

IR 444, Spring 2008
Issues and Theories in Global Society
Tuesdays 5-7.50pm

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Overview and Purpose:

In this course we will be surveying a range of contemporary issues and theoretical approaches in international relations that challenge us to think beyond the compartmentalization of the global order into discrete, sovereign states. By the end of the course students will gain a detailed understanding of the transnational forces that constitute ‘global society;’ will have studied a range of contemporary challenges, practices and actors that tie this global society together; and will have critically evaluated the major theoretical approaches to global society within International Relations. The significance of International Relations scholarship as not simply a vehicle to explain international relations, but also as a practice that seeks to affect positive change in the global order, comprises one of the most important underlying points of reflection within this course.

Our discussions will cover a range of contemporary international problems, including: environmental degradation; human (in)security; refugees; human trafficking and contemporary slavery; global inequalities of wealth; the fragmentation of political identities; gender inequality; and the exploitation of labour in developing regions. The emergence of new actors within the global order, such as NGOs, in response to these problems will be covered. We will use several theoretical frames, notably concepts of Global Civil Society, global capitalism, critical security studies and transnational justice, to analyse the sources, nature and possible solutions to these global challenges.

I encourage all of you to take up the opportunity in class and in your written work to ask deeper questions about global society and the nature of the international order. Which of the theoretical perspectives on global society provide the best template for explaining the global problems we cover in this course? What role do transnational actors play in the global order? How can the ongoing dominance of the state within international relations and the needs of global society be reconciled? What should be our role as scholars of International Relations in relation to contemporary global problems?

Students will be expected, above all, to bring their critical thinking skills to bear on the issues covered in this course. Since this a fourth-year seminar, we will be drawing the connections

between the topics discussed each week ourselves. The aim is to mobilize the theoretical perspectives covered early in the course as a basis to explain the causes and debate the solutions to the 'real-world' issues we cover later in the course. I strongly encourage you to go beyond the assigned readings in preparing for class and doing your assignments. This means using the library and the internet, and chasing down items from the footnotes of your assigned readings. I also strongly encourage you to bring your own opinions, experiences, and interests to class with you. The topic of your research paper will be determined by you and I am willing to grant you some latitude (within limits) in determining the topic of your presentation, which will give you further opportunities to develop your own interests and ideas.

Text Book:

The text book is:

Sanjeev Khagram, James V. Riker and Kathryn Sikkink, eds. 2002. *Restructuring World Politics: Transnational Social Movements, Networks, and Norms*, (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis).

Course Requirements:

Your assessment breaks down as follows:

Research Paper (40%): Your research paper should be between 6,000-8,000 words in length. You will need to come up with your own topic (to be approved by me) pertaining to the broad themes of this course, and draw on a range of source material.

Literature Review (20%): 2,000 words. This will be an exercise in comprehension and critical analysis of the literature covered in this course.

Final Exam (20%): The exam will be essay format rather than short answer.

Class Presentation (10%): Each student will give a 10-5 minute presentation to kick-start the seminar discussion, reviewing key points and raising issues for the class to debate.

Class Participation (10%): Your class attendance will not be graded as such, but you cannot effectively participate if you don't turn up. Full marks for participation means being prepared for class, bringing your broader knowledge of IR and current affairs to bear on the discussion, and being responsive and respectful toward the opinions of other participants.

The referencing (footnotes or 'in-text') and formatting of your written work should be in accordance with *The Chicago Manual of Style* (<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>).

Schedule:¹

Week 1 January 15th 1st Hour Administration/Introduction/Course Overview.

Section One: Theorising Global Society

This section of the course examines theoretical approaches to IR that have envisaged the world order as a 'global society' from various points of view.

Week 2 January 22nd

IR and Global Society: Recasting the World Order.

Assigned Readings:

Robert W. Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Orders."

John W. Meyer *et al* "World Society and the Nation State"

Mervyn Frost, "The Role of Normative Theory in IR" *Millennium*

Optional:

Susan Board, Ch. 1. *Ecological Relations*, Routledge 2002

Week 3 January 29th

Global Civil Society:

Marlies Glasius, "Civil Society: A Very Brief History," Center for Civil Society Briefing #1, Center for Civil Society, London School of Economics.

Mary Kaldor, "Chapter 2: The Discourse of Civil Society," *Global Civil Society: An Answer to War*.

Brett Bowden "Civil Society, the State, and the Limits to Global Civil Society," *Global Society* 20:2

¹ **IMPORTANT:** The weekly readings may be subject to additions and changes between now and the start of semester. This is a provisional reading guide designed to give you an idea of the topics. Some weeks may be moved around to accommodate guest lecturers.

Week 4 February 5th

IR and the Individual: Justice as Fairness, Transnational Justice 1

John Rawls *Theory of Justice*

Charles Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*

Nicholas Rengger “Introduction: Justice in the World Economy: Global or International, or Both?” *International Affairs* Vol. 75, No. 3 (Jul., 1999),

Week 5 February 12th

IR and the Individual: Utilitarianism and Development as Capabilities, Transnational Justice 2

Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*

Martha Nussbaum, *Women and Human Development: The Capabilities Approach*.

Week 6 February 19th

Mapping Global Processes: Guest Lecture and Software Simulation:

Guest Lecture: Guilherme de Araujo Silva, PhD Candidate, Center for International Studies, USC.

Section Two: Transnational Actors/Functions

In this section we shall survey the activities of NGOs and other transnational actors to get a better sense of what constitutes ‘global society.’

Week 7 February 26th

Literature Review Due

NGOs/Advocacy: Restructuring World Politics

Katherine Sikkink, et. al. “From Santiago to Seattle: Transnational Advocacy Groups Restructuring World Politics,” in *Restructuring World Politics*

Katherine Sikkink and Jackie Smith, “Infrastructures for Change: Transnational Organisations, 1953-93” in *Restructuring World Politics*

Katherine Morton, "the Emergence of NGOs in China and the Transnational Linkages," *Australian Journal of International Affairs*.

OPTIONAL:

James V Riker "NGOs, Transnational Networks, International Donor Agencies, and the Prospects for Democratic Governance in Indonesia" in Sikkik et al *Restructuring World Politics*

Week 8 March 4th

The Functions of Networks/NGOs/Advocacy: Practical Perspectives: **TBC:** Guest Lecture

Section Three: Transnational Issues

In this section we survey some of the major transnational challenges facing the international community

Week 9 March 11th

Environment and Human Security:

Susan Board, Ch. 2 & Conclusion. *Ecological Relations*, Routledge 2002

Matt McDonald 'Environment and Security: Global Ecopolitics and Brazilian Deforestation', *Contemporary Security Policy*, Vol. 24, No.2 (2003).

Dan Deudney, "The Case Against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security" *Millennium* 1990

Aynsley Kellow, "Norms, interests and environmental NGOs: The limits of Cosmopolitanism"

OPTIONAL:

Manuel Castells, "The Greening of the Self," in *The Power of Identity* 2nd Edition, 2004.

Critical Security: Krause and Williams.

Recess: March 18th

Week 10 March 25th

Refugees/Gender and Global Society:

Al-Ali, Nadjie, and Khalid Koser (eds.), *New Approaches to Migration? Transnational Communities and the Transformation of Home*, Routledge Research in Transnationalism, Routledge, 2002.

Fox, Jonathan, "Unpacking 'Transnational Citizenship'" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 8 (2005.)

Mary Meyer and Elisabeth Prugl eds. 1999, *Gender Politics in Global Governance*

Week 11 April 1st

Human Trafficking and Contemporary Slavery. **Guest Lecture:** Dr. Joel Quirk, Research Fellow at the William Wilberforce Institute, University of Hull, United Kingdom.

Readings (TBC)

Joel Quirk, "Ending Slavery in all its Forms: Legal Abolition versus Effective Emancipation," *International Journal of Human Rights*.

Berman, J. 2003. "(Un)popular strangers and crises (un)Bounded: Discourses of sex trafficking, the European political community and the panicked state of the modern state." *European Journal of International Relations*. 9.

Week 12 April 8th

Research Workshop: Review of Research Essay Plans/drafts.

Week 13 April 15th

International Labour Rights and Development

Thalia G. Kidder, "Networks in Transnational Labour Organising," in *Restructuring World Politics*.

Robert O'Brien, Anne Marie Goetz, Jan Aart Scholte and Marc Williams, "Contesting Global Governance: Multilateralism and Global Social Movements," *Contesting Global Governance*

Jude Howell, "Civil Society and Development: Genealogies of the Conceptual Encounter" *Civil Society and Development: A Critical Exploration* 2001.

OPTIONAL

Mark Rupert, "Class, Gender and the Politics of Neoliberal Globalisation in the USA," in Craig N. Murphy, ed. *Egalitarian Politics in an Age of Globalisation*.

Week 14 April 22nd

Dilemmas of Transnational Activism and NGOs:

Patrick Kilby, "Nongovernmental Organisations and Accountability in an Era of Global Anxiety," *Seton Hall of Diplomacy and International Relations*, 2004.

Sebastian Mallaby, "NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor" *Foreign Policy* 2004

David Kennedy, *The Dark Side of Virtue: Reassessing International Humanitarianism*

Research Project Due

Week 15 April 29th

Wrap Up and Review. Exam Preparation.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.