
Boston University Geneva Program

Global Governance, Economic Development and Human Rights

Summer 2016
June 2 – June 24

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Course Summary

Global governance is a complex and dynamic process through which a multitude of public, private, and civil society actors having different, and sometimes conflicting, interests and perspectives seek to address common issues. This course will critically examine contemporary global governance structures and efforts with a particular focus on sustainable development. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the many different roles that states, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations play on these critical governance issues in the early parts of the 21st Century.

This intensive course is designed for students specializing in international relations, public health, development studies, and other related fields. The course draws on the unparalleled resources of Geneva as a hub of global politics and policy-making. It combines rigorous coursework and extensive in-class discussions on key governance challenges with field trips to the offices of inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations working on economic, environment and human rights issues as well as topical presentations by professionals working in international affairs.

Attendance & Assignments

Great importance will be placed on regular attendance, active and productive class participation, and timely submission of assignments; there will be a penalty for irregular attendance and late submissions. The final grade for the class will be calculated as follows:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Class Participation	50 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Individual Take-Home Essay	60 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Group Research Project	90 points
TOTAL	200 points

Students are required to complete one individual and one collective assignment in addition to active class participation.

CLASS PARTICIPATION (50 points)

Active student participation is absolutely critical to the course. Students should come to each class well prepared to engage in discussion and will to be called upon to speak their mind. It is also essential that students participate actively in all field trips and

interactions with professionals in the various international organizations that the course connects with. The same goes for all guest presentations.

INDIVIDUAL TAKE-HOME ESSAY (60 points)

Students are required to write an individual essay analyzing the current state of global governance and long-standing efforts to reform central institutions. More detailed essay instructions will be handed out in class #1.

GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT (90 points)

Students will partake in a course-long group research project related to the ongoing development of Sustainable Development Goals – a major event in contemporary global governance. Building off lessons from the Millennium Development Goals, and taking into account current economic, social and ecological needs and state interests, students will be asked to formulate a set of specific Sustainable Development Goals and present and defend these in class. Further instructions for the research project will be handed out in class #1.

Readings

There is one required book for the course:

- THOMAS HALE, DAVID HELD AND KEVIN YOUNG. 2013. *Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation Is Failing When We Need It Most*. Cambridge: Polity.

All additional readings are either posted on the Blackboard Learn website under Course Documents (<https://learn.bu.edu>) or available on-line.

Academic Honesty

The *American College Dictionary* defines plagiarism as “Copying or imitating the language, ideas, or thoughts of another author and passing off the same as one’s original work.” Plagiarism is intellectual theft and violates the student honor code. Exact quotations must have quotation marks and the appropriate citation. Paraphrases, even if not exact quotes, must nonetheless have the appropriate citation. Submitting a paper written by someone else, whether ‘borrowed’ from a friend or purchased from a ‘service’, even if updated, constitutes plagiarism.

Using the Internet for research is encouraged, but plagiarizing resources is not allowed. Cheating of any sort, submitting the same work for more than one course, deliberately impeding the performance of others, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious offenses. As a general rule, if you have any doubts, give credit to the source; if you have any questions, talk to the instructor. Refer to the Academic Conduct Code, which will be strictly enforced: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code>.

Course Organization

Class #1

Thursday, June 2

What's This Thing Called Global Governance?

- THOMAS HALE, DAVID HELD AND KEVIN YOUNG. 2013. *Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation Is Failing When We Need It Most*. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 1-48.
- THOMAS G. WEISS. 2013. *Global Governance: Why? What? Whither?* Cambridge: Polity, pp. 1-44 (Blackboard).
- HARRIET BULKELEY, ANDREW JORDAN, RICHARD PERKINS AND HENRIK SELIN. 2013. Governing Sustainability: Rio+20 and the Road Beyond. *Environment and Planning C: Government & Policy* 31(6): 958-970 (Blackboard).
- BJÖRN-OLA LINNÉR AND HENRIK SELIN. 2013. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: 40 Years in the Making. *Environment and Planning C: Government & Policy* 31(6): 971-987 (Blackboard).
- UNITED NATIONS: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/promote-sustainable-development/index.html>
- MDGs: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>
- SDGs: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

Class #2

Friday, June 3

Global Governance and the United Nations

- THOMAS HALE, DAVID HELD AND KEVIN YOUNG. 2013. *Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation Is Failing When We Need It Most*. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 49-112.
- EMILIE HAFNER-BURTON. 2013. Chapter 1: The Problem of Human Rights. *Making Human Rights A Reality*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 1-17 (Blackboard)
- COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: <http://www.cfr.org/human-rights/global-human-rights-regime/p27450>
- UNITED NATIONS: <http://www.un.org>

Class #3

Monday, June 6

Field Trip to United Nations

- UNITED NATIONS GENEVA: <http://www.unog.ch>

Class #4

Tuesday, June 7

Field Trip to Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

- EMILIE HAFNER-BURTON. 2013. Chapter 4: The International Legal System and Chapter 12: Making More of Law and Power. *Making Human Rights A Reality*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 41-66 and 193-197 (Blackboard)

- UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/index.html>
- OHCHR: <http://www.ohchr.org>

Class #5

Tuesday, June 7

Guest Presentation: Mark Halle

- IISD: <http://www.iisd.org>

Class #6

Wednesday, June 8

Field Trip to the US Mission to the United Nations

- US MISSION: <http://geneva.usmission.gov>

Class #7

Thursday, June 9

Global Economic Governance

- THOMAS HALE, DAVID HELD AND KEVIN YOUNG. 2013. *Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation Is Failing When We Need It Most*. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 113-188.
- MARTIN WALKER. 2007. Globalization 3.0. *Wilson Quarterly* 31(4): 16-24 (Blackboard).
- THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION: <http://www.wto.org>
- INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND: <http://www.imf.org>
- THE WORLD BANK: <http://www.worldbank.org>

Class #8

Friday, June 10

Global Social Governance
Guest Presentation: Sunoor Verma

- HANS ROSLING REVEALS NEW INSIGHTS ON POVERTY 2009 TED TALK: http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_reveals_new_insights_on_poverty.html
- ROBERT CONSTANZA ET AL. 2014. Time to Leave GDP Behind. *Nature* 505: 283-285 (Blackboard).
- RICHARD PERKINS. 2013. Sustainable Development and the Making and Unmaking of a Developing World. *Environment and Planning C: Government & Policy* 31(6): 1003-1022 (Blackboard).
- UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. 2013. *Summary Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South*. New York: UNDP (Blackboard)
- HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi>
- SUNOOR VERMA: <http://sunoor.net>
- RONALD LABONTE. 2008. Global Health in Public Policy: Finding the Right Frame? *Critical Public Health* 18(4): 467-482 (Blackboard).

- PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UNIT. 2014. *Exposing the Myths Around Public-Private Partnerships*. PSIRU Briefing. (Blackboard).

Class #9

Monday, June 13

Field Trip to the World Trade Organization

- WTO HISTORY: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Xp75Egtvi8>

Class # 10

Tuesday, June 14

Global Environmental Governance
Guest Presentation: Jonathan Krueger

- THOMAS HALE, DAVID HELD AND KEVIN YOUNG. 2013. *Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation Is Failing When We Need It Most*. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 189-272.
- HENRIK SELIN AND STACY D. VANDEVEER. 2016. Global Climate Change Governance: The Long Road to Paris. In N. J. Vig and Michael G. Kraft (Eds.) *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press, pp 288-310 (Blackboard).
- HENRIK SELIN. 2014. Global Environmental Law and Treaty-Making on Hazardous Substances: The Minamata Convention and Mercury Abatement. *Global Environmental Politics* 14(1): 1-19 (Blackboard).
- GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL OUTLOOK 5: <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo5.asp>
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME: <http://www.unep.org>
- UNFCCC: <http://unfccc.int>
- UNITAR: <http://www.unitar.org>

Class #11

Wednesday, June 15

Field Trip to the International Environment House

- SIKINA JINNAH. 2012. Singing the Unsung: The Key Role of Secretariats in Global Environmental Politics. In P. Chasek and L. Wagner (Eds.) *The Roads From Rio*. London: Routledge, 107-126 (Blackboard).
- GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch>
- MINAMATA CONVENTION: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org>

Class #12

Monday, June 20

Field Trip to The Global Fund

- DEVI SRIDHAR AND NGAIRE WOODS. 2013. "Trojan Multilateralism: Global Cooperation in Health" *Global Policy* 4(4): 325-335 (Blackboard).
- The GLOBAL FUND: <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en>

Class #13

Tuesday, June 21

Are There Any Paths To Better Governance?

- THOMAS HALE, DAVID HELD AND KEVIN YOUNG. 2013. *Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation Is Failing When We Need It Most*. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 273-311.
- THOMAS G. WEISS. 2011. Fundamental UN Reform: A Non-starter or Not? *Global Policy* 2(2): 196-202 (Blackboard).

Class #14

Wednesday, June 22

Field Trip to International Committee of the Red Cross

- MARTHA FINNEMORE. 1999. The Rules of War and the War of Rules: The International Red Cross and the Restraint of State Violence. In J. Boli and G. M. Thomas (Eds.) *Constructing World Culture*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp.149-165 (Blackboard).
- INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/>

Class #15

Thursday, June 23

Sustainable Development Goals Project I

- STUDENTS FINALIZING GROUP PROJECTS

Class #16

Friday, June 24

Sustainable Development Goals Project II

- STUDENT PRESENTATIONS OF GROUP PROJECTS
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Summary Outline of Class Schedule

Class #1	Thu, June 2 (10am-1pm)	• What's This Thing Called Global Governance?
Class #2	Fri, June 3 (10am-1pm)	• Global Governance and the United Nations
Class #3	Mon, June 6 (All day)	• Field Trip: United Nations
Class #4	Tue, June 7 (10-11am)	• Field Trip: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Class #5	Tue, June 7 (3-4:30pm)	• Guest Presentation Mark Halle IISD
Class #6	Wed, June 8 (2-5pm)	• Field Trip: US Mission Geneva
Class #7	Thu, June 9 (10am-1pm)	• Global Economic Governance
Class #8	Fri, June 10 (9am-12pm)	• Global Social Governance/Sunoor Verma
Class #9	Mon, June 13 (10:30-12pm)	• Field Trip: World Trade Organization
Class #10	Tue, June 14 (10am-1pm)	• Global Environmental Governance/Jonathan Krueger
Class #11	Wed, June 15 (tbd)	• Field Trip: International Environment House
Class #12	Mon, June 20 (2pm-4pm)	• Field Trip: The Global Fund
Class #13	Tue, June 21 (10am-1pm)	• Are There Any Paths To Better Governance?
Class #14	Wed, June 22 (All day)	• Field Trip: International Committee of the Red Cross
Class #15	Thu, June 23 (10am-1pm)	• Sustainable Development Goals Project I
Class #16	Fri, June 24 (10am-12pm)	• Sustainable Development Goals Project II