

## **Politics 333, International Organizations**

**Professor David Yamanishi**

**March, 2009**

### **Syllabus**

#### ***Overview***

The course addresses the history, present characteristics, and future prospects of efforts to establish international order through global and regional integration and governance, the development of international law, the activity of internationally-oriented non-state actors and social movements, and resistance thereto.

#### ***Contact Information***

Office: South 304

Office phone: x4300

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 1-2pm, but I tend to be on campus from 8:30-5 most days and in my office unless otherwise engaged. I will not be available after class and for the rest of the day on Tuesday, March 17.

Email: [dyamanishi@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:dyamanishi@cornellcollege.edu)

#### ***Accommodations***

Should you have a condition requiring accommodation for exams, papers, or other aspects of the course, please ensure that you have properly registered it with the Dean of Students and the Registrar, and notify me by Wednesday, March 4.

#### ***Expectations***

I will determine your final grade in this course as follows:

|                      |     |   |
|----------------------|-----|---|
| Participation        | 15% | mainly oral and simulation participation, attendance also helps |
| Discussion questions | 5%  | due daily when there are new readings, 8am, by email            |
| Final exam           | 20% | in class on Monday, March 23                                    |
| Ikenberry paper      | 10% | due Thursday, March 5, 5pm, by email                            |
| Final paper plan     | 5%  | due Friday, March 13, 5pm, by email                             |
| Final paper          | 20% | due Friday, March 20, 5pm, by email                             |
| Presentation         | 10% | in class Monday-Wednesday, March 23-25                          |
| Final paper rewrite  | 5%  | due Wednesday, March 25, 5pm, by email                          |
| Simulation           | 10% | in class Wednesday, March 25; paper due at start of class       |

While the particular criteria for each assignment will differ, in general I award grades of A for thoughtful integration and interpretation of the course material, accompanied by diligent and careful work on subsidiary parts of the assignment. Working hard is not enough. What matters is insight, well presented.

I will assign a letter grade to most assignments using the same numeric values that the college uses on your transcripts (A=4.0, A-=3.7, etc.).

*Participation:* I expect you to participate orally in our common discussion. Quality of participation matters more than quantity, but I do expect you to participate at least daily. Asking good questions is just as valuable as offering good answers to my questions. Getting the most out of a seminar requires attentiveness to the flow of conversation and regular participation.

*Discussion questions:* By 8am each day that we have new readings, you should email me a question or insight for our common discussion. You should write enough to flesh out your question or insight in its full implications, but should not exceed 250 words per day.

*Final exam:* We will have a comprehensive final exam. You may bring your books, other readings, and class notes. The questions on the exam will be similar to those that I hand out in the daily reading notes, but also inspired by the direction of our common discussions.

*Ikenberry paper:* You should base this paper on Ikenberry's *After Victory*. The questions that you should consider are these: How does Ikenberry believe that his understanding of the progressive development of international institutions reconciles realism and liberalism? How do his historical cases and his analysis of the post-Cold War strategic environment support his claim, or not? Critical evaluation of Ikenberry's argument is just as important as analytically summarizing it well. Your paper should be no longer than 1000 words.

*Final paper:* You should choose your own question related to the course for this paper. You should submit a proposal, plan, final paper, and rewrite according to the dates listed above. Your proposal (which is not graded) should pose your question well enough that its implications and your next steps are clear. Your plan should tell me how you think you will structure your paper, what initial thoughts you have about your argument and conclusions, and what sources you have found to help you. Your final paper should be the best effort that you can complete by the due date, but you will also have an opportunity to rewrite the paper after receiving my comments. Your paper should be no longer than 2500 words.

*Presentation:* You should base your presentation on your research for your paper. Your presentation should make your question, your answer, and your supporting reasoning and evidence clear to your audience. Preparation helps.

*Simulation:* I will divide the class into groups to represent selected member-states of the Security Council and other state and non-state actors. Each group will prepare a position paper (not to exceed 1000 words) and an oral presentation on its position. We will simulate encounters between these actors in class.

## **Books**

The following required books are available at the campus bookstore:

G. John Ikenberry, *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*, Princeton, 2001. ISBN 0-691-05090-2.

Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst, *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*, Rienner, 2004. ISBN 1-55587-987-7.

Paul Kennedy, *The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present, and Future of the United Nations*, Vintage, 2006. ISBN 0-375-70341-6.

Other readings listed on the schedule may be found on the Moodle site for the class.

## **Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

Some sets of readings will be divided among groups of students for in-class presentation.

|                    |          |   |
|--------------------|----------|---|
| Monday, March 2    | 9am      | Introductions, Administrivia  |
|                    | 1:30pm   | Karns & Mingst, Ch. 2, pp. 35-40, 45-56   |
| Tuesday, March 3   | 9:30am   | Ikenberry, Chs. 1-3   |
| Wednesday, March 4 | 9:30am   | Ikenberry, Ch. 4, 5, or 6 (depending on first group assignment)   |
|                    | 1:30pm   | Ikenberry, Chs. 7-8   |
| Thursday, March 5  | No class |   |
|                    | 5pm      | Ikenberry paper due   |
| Friday, March 6    | 1:30pm   | Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions" (on Moodle)<br>Abbott & Snidal, "Why States Act through Formal International Organizations" (on Moodle)<br>Karns & Mingst, Ch. 2, pp. 40-45, 56-60 |
| Saturday, March 7  | 5pm      | Final paper proposal due by email   |
| Monday, March 9    | 9:30am   | Karns & Mingst, Chs. 3-4<br>Kennedy, Ch. 1<br>Charter of the United Nations (in Kennedy or on un.org)   |
|                    | 1:30pm   | Karns & Mingst, Ch. 5, 6, or 7 (depending on second group assignment)   |

|                     |          |  |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| Tuesday, March 10   | 9:30am   | Kennedy, Ch. 2-3<br>Karns & Mingst, Ch. 8 (depending on third group assignment)  |
| Wednesday, March 11 | 9:30am   | Voeten, "Outside Options and the Logic of Security Council Action" (on Moodle)<br>Fortna, "Interstate Peacekeeping: Causal Mechanisms and Empirical Effects" (on Moodle)   |
| Thursday, March 12  | 9:30am   | Kennedy, Ch. 4<br>Karns & Mingst, Ch. 9 (depending on third group assignment)  |
|                     | 5pm      | Final paper plan due by email  |
| Friday, March 13    | 9:30am   | Goldstein, Rivers & Tomz, "Institutions in International Relations: Understanding the Effects of the GATT and the WTO on World Trade" (on Moodle)<br>Rose, "Do We Really Know that the WTO Increases Trade?" (on Moodle)   |
| Monday, March 16    | 9:30am   | Kennedy, Ch. 6<br>Karns & Mingst, Ch. 11 (depending on third group assignment)   |
| Tuesday, March 17   | 9:30am   | Vreeland, "Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention against Torture" (on Moodle)<br>Neumayer, "Do International Human Rights Treaties Improve Respect for Human Rights?" (on Moodle)<br><br>(Note: I will not be available after class and for the rest of the day on Tuesday, March 17.) |
| Wednesday, March 18 | 9:30am   | Kennedy, Ch. 7-8<br>Karns & Mingst, Ch. 12   |
| Thursday, March 19  | No class |  |
| Friday, March 20    | No class |  |
|                     | 5pm      | Final paper due by email   |
| Monday, March 23    | 9:30am   | Final exam   |
|                     | 1pm      | Presentations  |
| Tuesday, March 24   | 9:30am   | Presentations  |
|                     | 1pm      | Presentations  |

|                     |        |  |
|---------------------|--------|--|
| Wednesday, March 25 | 9:30am | Simulation<br>Simulation papers due in class |
|                     | 12pm   | Final paper rewrite due by email             |

### ***Attendance and Lateness***

Attendance is mandatory and failure to attend class (and punctually) will adversely affect your grade for participation. Lateness on an assignment will adversely affect your grade on the assignment in question (at a rate of one grade – A- to B-, for example – per day late), but late work should always be submitted, as the grade for an honest effort at an assignment will never be lower than a D. However, all work for the class must be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday, March 25.

Absence and lateness may be excused only with proper documentation provided by the campus health clinic for illness or the Dean of Students for personal emergency. I will appreciate it if you let me know in advance when you will miss class, but your absence will be excused only with the appropriate documentation.

### ***Academic Honesty***

Your work should be your own. You should understand and express in your own words the insights, arguments, and evidence that you put in your assignments. Moreover, you should properly cite ideas and evidence drawn from the work of others. Please see *The Compass* for a detailed discussion of academic honesty.