This course will examine various approaches to and arguments about patterns in and of global politics and the various organizational forms that populate global politics. Although the study of International Organization (IO) has historically been associated with the study of formal IOs (such as the UN) and cooperation in particular issue areas (such as in human rights or trade policy), today most IR scholars would define the field of IO more broadly. Kratochwil says the study of IO “can be conceived of as the investigation of the various organizational forms that populate the international arena” (1994). By this he means not just IOs or NGOs but nation-states, international regimes, security alliances, MNCs, economic classes, democratic forms of governance, nationalisms, ethnicities, and cultures. Many scholars would add to this list the social construction of collective identities and norms (particularly the norm of sovereignty) which serve as the basis for contemporary global interaction. This has led Rochester to caustically remark that the study of IO is “the study of patterns of international cooperation and conflict, rendering it indistinguishable from the study of international politics” (1986).

Rochester is correct to a some extent. Waltz's TIP or Wendt's social constructivism or Wallerstein's Capitalist World Economy could easily appear on a course syllabus for either IR Theory or IO. Yet the study of IO does have some characteristics that distinguish it from the study of international politics in general. IO scholars are usually interested in the broad, historical context of global affairs, typically because they want to map out where the contemporary global system might be headed, and to do this they need to consider where it has been. Most start from the assumption that there is or has been a division between the nation-state's domestic realm and the international realm that lies beyond or outside the nation-state (the very term "international" suggesting the contemporary world of Westphalian politics). IO scholars also tend to work with the standard disciplinary assumption that the international system beyond the nation-state may be characterized as "anarchic."

Yet how exactly to characterize this anarchic system, and the extent to which it has and will remain unchanged (along with the patterns/entities it produces or allows), are the central questions that drive IO scholarship and debate. To what extent is anarchy, and its step-child the nation-state, being displaced by alternative governing systems? To what extent is the nation-state as viable as ever and alternative governing systems dependent upon it? To what extent has the nation-state changed, so that it is both viable and displaced? To what extent are we experiencing rapid change and facing a future that differs dramatically from the past? To what extent are we experiencing the same old patterns that will reoccur in the future? And how can we recognize when we are experiencing these or any other possible, alternative realities and futures? How do we know whose version of present and hence future IO is correct?

These are the sorts of questions IO scholars tend to ask, and throughout the semester we will encounter a wide-range of arguments that describe global politics in different ways, highlight alternative features of it, and envision contradictory futures based on selective attributes of the past and present. Our goal throughout the semester will be to skeptically compare and contrast these alternative characterizations of the globe's political, economic, and social organization and what they imply for its future.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
You must attend class, do the readings, and participate in class discussions, all of which collectively comprise 10% of your final grade. Since this is a seminar dependent on class discussions, it unfair to myself and the rest of your classmates not to have done the assigned readings in advance of class.

The remaining 90% of your grade is based on: A two-page memo based on the readings (10%), 2 short papers (3-5 pages double-spaced with reasonable margin and font, due during the semester, 20% each), and 1 longer paper (7-12 pages double-spaced with reasonable margin and font, due at the end of the semester, 40%).

Regarding the memo, once during the semester you will prepare a short memo (1 page single-spaced; 2 pages double-spaced; these limits are absolute!) about that day’s readings, to be handed into me at the start of class. The memo should provide a brief initial summary of that day’s readings, and then a short analysis of them as related to course themes and discussions. Memo assignments will be assigned on the first day of class.

Regarding the papers, a paper topic will be handed out one week before each paper is due. You will be asked to analytically consider the readings and arguments we have been dealing with in our class readings and discussions. You will be expected to use course reading materials to substantiate your arguments and no additional research will be necessary for these papers. Papers should be passed in at the beginning of the class when they are, and late papers will not be graded quickly.

Strictly observe the page limits for the memo and paper (as well as the request for reasonable fonts/margins). These are serious boundaries and transgression will affect your grade accordingly. I also expect professional standards of writing (correct grammar as well as page numbers, spell checking, a work cited list, appropriate citation style, and so on). If you are not sure what these standards are, purchase the Style Manual for Political Science available from APSA or consult online citation sources (in particular the APA style which utilizes in-text parenthetical citations).

Why I am so strict on these requirements? The profession expects clear, concise, and to-the-point writing which substantiates its analytical arguments by using the disciplinary literature as evidence. This is the style you will need to emulate in order to succeed in the profession.

**COURSE TEXTS**

The books listed below are required for the course and should be available at the Coop bookstore. If any of the books are sold out ask the Coop to order more. You may be able to find inexpensive, used copies via online book stores. All of the books are on reserve, but you can also use WorldCat to locate additional copies (link is on the Library’s website) and/or use inter-library loan. If you do not know how to use the library website or have questions about how to obtain materials via the library, contact the department’s library liaison, Steven Batt (steven.batt@uconn.edu; Steven can also provide research assistance).


In addition, if you have never taken an undergraduate course on international organization, the UN, and/or international law, you should consult a few basic books on the subject. Two texts which I use in my undergraduate IO course are Karen Mingst and Margaret Karns, *UN in the Post-Cold War*, and *International Law* by Valerie Epps.
READING SCHEDULE

August 31 -- Introduction to the Course, the Subject Matter, and One Another

September 7 -- NO CLASS (SGIR CONFERENCE)

September 14 – What is Global Governance?
Memo(s):

September 21 – What is Global Governance?
**PAPER TOPIC #1 OUT**
Memo(s):

September 28 – What is Global Governance?
**PAPERS DUE**

October 5 -- Has Westphalia Really Changed?
Memo(s):

October 12 – What Came Before Westphalia?
Memo(s):


October 19 – What is the Nation and Nationalism?
**PAPER TOPIC #2 OUT**
Memo(s):

October 26 – Why the Nation-State?
**PAPERS DUE**
November 2 – **How Are National Political Identities Sustained?**
Memo(s):


November 9 – **How Do National Political Identity & Global Governance Relate?**
Memo(s):

November 16 – **What is Sovereignty?**
**FINAL PAPER TOPIC OUT**
Memo(s):

November 23 – **NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)**

November 30 – **What Role do International Law & IOs Play in Westphalia & Global Governance?**
Memo(s):


December 7 – **Are NGOS and Civil Society Undermining Westphalia?**
Memo(s):


***FINAL PAPERS DUE DECEMBER 14 BY 4PM***
SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS:

The IO literature is relatively vast and the POLS5330’s reading list varies each time it is taught. Below are some texts that were read for the two prior sessions of POLS5330. You are not required to read these texts for this course, but you should consult them in preparation for Ph.D. exams and proposals, or for advanced research papers.


PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

**ISA:** The International Studies Association (ISA) is the primary professional organization for international relations and global studies scholars (more so than APSA). It produces five journals which its members receive as part of their dues: the *International Studies Quarterly* (ISQ), *International Studies Review* (ISR), and *International Studies Perspective* (ISP), *Foreign Policy Analysis* (FPA), *International Political Sociology* (IPS), and *International Interactions* (II).

Mark Boyer and myself are co-editors of ISR until 2012. Prior to this editorship, Mark Boyer was the lead editor, and I served as an associate editor, of ISP. Each of these journals has a particular focus, and the first journal listed above, ISQ, is a highly ranked IR journal reflecting the state of the American IR discipline.
Annual dues for students are $25 with electronic access to the journals ($35 if you want hard copies). Information on how to join ISA can be found at the association's website: www.isanet.org (scroll down to the student membership category; don’t join according to income categories). If you intend to focus on IR in your studies and career, the professional and scholarly benefits of membership and involvement in ISA are immeasurable.

If you are going to focus on IR you will also need to attend an ISA annual meeting (usually in February or March) at some point, but first go to ISA-NE in November, a smaller regional conference to get a feel for what is expected at ISA conferences. Expect to present at both these venues as you are working toward your doctorate. This year’s ISA-NE Annual Meeting will be held from November 4-6 in Baltimore and many UConn graduate students and faculty will be attending. Don’t confuse ISA-NE with the Northeastern Political Science Association (which is the APSA regional conference).