The Political Economy of International Organizations

Institute of Political Science, University of Cologne

May 6 - May 10, 2019

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Office hours: By appointment.

Course Description and Objectives

The course focuses on the main issues in international cooperation and on the role of economic international institutions, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), in world politics. The course requires that students have previously taken an introductory International Relations course as a prerequisite. The reading list features some technical articles; for these it is sufficient to have a basic understanding of formal and quantitative models. Further, a simplified version of such models will be presented in class slides and a good grasp of these should be enough to do well in this course.

The course is divided into three parts. The first addresses the main debates related to international cooperation, e.g. the impact of domestic politics on international cooperation and the effectiveness of cooperation. The second part covers the international trade institutions. Namely, we will discuss the role of the WTO, preferential trade agreements, and bilateral investment treaties. The third part covers the Bretton Woods institutions, i.e. the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

By the end of the course, students will:

- Be familiar with the main debates about international cooperation;
- Have a thorough knowledge of the most important economic international institutions;
- Be able to understand and critically evaluate widely-used political economy models.

Course Requirements

1. Part of the mark for the course is based on participation in class. Participation is mandatory and is crucial to improving analytical thinking. Participation accounts for 10 percent of the final grade.

2. Input presentation based on the compulsory readings (10-15 min.). Topics will be allocated at the beginning of the course.

3. Term paper:
   - Outline: Submission to the course instructor via Email by May 17, 2019.
   - Term paper: 6,000 – 9,000 words, not counting footnotes and the list of references. Submission to the course instructor via Email by June 15, 2019 (pdf, doc or odt). All
papers are electronically checked for plagiarism. Every paper has to include the following statement, signed and attached to the main text: http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/Erklaerung_fuer_Hausarbeiten.pdf

**Grade Distribution**

- Class participation: 10%
- Presentation: 30%
- Final project: 60%

**Required text**

There is no textbook. The course is mostly based on articles published in top IR journals. All readings will be made available to students before the beginning of the course. Students are strongly recommended to do the readings *before* class. Some topics might be subject to (mostly minor) revisions during the course.
Tentative schedule

1. **Main Debates on International Cooperation**

**MAY 6, 2019**

Morning session (10:30am-12pm).
- Course description and logistics
- Why Cooperate?


Afternoon Session (2-3:30pm)
- Why do states join international agreements?


**MAY 7, 2019**

Morning session (9am-12pm).
- Why do states comply with international agreements?


- **Domestic Politics and International Cooperation**


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### 2. **Global Trade Governance**

**MAY 9, 2019**

**Morning session (9am-12pm).**

- **The World Trade Organization**


- **Preferential Trade Agreements**


**Afternoon Session (2-5pm)**

- **Bilateral Investment Treaties**


- **Students’ Presentation**

3. **Bretton Wood Organizations**

**MAY 10, 2019**

Morning session (9am-12pm).

- **IMF and Development**


- **Explaining IMF Conditionality**


Afternoon Session (2-5pm)

- **The WB, Aid, and Development**


- **Students’ Presentation**