BOSTON UNIVERSITY
Pardee School of Global Studies and Department of Political Science
Spring Semester 2018 Course Offering CAS IR 333/PO 327

Non-State Actors in International Relations

Class Hours: Tuesday Thursday 9:30-10:45 AM
Location: CAS 323B

KAIJA SCHILDE
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OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 1:30-3 pm, Fri 10:30 am-11:30 am
Set up a meeting with me at 156 Bay State Road, 4th Floor:
Non-State Actors in International Relations: IR 333  
Professor Kaija E. Schilde

IR 333 is a course about the role of non-state actors in international relations. International relations have generally been considered the domain of states. Non-state actors have had increasingly visible and prominent roles in global governance, international policy, and transnational activism that cross the boundaries of public and private and national and international. These non-state actors range from subnational or supranational governments, NGOs, religious groups, violent groups, for-profit security firms, to social movements and grassroots organizations. Their international or transnational roles come from a variety of sources, including the privatization of state authority and policymaking, the globalization of activism, and the transnational links between actors in domestic politics.

The first part of the course evaluates the history, definition, emergence, and distinctions between different non-state actors, as well as the theoretical literature on understanding transnational activism and private authority. It will also address the normative issues of effectiveness and legitimacy that have emerged from the growth of non-state actors in international politics. The second part of the course evaluates specifics of non-state actors in world politics, including their authority, power, and influence on politics or policies. The third part of the course surveys the different actors and groups we consider key non-state actors in world politics. The fourth part of the course reviews the role non-state actors have had in various issue and policy areas, such as environmental politics, human rights, development, and standards.

Requirements

Attendance, discussion, and course readings are all essential parts of your success in the course. The material covered in lectures does not duplicate what is assigned in the reading material.

Your course grade will be calculated based on:
1. Weekly REQUIRED readings of approximately 100-120 pages per week (about 50-60 pp per class)
2. Online discussion board (15% of grade)
3. Reading quizzes (10% of the grade)
4. Attendance and participation in class activities and discussions (15% of the grade)
5. Non state actor team policy memo and presentation (15% of grade)
6. Midterm (20% of grade)
7. Final (25% of grade)

Exams

Two exams (midterm and final) will be given covering assigned readings and lecture material. Make up exams will not be given without a formal university excuse in which case an make up will be administered. No exceptions to the policy will be made.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required for success in this course. There will be some lecture material and powerpoint slides, but the majority of the course material will be communicated in an interactive manner outside of the lecture material. Failure to attend class will also be reflected in the participation grade.
Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to hand in assignments at the scheduled times, unless documentation is given excusing an absence for medical, religious or personal reasons, or for official university business. Every effort should be made to notify the instructor as soon as possible (preferably in advance) of the reason for the absence.

Participation credit is given based upon the degree to which a student contributes positively to discussion of material during online and in-class discussions.

**Top Hat:** We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. In addition to allowing for immediate response to questions in class through your device, we will be using Top Hat with Secure Test to allow us to go paperless and run exams online from any personal or mobile device (ie. your phone or laptop) in an online, secure testing environment. If you leave the exam browser during a test, you will be automatically locked out of the test. **It is very important that you purchase your Top Hat subscription with Secure Test option as soon as possible at the beginning of this course so that there are no complications when it is time for the first test!**

You can visit the Top Hat Overview within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don’t receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: [https://app.tophat.com/e/902861](https://app.tophat.com/e/902861) Note: our Course Join Code is 536129

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing. Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

**ONLINE PARTICIPATION:** We will also be using Top Hat to host an online discussion prior to the start of each class. Your online reading comment will be due by 9 am the morning of class. Participating in the online discussions is very important, particularly to encourage student-to-student interaction. **In order to receive online participation credit (15%), you must have at least one meaningful discussion comment of at least \(\approx 100\) words for all class days with assigned readings.** Discussion questions will not be graded other than to note participation, unless the comment clearly indicates the student has not read the material, which will result in no participation point.

It is not a work of perfection or brilliance: it is a conversation. It can pose more questions than answers. I want you to take risks and really enter an evolving debate and conversation. In a topic as complex and messy as this, there is no ‘right’ answer. The only way to be wrong is to not participate, or to have strong preexisting biases you are not willing to address and evaluate.

**Piazza** For practical questions, I prefer you first post any inquiries to Piazza before emailing. It is likely that you will get an answer to your question much faster if you pose it to your peers first on Piazza, and then I can validate or follow up on any answer when I’m available to do so. Piazza has an anonymous function for this purpose. Piazza is free, but you just need to join the class via this link: piazza.com/bu/spring2018/ir333
Academic Honesty

Without exception, students are expected to adhere to the Boston University CAS Academic Code. Please read the Boston University Academic Conduct Code. Accordingly, all instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the CAS Academic Conduct Committee. Please see http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/

Readings

Readings are REQUIRED and do not reinforce or duplicate lecture or in-class material. There are about 50 pages of reading per class session, usually in the form of book chapters or academic articles. After completing the reading for the class, please log into Top Hat and submit a discussion board comment.

Color Coding:

Red = You have this reading. It is in an online book available on the library website.
Green = Reading is available on Blackboard.
Blue = Link to material.
Grey = Recommended, not required. Use as helpful for presentations and final paper
Introduction and Syllabus 1/18

How to read academic articles and theory:
https://www.bowdoin.edu/faculty/prael/pdf/predatory%20reading.pdf

CLASS 2 Introduction to Non-State Actors in International Relations. 1/23

CLASS 3 What/Who are International Non-State Actors? 1/25
The Rise of Non-State Actors in Global Governance Opportunities and Limitations (Discussion Paper)

Recommended:
Confortini, Catia. Transnational Feminist Practice in the Woman’s International League for Peace and Freedom in the Aftermath of the Second World War

CLASS 4 Theorizing Non-State Actors in International Relations 1 (1/30)

CLASS 5 Theorizing Non-State Actors in International Relations 2 (2/1)

CLASS 6 Theorizing Non-State Actors in International Relations 3 (2/6)
Börzel, Tanja A., and Thomas Risse. “Governance without a State: Can It Work?” Regulation &

Orchard, Phil. Transnational Humanitarian Action and Regime Complexity, The Case of Syria.

Transnational Civil Society, Activism, and Policymaking

CLASS 7 Hot or Not? NGOs, Activist Networks, and the Global Marketplace for Ideas 2/8
Agensky, Jonathan. “Evangelical globalism and the internationalization of Sudan’s civil war”

Pick one:
OR
Bob, Clifford. The Marketing of Rebellion. Chapter 4, p. 117-177.

CLASS 8 Supply and Demand of Transnational Activism 2/13

CLASS 9 Ideas, Framing, and Agenda Setting 2/15

CLASS 10: IN CLASS MIDTERM 2/22
CLASS 11: Transnational Civil Society Cases 2/27


George Clooney, South Sudan and How the World's Newest Nation Imploded, Newsweek.

Read one of these two articles:


CLASS 12: Unexpected Transnational Activism 3/1 (possibly no class, online activity instead)


Democracy, Private Authority, Delegation, and Global Governance


CLASS 14 International Authority, Delegation, and Accountability 3/15

Green, Jessica F., and Jeff Colgan. "Protecting sovereignty, protecting the planet: State delegation to international organizations and private actors in environmental politics." Governance 26, no. 3 (2013): 473-497.

CLASS 15 Private Delegation of Authority 3/20

Green, Jessica F. Rethinking private authority: Agents and entrepreneurs in global environmental governance. Princeton University Press, 2013. (skim intro + ch 1, read ch. 2)


Recommended:


Presentation: Privatization case

CLASS 16 Private Authority and Democratic Accountability 3/22


Recommended:


Presentation: Internet governance

CLASS 17 Authority, Legitimacy, and International Governance 3/27


Presentation: Experts or professionals as Nonstate actors

Transnational Economic Actors
CLASS 18 Multinational Corporations (3/29)

Watch this: “Private Empire”: Author Steve Coll on the State-Like Powers, Influence of Oil Giant ExxonMobil”

Read: Rex Tillerson, from a Corporate Oil Sovereign to the State Department


Presentation: MNC case

CLASS 19 Transnational MNCs and Global Policy 4/3

Haufler, Virginia. “Governing Conflict through Transnational Corporations: The Case of Conflict Minerals”


Presentation: MNC case

CLASS 20 Corporate Social Responsibility 4/3


Presentation: Corporate Social Responsibility Case

CLASS 21 Private Policy Regulation 4/5


Green, Jessica F. Rethinking private authority: Agents and entrepreneurs in global environmental governance. Princeton University Press, 2013, ch. 3

Presentation: Standards and private regulatory regimes

CLASS 22 Development and NGOs 4/10


Presentation: Development/environmental politics and NGOs

Non-state Security Actors

CLASS 23 The privatization of force: Privatized Security and Military Companies 4/12


The Trump Administration Is Mulling A Pitch For A Private “Rendition” And Spy Network

Presentation: Private Military Company or conflict

CLASS 24 Violent nonstate actors 4/17


Malet, David. Foreign Fighters in the Syrian Civil War, Chapter 6 in Transnational Actors in War and Peace.

Presentation: Violent nonstate actor

CLASS 25 Warlords and Clandestine Actors 4/19

Read 2:


Presentation: Warlord case
CLASS 26 Transnational Organized Crime 4/24


Presentation: Organized Crime/Human Trafficking case

CLASS 27 Transnational Terrorism 4/26


Why Target the “Good Guys”? The Determinants of Terrorism Against NGOs Amanda Murdie & Craig S. Stapley International Interactions Vol. 40 , Iss. 1,2014


Secret Files Reveal the Structure of Islamic State, Der Spiegel

Presentation: Transnational Terrorism network

OTHER NONSTATE ACTORS

CLASS 28 Domestic and Supranational Courts as International Actors 5/1


Presentation: International Criminal Court

FINAL EXAM: Details will be handed out two weeks before the end of class.