1- Description

This course examines the historical evolution and the politics of international organizations (IOs). Not only are IOs increasingly numerous and present on the world stage, but their mandates, operations, and functions have also dramatically expanded in recent decades. The course seeks to critically evaluate the role played by IOs in contemporary global governance.

The course contains six sections. First, we develop conceptual and theoretical tools in order to make sense of the creation and functioning of IOs. Second, we go back in time in order to understand how the global governance of international security has evolved over time, leading to a number of innovations but also deadlocks. Third, we seek to analyze judicial institutions which function is to settle international disputes amongst States. Fourth, we look at the enforcement of global norms such as international crimes or human rights protection through international institutions. Fifth, we interrogate the new politics of global governance in the 21st century, looking at the role of non-state actors. Sixth, we look at the variety of IOs.

Note: Given that the Department of Political Science offers specialized courses on international political economy (e.g., POLI243, 354, 359, 441, 444 and 445), the so-called Bretton Woods institutions (WTO, IMF, World Bank) are not covered in this course.

2- Prerequisites

There is no formal prerequisite but an introductory course to International Relations (POLI244) is an asset.

3- Format

The class usually meets twice a week for lectures. Lectures build on a list of mandatory readings; students should have a good grasp of the materials prior to class so as to fully benefit from lectures and discussions.

Conferences will begin in the third week of the term. Each student will sign up for one of the conference groups on Minerva. Weekly attendance is mandatory. Led by teaching assistants (TAs), conferences are meant to discuss course issues in a smaller format as well as to perform more practical activities. My TAs this term are Méline Lacroix (melinda.lacroix@mail.mcgill.ca) and Simon Bertrand (simon.bertrand@mail.mcgill.ca).

4- Materials
The mandatory textbook is on sale at the McGill bookstore: Ian Hurd (2014), *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice* (2nd edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Other readings may be downloaded through the McGill library system for free (see the list below).


5- Requirements

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Participation</strong></td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Based on attendance, active involvement in discussions and debates, as well as preparedness. More details will be provided by the teaching assistants.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mid-term test</strong></td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>11.10.17</td>
<td>In-class; a combination of short-answer questions about lectures, conferences, and readings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Short research paper</strong></td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>25.10.17</td>
<td>A 2000 words (excluding references) short research paper. Based on bibliographic research, the paper should address the following open question: Is the United Nations still relevant today?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>A combination of short-answer and essay questions covering lectures, conferences and readings. Date and room to be announced by the Faculty of Arts toward the end of semester.</td>
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6- Late penalties and extensions

The late penalty on assignments amounts to one (1) percent of the final course grade per day, including weekends and holidays. Papers must be submitted in class on the date assigned. They will not be accepted via email nor should they be left anywhere else in the university. The exception to this rule is late papers, which must be handed in at the Political Science front desk in Leacock 414 with a date stamp.

Students are responsible for keeping safe both a paper and an electronic copy of any submitted papers. It is also students’ duty to retain all marked assignments returned by the instructor until the end of the term.

Extensions or make-up exams are not granted except in cases consistent with the Faculty of Arts’ guidelines. Be prepared to provide all the relevant documentation (medical notes with clear date indications, etc.). Students should advise the instructor about extensions prior to deadline if possible, and at most one week later.

Note that there will be no make-up exam for the midterm. Students with a legitimate excuse will be required to do a one-on-one, oral examination with the instructor.

7- Language of Submission:
According to McGill policy, students have the right to submit their written graded work in English or French, except when one of the learning objectives of the course is the acquiring proficiency in a language. This exception does not apply in the present course.

FRENCH TRANSLATION: « Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue). »

The policy is available at: https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/teaching/course-design/outline#policy

8- Communications policy

The best way to reach the instructor is by meeting him in person. Priority will be given on a first come, first serve basis to students who come in person to the instructor after the class. Students who have courses or professional commitments right after the class may set an appointment via email or phone (514-216-8375).

Given the large size of this course, students should refrain from emailing the instructor with questions that either: a) require extensive feedback (in which case students should meet in person with the instructor during office hours); b) are of general interest (in which case the issue should be raised at the beginning of lectures); or c) have been already answered in class (in which case students should obtain answers from fellow students who attended the missed lecture). Otherwise, legitimate email inquiries will normally be answered within two weekdays. If you do not receive a reply within this period, please resubmit your question(s).

Students are required to regularly consult the course website on mycourses for important announcements, handouts and other course-related information.

9- Plagiarism

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information). A number of tools, including public search engines, may be used to detect plagiarism. In addition, students are not permitted to hand in the same assignment in two or more courses.

10- Disabilities and other special needs

Students with learning disabilities should advise the instructor as soon as possible. They should also contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (398-6009, www.mcgill.ca/osd). Arrangements can also be made to accommodate special needs such as religion, chronic illness, social discomfort or else.

Students facing personal issues are invited to seek help with McGill’s Counselling Service (www.mcgill.ca/counselling). Please note that in order to avoid penalties, it is imperative to inform the instructor of any possible delays as soon as possible.

Additional policies governing academic issues affecting students can be found in the Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Charter of Students’ Rights (regulations can be found online at www.mcgill.ca/files/secretariat/greenbookenglish.pdf).
# 10- Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>International Organizations (IOs) in the 21st century</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-</td>
<td>06.09.17 In this introductory lecture we set the stage for the course’s main theme—IOs in movement. We start from two main observations. First, as we enter the 21st century IOs deal with almost everything on the global agenda, making their impact felt in our own individual lives. Second, IOs are ever evolving: they are constantly adapting to new circumstances, taking on new mandates and generating new politics on the way.</td>
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<td><strong>Further source</strong> Hurd, chapter 1</td>
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## PART I – CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The study of IOs: Actors, forums, resources</th>
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<tr>
<td>2-</td>
<td>11.09.17 As an empirical object IOs can be conceived in relatively distinct terms. They can be considered as semi-autonomous actors, with their own purposes and dynamics; as arenas where international bargaining and socialization occur; or as tools in the hands of member states, especially the more powerful ones. We introduce these three ontologies and emphasize their complementarities in the study of IOs.</td>
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<td><strong>Further source</strong> Hurd, chapter 2</td>
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<th>Why do states create IOs? Institutional design, delegation, and legitimation</th>
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<td>3-</td>
<td>13.09.17 IOs have become one of the favorite tools of states in the past hundred years. States create new IOs on a regular basis, with an enlarging scope of competence. Using a rational choice lens, we look into the functions that IOs fulfill as an explanation for why states act through them. We review theories of institutional design, principal-agent, and legitimization among others.</td>
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<th>IOs as social environments: Bureaucracy and socialization on the world stage</th>
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<td>4-</td>
<td>18.09.17 Building on the constructivist perspective, we explore IOs as “social creatures.” First, we look at the bureaucratic side of IOs in order to grasp the key role of expertise and neutral authority in their power and autonomy. Second, we address the socialization dynamics that make IOs crucial sites of persuasion, shaming, and influence on the global stage.</td>
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### PART II – “SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES”: THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF SECURITY

#### 5-

**The historical emergence of collective security: From the Concert of Europe to the League of Nations**

- **20.09.17**
  - We look back in time in order to understand where contemporary practices of global security governance come from. We document the emergence of multilateralism in the 19th century, as well as the institutionalization of global governance and collective security in first half of the 20th century. We trace the path dependence of different ways of dealing with the problem of organized violence above the state-level.


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#### 6-

**The United Nations Charter: Adoption and significance**

- **25.09.17**
  - We revisit the debates that led to the adoption of the UN Charter in 1941-5. We discuss the main provisions in the Charter, including the tension between human rights protection and non-interference in domestic affairs. Finally, we survey the UN’s main organs—the General Assembly, Security Council, and four others—through an analysis of their legal foundations.

  **Reading:** Hurd, chapter 5

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#### 7-

**Security Council politics today**

- **27.09.17**
  - The world has dramatically changed since the Cold War deadlock that paralyzed the Security Council for forty years. We review the new politics that inform the regulation of organized violence in the post-Cold War and, later, the post-9.11 era. We discuss the nature and structure of negotiations today, using the 2011 Libyan intervention as a case study.

  **Reading:** Hurd, chapter 6


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#### 8-

**The Security Council Today: Politics and Reform**

- **02.10.17**
  - The most powerful body ever created at the international level, the UN Security Council is inhabited by peculiar dynamics. We examine its functioning and politics, with an eye to understanding how the Council is trying to adapt to the new exigencies of the 21st century as well as to mounting criticisms of its representativeness and legitimacy.

### 9- Peacekeeping and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

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<tr>
<td>04.10.17</td>
<td>Absent from the UN Charter, peacekeeping emerged historically as a multilateral security practice intended to deal with changing warfare dynamics. Its evolution over time is striking, as notions of neutrality and non-violence give way to a more robust approach. We analyze the politics of R2P and the new imperative of protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations.</td>
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### 09.10.17 No lecture (Thanksgiving)

### 11.10.17 Midterm exam (in class)

### PART III – SETTLING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES

### 10- Dispute settlement: from unilateralism to institutionalism

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<tr>
<td>16.10.17</td>
<td>In this session, we analyze the development in the process of enforcing and settling law and disputes in international relations. The UN Charter states a number of mechanisms to settle international disputes, therefore outlawing the recourse to armed forces. Though it remain possible that a State or group of states would unilaterally enforce the law against another or others, the international system has nevertheless developed into a complex of institutions which goals are to enforce international or settle disputes amongst states.</td>
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### 11- Ad hoc mechanisms

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<tr>
<td>18.10.17</td>
<td>The institution of ad hoc mechanisms to resolve disputes between states or between a state and nationals of another state arises from a variety of political contexts. The Iran-US Claims Tribunal is just one example of temporary, but institutionalized organs relied upon by States to ensure the enforcement of international norms or the settlement of international disputes.</td>
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### 12- The International Court of Justice

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<tr>
<td>23.10.17</td>
<td>The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. In this session, we examine the mandate of the Court and, through the analysis of some of the judgments it has rendered, its contribution to international peace.</td>
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<td>Reading: Hurd chapter 8</td>
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### PART IV – ENFORCING GLOBAL NORMS

### 13, 14, 15 Criminal Tribunals

* (Short research paper due on 25th October 2017)*

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.10.17</td>
<td>External interference in the domestic affairs of a member state is now politically and legally enshrined. Criminal Tribunals are created to enforce international norms such as war crimes, crimes</td>
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against humanity or genocide, only when a State has proved not to be willing or to be capable. Here we examine the evolution of international criminal prosecutions from Nuremberg to the International Criminal Court.

**Reading:**

### 16, 17 Human Rights Protection

To enforce the human rights proclaimed in international and regional conventions, a growing number of institutions and mechanisms have been designed to ensure that States comply with their obligations. Known as human rights monitoring bodies, these institutions are either universal or regional.

**Reading:**

### PART V – “WE THE PEOPLE”: THE NEW POLITICS OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

#### 18- The Second Face of the United Nations

Historically, most IOs have had limited relationships with non-state actors. Yet in the 21st century this format has become the dominant model of global governance, raising a host of challenges and opportunities. We critically review the developments of the past 20 years, examining the tensions between intergovernmentalism—which remains the cornerstone of the UN—and the new forces of “transnationalism.”

**Reading:**

#### 19- Historical precursor: The International Labour Organization

The involvement of global civil society actors in global governance is not entirely new. The tripartite model of the ILO was an important precedent set in the early 20th century. We also evaluate the guidelines that major UN organs have developed in order to engage with NGOs.

**Readings:**
Hurd, chapter 7

#### 20- “Multistakeholderism”: The Global Compact

The new buzzword in global governance is “partnership”: all stakeholders must be brought together in dealing with a given issue. A very good example of such complex multilateralism is the UN’s Global Compact, a loose network of businesses, NGOs, states and IOs that seeks to encourage the implementation of agreed-upon principles.

**Reading:**
“Multistakehoderism”: Transnational Actors’ Access to IOs

Traditionally, IOs have been closed to other actors than States, for the reason of being the emanation of States. This has, however, dramatically changed over the decades with a significant number of transnational actors’ gaining access and participatory roles within IOs. This part of the course will explore that development to understand how and why these actors have been allowed to participate in international politics.


PART VI – VARIETIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Regional Organizations

While regional organizations may not have become the dominant force that many predicted in the 1990s, they remain important vectors of politics beyond the state.

Reading: Hurd, chapter 10

Informal Organizations

Another key development in recent decades is the rise of informal organizations with a much looser structure than their more traditional cousins, such as the G20.


NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an IO of this kind. While according to the UN Charter the Security Council alone should ensure the collective security of members, unilateral use of force by a State alone or by group of states is permitted in some specified circumstances. This session will examine the purpose of military alliances and critically engage with the conditions under which such alliances can militarily intervene in international relations.


Conclusion: The Democratization of Global Politics—Challenges for IOs

On any account of democracy, IOs fall short: participation is limited, representation is skewed, and deliberation is constrained by power dynamics. We survey the many challenges that face IOs as global pressure for democratization mount.

Reading: Hurd, chapter 11