In this class, we look at economic IOs in their social, political, and historical contexts. We will try to understand their role within the broader framework of global governance and take a critical look at their sources and tools of power.

In part 1, we treat different perspectives on global governance. These perspectives raise questions that will follow us throughout the lecture: who are the actors in “governance without government,” what are their tools of power and their sources of authority?

In part 2, we take a closer look at different economic IOs as essential actors in global governance. We will situate these IOs in their social, political and historical contexts. We will investigate some of their tools and sources of power, which go beyond their financial tools and legal frameworks: notably, we will discuss the importance of ideology, “knowledge” and “expertise” to the functioning and authority of economic IOs.

In part 3, we turn to the modalities of knowledge production and the “rationalities” along which economic IOs seek to perceive and measure the world around them, such as indexes and other quantification processes. We will also consider how tools of measurement exclude from our attention that which they do not measure. We will then discuss how economic IOs and economic rationalities have “crept” into other political fields, at the examples of civil wars, state fragility, the environment, and international security.
Learning Outcomes:

You will be able to describe the history and functioning of some of the important economic IOs.

You will acquire a richer understanding of the diverse tools and sources of power behind global governance.

You will be able to explain mission creep and illustrate how economic rationality has shaped other areas of politics at the example of environmental politics, civil wars, and international security.

Assessment:

Participation in TA conferences (10%)

Mid-term exam (25%): February 20

Think piece (30%, with 1/3 of the grade for form, 2/3 for content): Submission by March 11, in class.
In discussing global governance and economic IOs, many forms of power remain somewhat in the abstract. We can, however, observe similar forms of power in our daily surroundings. Starting from week 2, you will be asked to write a weekly log on any cultural, social, political forms of power or technologies of governance that you can observe in your immediate environment (one object of observation, one or two paragraphs, per week). For the think piece, you will then be asked to elaborate on one of your observations for about 2-4 pages, which you will hand in together with your weekly log.

Final exam (35%): April 10

TA conferences will take place from week 3 through to, and including, week 11 (except for week 7, where you will write the mid-term exam).
Part 1: IOs and Global Governance

Week 1:

1) Opening Session: Course overview / Intro to IOs (January 7)

2) Global Governance I: “Governance without Government” (January 9)


Further readings:


Week 2:

3) Global Governance II: (End of) a “liberal world order”? (January 14)


Further readings:


4) IOs as actors of Global Governance (January 16)


Further readings:

Part 2: Major economic IOs: power, knowledge, ideology

Week 3

5) **Background: The World Bank & IMF (1)** (January 21)


6) **Background: The World Bank & IMF (2)** (January 23)


*Further readings:*


Week 4

7) **Knowledge in Global Governance (Case study: The World Bank)** (January 28)


*Further readings:*


8) **Conflict Diamonds & the Kimberley Process (Invited speaker: Elise Rousseau)** (Jan. 30)

*tbc*
Week 5

9) **Background: The WTO (February 4)**


**Further readings:**


10) **The OECD (Invited speaker: Alice Chessé) (February 6)**

*tbc*

Week 6

11) **Environmental Governance I: The power of private actors (February 11)**


**Further readings:**


12) **Environmental Governance II: The power of epistemic communities** (Feb. 13)


**Further readings**


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**Week 7**

13) **Concluding Parts 1 & 2 / outlook on the midterm exams** (February 18)

14) **-----MIDTERM EXAMS-----** (February 20)

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**Part 3: How economic governance expands into other domains of politics**

**Week 8**

15) **Econometrics and Governance:** (February 25)


**Further readings:**


16) The flip-side: The production of ignorance (February 27)


Further readings:


[Study break: March 4-8]

3.2 Economic governance and the environment / civil wars / failed states / security

Week 9

17) Economic governance and the environment: a liberal environmentalism? (Mar 11)

Submission deadline for think pieces.


Further readings:


18) **Economic governance and civil wars: A new understanding of wars in the post-cold war world as “war economies” & “resource wars”** (March 13)


*As examples, take a look at:*


*Further readings:*

Carbonnier, Gilles. *Humanitarian Economics*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2016, Chapter “War Economies” (read until page 76, after that as per your interest)

**Week 10**

19) **Economic governance and the fear of "failed states"** (March 18)


20) **Peacekeeping economics (Invited Speaker: Lou Pingeot)** (March 20)

*tbc*
Week 11

21) **Economic governance and international security** (March 25)


*Further readings:*

22) **Civil Society & resistance (Case Study: The WTO)** (March 27)


*Further readings:*

Week 12

23) **TBC** (April 1)

**Part 6: Conclusions**

24) **Conclusion: Political Economy of IOs – technologies of governance, sources of power.** (April 3)

Week 13

25) **Course Summary & outlook on final exam** (April 8)

26) **Final exam** (April 10)
McGill Policy Statements

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.”

“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/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

“Note that to support academic integrity, your assignments may be submitted to text-matching or other appropriate software (e.g., formula-, equation-, and graph-matching).”

Late work will be penalized by one letter grade (e.g. from B to B-) per day. If you hand in late work outside of class, you must have it time-stamped and signed by a secretary in the political science department.