PSC 752: International Law & Organizations
Spring 2025
Th 9:30-12:15, Eggers 100A

Professor Lamis Abdelaaty
Email: labdelaa@syr.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Tu 9:30-11:30

Course Description   Global governance, from formal organizations to soft law, establishes the "rules of the game" in international affairs. This course surveys the varying character and density of these rules across issues. Topics may include war, intervention, human rights, trade, development, self-determination, migration, and environment. Students will delve deeper through research papers.

Course Requirements
Participation (30%) Students should arrive at every class session having carefully read the assigned texts and ready to discuss them. To prepare for this discussion, students should familiarize themselves with the concepts, argument, methodology, and findings of each reading. At a minimum, every student should be able to offer an assessment and/or pose questions of each reading.

Discussion Papers & Comments (30%) Each student will write two short analytical discussion papers (5-6 pages each) for circulation to the whole class and will serve as a commentator on two occasions. Students must circulate their discussion papers to the class no later than noon on the Monday preceding the relevant session.

Research Paper or Policy Report & Comments (40%) Each student will write a 15-25 page research paper or policy report. I expect that most of these papers will address a substantive puzzle or problem involving international law and organizations, and will use concepts discussed in the course to analyze the relevant set of issues. Students are to consult with the instructor about a paper topic before March 6, and are to submit a one-page statement of topic by March 20.

Policies

- *Faith Tradition Observances*: Syracuse University's Religious Observances Policy recognizes the diversity of faiths represented in the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their traditions. Under the policy, students are given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance,

provided they notify their instructors no later than the academic drop deadline. For observances occurring before the drop deadline, notification is required at least two academic days in advance. Students may enter their observances in MySlice under Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances/Add a Notification.

- *Disability Statement*: Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. There may be aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion and full participation in this course. I invite any student to contact me to discuss strategies and/or accommodations (academic adjustments) that may be essential to your success and to collaborate with the Center for Disability Resources (CDR) in this process. If you would like to discuss disability-accommodations or register with CDR, please visit Center for Disability Resources. Please call (315) 443-4498 or email disabilityresources@syr.edu for more detailed information. The CDR is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic accommodations and will work with the student to develop an access plan. Since academic accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact CDR as soon as possible to begin this process.

- *Academic Integrity*: As a pre-eminent and inclusive student-focused research institution, Syracuse University considers academic integrity at the forefront of learning, serving as a core value and guiding pillar of education. Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy provides students with the necessary guidelines to complete academic work with integrity throughout their studies. Students are required to uphold both course-specific and university-wide academic integrity expectations such as crediting your sources, doing your own work, communicating honestly, and supporting academic integrity. The full Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy can be found by visiting class.syr/edu, selecting, "Academic Integrity," and "Expectations and Policy." Upholding Academic Integrity includes the protection of faculty's intellectual property. Students should not upload, distribute, or share instructors' course materials, including presentations, assignments, exams, or other evaluative materials without permission. Using websites that charge fees or require uploading of course material (e.g., Chegg, Course Hero) to obtain exam solutions or assignments completed by others, which are then presented as your own violates academic integrity expectations in this course and may be classified as a Level 3 violation. All academic integrity expectations that apply to in-person assignments, quizzes, and exams also apply online. Students found in violation of the policy are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered. Students may not drop or withdraw from courses in which they face a suspected violation. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.

- *Artificial Intelligence*: All generative-AI tools are prohibited in this course because their use inhibits achievement of the course learning objectives. This policy applies to all stages of project and writing processes including researching, brainstorming, outlining, organizing, and polishing. Do not use Generative-AI tools to create any content

(i.e., images and video, audio, text, code, etc.). If you have any questions about a feature and whether it is considered Generative-AI, ask your instructor.

Required Texts   None. All readings are available electronically via Blackboard.

Course Outline

Jan 16 – Introduction

Jan 23 – Cooperation & Anarchy

- Robert O. Keohane, "A Functional Theory of International Regimes," in *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984), p. 85–109.

- John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security* 19, no. 3 (1994-1995): 5–49.

- Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, "The Promise of Institutionalist Theory," *International Security* 20, no. 1 (1995): 39–51.

- Kenneth W. Abbott et al., "The Concept of Legalization," *International Organization* 54, no. 3 (2000): 401–419.

- Martha Finnemore and Stephen J. Toope, "Alternatives to 'Legalization': Richer Views of Law and Politics," *International Organization* 55, no. 3 (2001): 743–758.

- James Thuo Gathii, "The Promise of International Law: A Third World View," *Proceedings of the ASIL Annual Meeting* 114 (2020): 165–187.

Jan 30 – Negotiation & Information

- Robert Axelrod, "The Problem of Cooperation," in *The Evolution of Cooperation* (New York: Basic Books, 1984), p. 3–24.

- Robert D. Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games," *International Organization* 42, no. 3 (1988): 427–460.

- Helen V. Milner, "Introduction," in *Interests, Institutions, and Information: Domestic Politics and International Relations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997), 3–29.

- James D. Morrow, "The Strategic Setting of Choices: Signaling, Commitment, and Negotiation in International Politics," in *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, ed. David A. Lake and Robert Powell (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999), p. 77–114.

- Michael J. Gilligan and Leslie Johns, "Formal Models of International Institutions," *Annual Review of Political Science* 15, no. 1 (2012): 221–243.

Feb 6 – Design & Evolution

- Antony Anghie, "The Evolution of International Law: Colonial and Postcolonial Realities," *Third World Quarterly* 27, no. 5 (2006): 739–753.

- Erik Voeten, "Making Sense of the Design of International Institutions," *Annual Review of Political Science* 22, no. 1 (2019): 147–163.

- Amitav Acharya and Alastair Iain Johnston, "Comparing Regional Institutions: An Introduction," in *Crafting Cooperation: Regional International Institutions in Comparative Perspective*, ed. Amitav Acharya and Alastair Iain Johnston (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), p. 1–31.

- Karen J. Alter and Kal Raustiala, "The Rise of International Regime Complexity," *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 14, no. 1 (2018): 329–349.

- Julia Gray, "Life, Death, or Zombie? The Vitality of International Organizations," *International Studies Quarterly* 62, no. 1 (2018): 1–13.

Feb 13 – Delegation & Agency

- Darren G. Hawkins et al., "Delegation Under Anarchy: International Organizations and Principal-Agent Theory," in *Delegation and Agency in International Organizations*, ed. Darren G. Hawkins et al. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), p. 3–38.

- Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore, "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations," *International Organization* 53, no. 4 (1999): 699–732.

- Tana Johnson, "Institutional Design and Bureaucrats' Impact on Political Control," *Journal of Politics* 75, no. 1 (2013): 183–197.

- Deepak Nair, "Emotional Labor and the Power of International Bureaucrats," *International Studies Quarterly* 64, no. 3 (2020): 573–587.

- José E. Alvarez, "International Organizations as Treaty-makers," in *International Organizations as Law-makers* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), p. 273–291.

Feb 20 – Socialization & Transnational Networks

- Judith Goldstein and Robert O. Keohane, "Ideas and Foreign Policy: An Analytical Framework," in *Ideas and Foreign Policy: Beliefs, Institutions, and Political Change*, ed. Judith Goldstein and Robert O. Keohane (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993), p. 3–30.

- Alastair Iain Johnston, "Treating International Institutions as Social Environments," *International Studies Quarterly* 45, no. 4 (2001): 487–515.

- Judith G. Kelley and Beth A. Simmons, "Introduction: The Power of Global Performance Indicators," *International Organization* 73, no. 3 (2019): 491–510.

- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: An Introduction," in *Activists beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998), p. 1–38.

- Sheryl Lightfoot, "Indigenous Mobilization and Activism in the UN System," in *Handbook of Indigenous Peoples' Rights*, ed. Corinne Lennox and Damien Short (New York: Routledge, 2016), p. 253–267.

Feb 27 – Performance & Legitimacy

- Ranjit Lall, "Beyond Institutional Design: Explaining the Performance of International Organizations," *International Organization* 71, no. 2 (2017): 245–280.

- James Raymond Vreeland, "Corrupting International Organizations," *Annual Review of Political Science* 22, no. 1 (2019): 205–222.

- B. S. Chimni, "International Institutions Today: An Imperial Global State in the Making," *European Journal of International Law* 15, no. 1 (2004): 1–37.

- Jonas Tallberg and Michael Zürn, "The Legitimacy and Legitimation of International Organizations: Introduction and Framework," *The Review of International Organizations* 14 (2019): 581–606.

- Mark Copelovitch and Jon C. W. Pevehouse, "International Organizations in a New Era of Populist Nationalism," *The Review of International Organizations* 14 (2019): 169–186.

Mar 6 – Security Institutions

- Jessica Edry, Jesse C. Johnson, and Brett Ashley Leeds, "Threats at Home and Abroad: Interstate War, Civil War, and Alliance Formation," *International Organization* 75, no. 3 (2021): 837–857.

- Barbara F. Walter, Lise Morje Howard, and V. Page Fortna, "The Extraordinary Relationship Between Peacekeeping and Peace," *British Journal of Political Science* 51, no. 4 (2021): 1705–1722.

- Govinda Clayton et al., "Ceasefires in Civil Conflict: A Research Agenda," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 67, nos. 7-8 (2023): 1279–1295.

- Nicola Pratt, "Reconceptualizing Gender, Reinscribing Racial–Sexual Boundaries in International Security: The Case of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on 'Women, Peace and Security'," *International Studies Quarterly* 57, no. 4 (2014): 772–783.

- Paul K. MacDonald, "Civilized Barbarism: What We Miss When We Ignore Colonial Violence," *International Organization* 77, no. 4 (2023): 721–753.

Mar 20 – Economic Institutions

- Sarah Babb and Alexander Kentikelenis, "Markets Everywhere: The Washington Consensus and the Sociology of Global Institutional Change," *Annual Review of Sociology* 47, no. 1 (2021): 521–541.

- Nicola Nones, "Preferential Trade Agreements and Leaders' Business Experience," *International Studies Quarterly* 68, no. 4 (2024): 1–14.

- Michael A. Gavin, "Global Club Goods and the Fragmented Global Financial Safety Net," *International Studies Quarterly* 64, no. 4 (2020): 798–807.

- Layna Mosley and David A. Singer, "Migration, Labor, and the International Political Economy," *Annual Review of Political Science* 18, no. 1 (2015): 283–301.

- John Linarelli, Margot E. Salomon, and Muthucumaraswamy Sornarajah, "The Legal Rendering of Immiseration," in *The Misery of International Law: Confrontations with Injustice in the Global Economy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), p. 1–37.

Mar 27 – Environmental Institutions

- Mathieu Blondeel, Jeff Colgan, and Thijs Van de Graaf, "What Drives Norm Success? Evidence from Anti–Fossil Fuel Campaigns," *Global Environmental Politics* 19, no. 4 (2019): 63–84.

- Sarah S. Stroup and Wendy H. Wong, "Authority, Strategy, and Influence: Environmental INGOs in Comparative Perspective," *Environmental Politics* 27, no. 6 (2018): 1101–1121.

- Thomas Hale, "Transnational Actors and Transnational Governance in Global Environmental Politics," *Annual Review of Political Science* 23, no. 1 (2020): 203–220.

- Jessica F. Green, "Hierarchy in Regime Complexes: Understanding Authority in Antarctic Governance," *International Studies Quarterly* 66, no. 1 (2022): 1–14.

- Julia Dehm, "Carbon Colonialism or Climate Justice: Interrogating the International Climate Regime From a TWAIL Perspective," *The Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice* 33 (2016): 129.

Apr 3 – Human Rights Institutions

- Kelly Kollman and Matthew Waites, "The Global Politics of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Human Rights: An Introduction," *Contemporary Politics* 15, no. 1 (2009): 1–17.

- Michelle Giacobbe Allendoerfer, Amanda Murdie, and Ryan M. Welch, "The Path of the Boomerang: Human Rights Campaigns, Third-Party Pressure, and Human Rights," *International Studies Quarterly* 64, no. 1 (2020): 111–119.

- Aila M Matanock, "How International Actors Help Enforce Domestic Deals," *Annual Review of Political Science* 23, no. 1 (2020): 357–383.

- Oumar Ba, "Constructing an International Legal Order Under the Shadow of Colonial Domination," *Journal of Human Rights* 22, no. 1 (2023): 4–15.

- Bianca Freeman, D. G. Kim, and David A. Lake, "Race in International Relations: Beyond the 'Norm Against Noticing'," *Annual Review of Political Science* 25, no. 1 (2022): 175–196.

Apr 10 – Health Institutions

- Clare Wenham et al., "From Imperialism to the 'Golden Age' to the Great Lockdown: The Politics of Global Health Governance," *Annual Review of Political Science* 26, no. 1 (2023): 431–450.

- Kim Yi Dionne, "AIDS in Africa: A Significant Challenge and a Disconnected Response," in *Doomed Interventions: The Failure of Global Responses to AIDS in Africa* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), p. 13–38.

- Nitsan Chorev, "Changing Global Norms Through Reactive Diffusion: The Case of Intellectual Property Protection of AIDS Drugs," *American Sociological Review* 77, no. 5 (2012): 831–853.

- Paul Gronke, "The Politics and Policy of Ebola," *PS: Political Science & Politics* 25, no. 4 (2015): 11–16.

- Carol A. Heimer and Clay Davis, "Good Law to Fight Bad Bugs: Legal Responses to Epidemics," *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 18, no. 1 (2022): 1–26.

Apr 17 – No class

Apr 24 – TBD

May 6 – Research paper or policy report due