy students aspire to work for an IO one day. Yet many of the oldest and most prominent IOs in the world today are in crisis: their relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness constantly under fire by actors spanning the political spectrum. Why are these IOs in crisis? What is the nature of these crises? What is being done to reform these organizations, and to what end? The course will begin with a broad historical and theoretical overview of the birth and growth of IOs in the world.

Prerequisites: POLI 240, or permission of the department

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Explore why states create and work through IOs
- Understand the design and the delegation of functions to IOs
- Examine the sources and exercise of IO authority and power and the often dysfunctional or pathological behavior of IOs
- Explore the relationship between IOs and private, non-state actors.

Topics may include:
Multilateral organizations
Theories of global governance
Non state actors
Economic institutions

This summary provides an overall sense of the course. It is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.