



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course Unit Title	Code
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WORLD POLITICS	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: lect. dr. Ažuolas Bagdonas Other(s): assit. dr. Erika Leonaitė	Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius university, Vokiečių str. 10, LT-01130, Vilnius, tel. +370 52514130, e-mail: tspimi@tspmi.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language (s) of instruction
Face-to-face	3 (autumn) semester	English

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites: -	Co-requisites (if any): -

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	140	32	108

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed		
<p>This course aims to introduce students to the key international organizations (IO) shaping the current global order: their origins, ostensible functions, the international and domestic political forces that impact their operations, and their effectiveness; to develop students' competencies to analyze international organizations and their activities, as well as to assess the effective leadership and good leaders importance for the successful tackling of international challenges they were designed to address.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will be able to explain the role of international organization in the world of today, to critically analyze the politics behind these organizations functioning, as well as what role do states play, will be able to identify and explain the national interests behind certain decisions.	Problem-oriented lectures, seminars (text analysis, simulations, comparative assessment and systemic analysis of practical issues, case study, oral presentations on assigned topics, group discussions, exercises related to various aspects of how international organizations function in practice), individual studies (individual search of information, critical literature studies and the analysis of theoretical and practical problems)	Active and high quality participation in seminars, simulation game, final examination
Students will be able to define and compare the main theoretical approaches explaining international organizations functions (Realism, Constructivism, Liberalism) and apply them while analyzing different IOs.		
Students will be able to base their analyses and recommendations regarding the functioning of the international organizations and the role leadership plays based on current research data.		
Students will be able to discern different ways in which international cooperation might be organized, what different international organizations do and how they are structured, what powers do they have and what is the role of leadership in the functioning of IOs.		
Students will understand the main effective leadership principles in IOs, will be able to assess different organizations according to their leadership practices and give evidence-based recommendations for improvement.		
Students will be able to professionally communicate orally and in written, unambiguously and reasonably convey own well-grounded ideas, arguments and conclusions based on theoretical and practical		

knowledge; also to trigger or to contribute to the discussion providing their own insights in an international context.		
Students will grasp basic negotiation principles in respectful interpersonal dialogue and constructive collaboration in group, as well as will be able to apply them in negotiation process effectively by participating in cross-cultural team activities.		

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours						Self-study: hours and assignments		
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Practical sessions	Laboratory activities	Internship/work	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
<p>1. Introduction: What is the role of international organizations and do they really matter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview of key organizations that emerged after WWII; Identifying general features and trends; Why leadership matters? Main theoretical views of the role of international organizations. 	2		2				4	6	<p>Preparation for discussion: What is the role of IOs and do they really matter? Read and analyze (specific texts will be assigned to smaller groups of students, prepare to briefly present the reading assigned to you): Abbot, Kenneth and Duncan Snidal. 1998. Why States Act through Formal Organizations. Journal of Conflict Resolution 42:3-32; Ian Hurd, International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice, 3rd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2018, Chapter 1; Stephen Kotkin, "Realist World: The Players Change, but the Game Remains", Foreign Affairs 97: 10 (2018), pp. 10-15; Daniel Deudney and John Ikenberry, "Liberal World: The Resilient Order", Foreign Affairs 97: 10 (2018), pp. 16-24; Amy Chua, "Tribal World: Group Identity is All", Foreign Affairs 97: 10 (2018), pp. 25-33.</p>
<p>2. Realist approach to international organizations.</p>			2				2	6	<p>Preparation for discussion: Is Anybody Still A Realist? Preparation for in class experiment. Read and analyze (specific texts will be assigned to smaller groups of students, prepare to briefly present the reading assigned to you): Lloyd Gruber, Ruling the World: Power Politics and the Rise of Supranational Institutions, 2000, Princeton University Press, Chapter 1 and 10; Randall W. Stone, "The Political Economy of IMF Lending in Africa," American Political Science Review 98: 4 (2004), pp. 577-580 and 590; Dilsher Dhillon, "Pakistan has declined an IMF bailout after securing help from China and Arab countries," Business Insider India, 14 January 2019.</p>
<p>3. Neoliberal Institutional Approach to International Organizations</p>			2				2	6	<p>Read and analyze: Paul R. Milgrom, Douglass C. North, and Barry R. Weingast, "The Role of Institutions in the Revival of Trade: The Law Merchant, Private Judges, and the</p>

								Champagne Fairs,” Economics and Politics 2: 1 (1990), pp. 1-23; Robert O. Keohane, “The Demand for International Regimes,” International Organization 36: 2 (1982), pp. 325-355; John Campbell, “WTO Rules: What Happens if There’s a No-Deal Brexit?” BBC 16 January 2019.
4. Constructivist approach to International Organizations			2			2	8	Read and analyze: Christopher Hemmer and Peter J. Katzenstein, “Why is There No NATO in Asia? Collective Identity, Regionalism, and the Origins of Multilateralism,” International Organization 56: 3 (2002), pp. 575-607; Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore, “The Power, Politics, and Pathologies of International Organizations,” International Organization 53: 4 (1998), pp. 699-727; The Economist, “The limits of soft cultural power,” The Economist, 10 September 2009 (3 pages).
5. Main approaches to the study of the functioning of international organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal-agent theory; • Game theory; • Decision theory and the rational actor; • Bureaucratic politics, incrementalism, and neo-institutionalism; • Framing; • Learning, epistemic communities, and social-constructivism. 	2		2			4	8	Preparation for in class assignment using game theory. Material for the assignment will be provided.
6. Decision making within international organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making methods and modes: agenda setting, influencing and bargaining, voting; • Informal agreements; • Dispute settlement; • Role of leaders and leadership in decision making. 			4			4	10	Preparation for in-class simulation game on negotiations in international organizations. Read and analyze: March, James. 1997. Understanding How Decisions Happen in Organizations. In Organizational Decision Making, edited by Z. Shapira, 9-33. New York: Cambridge University Press; Buzan, B., “Negotiating by Consensus: Developments in Technique at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea,” The American Journal of International Law 75 (1981); Meyer, Marshall, and Lynne Zucker. 1989. Permanently Failing Organizations. Newbury Park: Sage Press.
7. Regional international organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council of Europe • European Court of Human Rights 	2					2	6	Guest lecture with a Q&A session. Reading and analysis of the assigned literature (provided by the speaker before class).
8. The World Trade Organization			2			2	8	Read and analyze: Douglas A. Irwin, The truth about trade: What critics get wrong about the global

								<p>economy,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 95: 4 (July/August 2016), pp. 84-95 (10 pages). Judith Goldstein, “Trading in the Twenty-First Century: Is There a Role for the World Trade Organization?” <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 20:1 (2017), pp. 545-564 (20 pages). Ana Swanson, “Once the WTO’s biggest supporter, US is its biggest skeptic”, <i>The New York Times</i>, 10 December 2017 (2 pages). Available at: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/10/business/wto-united-states-trade.html</p>
<p>9. International nongovernmental organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and typology; • Role of INGOs in the global system; • Review of a few select international NGOs (e.g. International Organization for Standardization or Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) 			2			2	8	<p>Read and analyze (specific texts will be assigned to smaller groups of students, prepare to briefly present the reading assigned to you):</p> <p>Jutta M. Joachim, <i>Agenda Setting, the UN, and NGOs: Gender Violence and Reproductive Rights</i> (Washington D.C., 2007);</p> <p>Boli, John, and George Thomas, eds. 1999. <i>Constructing World Culture: International Non-Governmental Organizations since 1875</i>. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.</p> <p>Alger, Chadwick. “The Emerging Roles of NGOs in the UN System: From Article 71 to a People’s Millennium Assembly.” <i>Global Governance</i>, vol. 8, no. 1, 2002, pp. 93–117;</p> <p>Clark, Ann Marie, et al. “The Sovereign Limits of Global Civil Society: A Comparison of NGO Participation in UN World Conferences on the Environment, Human Rights, and Women.” <i>World Politics</i>, vol. 51, no. 1, 1998, pp. 1–35.</p>
<p>10. The United Nations System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN mandate and governance; • The UN SC: functions, politics, problems, reform; • Leadership in the UN system. 			2			2	6	<p>Read and analyze:</p> <p>Ian Hurd, <i>International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice</i>, 3rd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2018, Chapter 3;</p> <p>Ian Johnstone, “The Role of the UN Secretary-General: The Power of Persuasion Based on Law,” <i>Global Governance</i> 9: 4 (2003), pp. 441-458;</p> <p>Franz Baumann, “United Nations Management—An oxymoron?” <i>Global Governance</i> 22:4 (2016), pp. 461-472.</p>
<p>11. The UN and development</p>			2			2	8	<p>Preparation for seminar discussion “Warm and cuddly development goals? The international community must get real?”</p> <p>Read and analyze:</p> <p>Digambar Bhuraskar, <i>United Nations Development Aid: A Study in History and Politics</i> (New Delhi: Academic Foundation, 2007), Preface, Chapters 8 and 9;</p> <p>John W. McArthur, “The Origins of the Millennium Development Goals,” <i>SAIS Review of International Affairs</i> 34: 2 (2014), pp. 5-24;</p> <p>William Easterly, “The Cartel of Good Intentions,” <i>Foreign Policy</i> 131 (2002), pp. 40-49; John McArthur and Krista</p>

									Rasmussen, "How successful were the millennium development goals?" The Guardian, 30 March 2017; Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah, "Warm and cuddly global goals? The international community must get real," The Guardian, 5 December 2017.
12. The UN and International Peace and Security			2				2	8	Preparation for seminar discussion "Why the UN cannot end wars?" Read and analyze: Thomas G. Weiss, David P. Forsythe, Roger A. Coate, and Kelly-Kate Pease, "Evolving Security Operations," in The United Nations and Changing World Politics, 7th Edition (Boulder: Westview Press, 2014), Chapter 4; S��verine Autesserre, "The Crisis of Peacekeeping: Why the UN Can't End Wars", Foreign Affairs (January/February 2019), pp. 101-116; Michelle Nichols, "US Tells UN it is Committed to Destroying Islamic State in Syria", Reuters 21 December 2018.
13. Small-states in international organizations			2				2	8	Case study of Lithuania. Preparation for in-class practical exercise.
Final exam								12	Preparation for the final exam
Total	6		26				32	108	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Active and high quality participation in seminars	30	During semester	Students will be expected to demonstrate both the knowledge related to international organizations gained during the course, as well as their abilities to apply it in a given situation. Assessment of participation in seminars consists of: - practical exercises on game theory and small-states case (comprehensive analysis of practical situations, capability to identify the most significant features, to provide clear arguments in support of their points made in a logical, coherent and structured manner) (15% of grade); - participation in discussions (capability to refer to academic debates, to provide correct answers to questions, formulate problems and suggest (search for) solutions, offer thoughtful critical remarks, contribute to other participants' ideas, etc.) (15% of grade).
Simulation game on negotiations	20	In the middle of the semester	Every student will be assigned a role in simulation of negotiations in international organization. The assessment will be based on: - negotiations' outcome (win-win principle) (4% of grade); - personal role objectives (4% of grade); - creative approach to the role and negotiation/ mediation style, trying out various strategies and attitudes (4% of grade); - arguments and questions related to knowledge of conflict, based on research of the issue in details, evaluation of various sources (4% of grade); - negotiation skills (verbal, non-verbal) and ethical behavior (4% of grade).
Final exam	50	At the end of semester	The final examination in written will be open book. Two examination questions of the same weight will reflect topics discussed in the lectures and seminars and may consist of short essay and/or practical problems. The assessment criteria are the following: 4 - 5 points: from excellent to good knowledge and abilities. The question is fully answered and the arguments provided are complete, clear, coherent and persuasive, with correct references to the applicable sources. The answer is well-structured and the ideas are easy to follow.

			<p>2 - 3 points: from good to average knowledge and abilities. The arguments provided in the answer to the question show a good level of knowledge of the student, but the arguments are incomplete, not clearly structured, there are some mistakes or some points are missing or are imprecise.</p> <p>1 - 2 point: knowledge and abilities are below average, but they still meet minimum requirements. The answer to the question consists of basic ideas, the arguments are mentioned, but not developed, major mistakes are present.</p> <p>0 points: failure to meet minimum requirements. The answer to the question misses the point or are completely underdeveloped.</p>
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Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of periodical or volume of publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Abbot, Kenneth and Duncan Snidal	1998	Why States Act through Formal Organizations	42:3-32	Journal of Conflict Resolution
Ian Hurd	2018	International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice	3 rd ed.	Cambridge University Press
Stephen Kotkin	2018	Realist World: The Players Change, but the Game Remains	97:10	Foreign Affairs
Daniel Deudney and John Ikenberry	2018	Liberal World: The Resilient Order	97:10	Foreign Affairs
Amy Chua	2018	Tribal World: Group Identity is All	97:10	Foreign Affairs
Lloyd Gruber	2000	Ruling the World: Power Politics and the Rise of Supranational Institutions		Princeton University Press
Randall W. Stone	2004	The Political Economy of IMF Lending in Africa	98:4	American Political Science Review
Dilsher Dhillon	2019	Pakistan has declined an IMF bailout after securing help from China and Arab countries	14 January	Business Insider India
Paul R. Milgrom, Douglass C. North, and Barry R. Weingast	1990	The Role of Institutions in the Revival of Trade: The Law Merchant, Private Judges, and the Champagne Fairs	2:1	Economics and Politics
Robert O. Keohane	1982	The Demand for International Regimes	36: 2	International Organization
John Campbell	2019	WTO Rules: What Happens if There's a No-Deal Brexit?	16 January	BBC
Christopher Hemmer and Peter J. Katzenstein	2002	Why is There No NATO in Asia? Collective Identity, Regionalism, and the Origins of Multilateralism	56: 3	International Organization
Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore	1998	The Power, Politics, and Pathologies of International Organizations	53: 4	International Organization
	2009	The limits of soft cultural power	10 September	The Economist
March, James (edited by Z. Shapira)	1997	Understanding How Decisions Happen in Organizations. In Organizational Decision Making		New York: Cambridge University Press
Buzan, B.	1981	Negotiating by Consensus: Developments in Technique at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea	75	The American Journal of International Law
Meyer, Marshall, and Lynne Zucker	1989	Permanently Failing Organizations		Newbury Park: Sage Press
Douglas A. Irwin	2016	The truth about trade: What critics get wrong about the global economy	95: 4 (July/August)	Foreign Affairs

Judith Goldstein	2017	Trading in the Twenty-First Century: Is There a Role for the World Trade Organization?	20:1	Annual Review of Political Science
Ana Swanson	2017	Once the WTO's biggest supporter, US is its biggest skeptic	10 December	The New York Times https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/10/business/wto-united-states-trade.html
Jutta M. Joachim	2007	Agenda Setting, the UN, and NGOs: Gender Violence and Reproductive Rights		Washington D.C.
Boli, John, and George Thomas, eds.	1999	Constructing World Culture: International Non-Governmental Organizations since 1875		Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press
Alger, Chadwick	2002	The Emerging Roles of NGOs in the UN System: From Article 71 to a People's Millennium Assembly	vol. 8, no. 1	Global Governance
Clark, Ann Marie, et al.	1998	The Sovereign Limits of Global Civil Society: A Comparison of NGO Participation in UN World Conferences on the Environment, Human Rights, and Women	vol. 51, no. 1	World Politics
Ian Hurd	2018	International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice	3 rd ed.	Cambridge University Press
Ian Johnstone	2003	The Role of the UN Secretary-General: The Power of Persuasion Based on Law	9:4	Global Governance
Franz Baumann	2016	United Nations Management - An oxymoron?	22:4	Global Governance
Digambar Bhouraskar	2007	United Nations Development Aid: A Study in History and Politics		New Delhi: Academic Foundation
John W. McArthur	2014	The Origins of the Millennium Development Goals	34:2	SAIS Review of International Affairs
William Easterly	2002	The Cartel of Good Intentions	131	Foreign Policy
John McArthur and Krista Rasmussen	2017	How successful were the millennium development goals?	30 March	The Guardian
Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah	2017	Warm and cuddly global goals? The international community must get real	5 December	The Guardian
Thomas G. Weiss, David P. Forsythe, Roger A. Coate, and Kelly-Kate Pease	2014	The United Nations and Changing World Politics	7th Edition	Boulder: Westview Press
S�verine Autesserre	2019	The Crisis of Peacekeeping: Why the UN Can't End Wars	January/February	Foreign Affairs
Michelle Nichols	2018	US Tells UN it is Committed to Destroying Islamic State in Syria	21 December	Reuters