International Development and International Organizations

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Code: IR 592

Course blog: www.ir592.wordpress.com

Seminar Description

International organizations (IOs) play a central role in international development. The purpose of this seminar is to enable you to navigate the world of development-related international organizations with competence, critical skills and the capacity to apply your newly acquired knowledge to concrete policy challenges. The questions asked by this course cover a range of pressing issues? Why does the IMF matter and how? How are the rules made inside the World Bank? Does Washington have the last word in the Bretton Woods institutions? Why care about the ILO and the WHO? How have the crisis and the rise of the BRICs altered the landscape for IOs?

You will read texts that present pressing questions and issues concerning development practices, policies, and theories as they are related to international organizations. The pedagogical approach is to require students to read entire books, write thought-pieces, engage in lively critical discussions and undertake a research project. Efforts to connect broader debates to understanding contemporary problems are encouraged.

By October 15th each of you owes a 2,000 words literature review on a relevant issue to be decided together with the instructor. The final consists of a 4,000 words paper addressing a policy question that is high on the current policy agenda. The format is not the academic paper but the policy memorandum. Each of the literature review essays will be worth 20 points of the final grade, while the final paper will be worth 40 points. The remaining 20 points will be covered in the following way: 10 points for class participation and 10 points for a 700 word editorial/500 word letter to the editor prepared for a quality newspaper or blog on one of the issues discussed in class to be delivered at any point after October 15th along with evidence of its submission.

Suggested class structure
15 minutes: professor’s lecture on the topic of the day
15 minutes: discussion of some current event in political economy as it relates to the readings
20 minutes: presentations
5 minutes: professor’s challenge to/comments to the presentations
20 minutes: class discussion
10 minutes: the policy implications of the discussion of the day
5 minutes: professor’s wrap-up

Presentation template

1. Intro: the main question, the audience, the importance
2. Main body: the argument, unpacked
3. Scholarly and policy implications

To keep up to speed with the latest research on hot topics in economics and political economy you are strongly encouraged to keep an eye on the following blogs:

http://www.voxeu.org/
http://www.oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/
http://triplecrisis.com/
http://inet economics.org/blog
http://blog-imf direct.imf.org/
http://nakedkeynesianism.blogspot.com/
http://www.project-syndicate.org/
http://baselinescenario.com/
http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development
http://chrisblattman.com/

Work and Ethics

You are responsible to know Boston University’s Academic Conduct Code. Link: http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/

All cases of misconduct will be referred to the Dean’s Office.

Papers handed in late entail the loss of ten percent of the grade for each day.

Books


**Seminar overview, week by week**

1. **International Financial Institutions: A Bird’s Eye View**

What are the principal roles and missions of the IMF and the World Bank? How do these institutions matter? What's wrong and what's right with them? How can they be reconstituted and revitalized?


Explore the International Financial Institutions Research Site. This is an AMAZING research tool! Available here: http://www.wellesley.edu/Economics/IFI/index.html

SIGN-UP for IMF news releases at:

2. **The IMF in the Global Economy**


**Thurs:** Jeffrey Chwieroth, *Capital ideas: the IMF and the rise of financial liberalization*, 2010. (ch 1, 2 and 3)
3. The IMF, Crises and Policy Change

Tues:


Thurs:

Jeffrey Chwieroth, \textit{Capital ideas: the IMF and the rise of financial liberalization}, 2010. (ch 5,7,8,9)

4. The World Bank: Inside and Outside

Tues:


Thurs:

Catherine Weaver, \textit{The Hypocrisy Trap: The World Bank and the Poverty of Reform}, Princeton University Press, 2008. (ch 1-3; 5-6)

5. The Bretton Woods Institutions and Financial Crises

Tues:
Daniela Gabor, “The Road to Financialization in Central and Eastern Europe: Revisiting the early policies and politics of stabilizing transition”, *Review of Political Economy*, 2010 (pdf-ed on the course blog)


**Thurs:**


6. **IFI and the US**


**Thurs:** second half of Babb.


7. **The International Politics of Regional Development Banks**

**Tuesday:**


**Thursday:**


8. Trade IOs

**Tues:**


**Thurs:**


9. Labor, Environmental and Health IOs

**Tues:**


**Thurs:**


10. Development IOs and the Rise of the BRICs
Tues:


Thurs:


11. Development IOs and Domestic Politics

Tues:


Thursday


12. Coping with the Crisis: The Future of IOs

Tues:
Nancy Bermeo and Jonas Pontusson, “Coping with the crisis” 
https://www.russellsage.org/sites/all/files/Bermeo_Chap1.pdf


**Thurs:**


**13. Wrap-up and student presentations**