

University of California, San Diego, Summer I, 2025

POLI 151: International Organizations

Monday and Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.- 4:50 p.m.

RCLAS: Remote and Synchronous Class: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/7064001376>

Instructor: Furkan Y Benliogullari (fbenliog@ucsd.edu, SSB 342)

Office Hours: 12 pm – 1 pm, Monday and Wednesday, [Zoom link](#)

Description of the Course

Despite the characterization of the international system as anarchic by some prominent scholars in international relations, the number and function of international organizations (IOs) have considerably increased since WWII. Today, it is almost impossible to imagine a world without the United Nations, NATO, the IMF, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Health Organization (WHO), or other IOs. In this course, we are looking for answers to the following questions: Why do IOs exist? What role do they play in solving global problems? What contributed to or limited their proliferation?

In this course, we will answer these questions from theoretical and practical points of view. In addition to the theoretical debates about the functions and usefulness of IOs, we will cover critically important IOs, such as the United Nations, NATO, WTO, and WHO, and the challenges they face.

Instructional Team

About your instructor: I (Furkan) am a 5th-year Ph.D. candidate in the UCSD Political Science Dept. My research focuses on the use of force and legal arguments in territorial disputes. Because of my research focus, I am familiar with the literature and arguments of both legal and IR scholarship and the role of international organizations. Before entering the Ph.D. program, I worked at The Advocates for Human Rights as a legal researcher, following the completion of my LL.M. degree at the University of Minnesota Law School. I love cooking, swimming, and playing strategy games.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand the purpose, function, and limitations of international organizations (IOs)
- Identify actors' interests and incentives and the broader strategic environment that lead to the institutional design of international organizations
- Use the theories of IOs to develop your hypotheses on their function and usefulness in resolving international problems

- Conduct research and recommend solutions to state actors in handling international problems

Some of these objectives require you to consume information more passively. Others require you to use them to formulate arguments and propose a strategy in line with your arguments.

Consequently, I expect students to be active learners who actively gather information and problem solvers who find creative ways to solve hypothetical problems by using the information and instruments provided in the class and collected by themselves.

Assignments, Feedback, and Grading

For this course, you need to spend 10 to 15 hours per week. Your grade will be based on a **critical review of literature** (40%), a **policy recommendation** (40%), and **participation** (20%). As these assignments approach, I will provide more details. I will grade assignments and provide feedback.

Critical Review (40%): Students submit a critical review of the literature we cover in this class. In a four-page review, I expect students to present different theories answering a question and assess these theories critically.

Policy Recommendation (40%): Students submit a policy recommendation to the US administration on an issue in the foreign policy domain and provide advice based on the theories of international organizations. In a six-page document, students will clearly analyze the facts in light of the theories of international organizations and recommend a course of action to the US administration on the issue.

Participation (20%): Students are required to participate in the class and fill out the exit ticket after each class session. You are allowed to miss two class sessions without any penalty. If you miss more, you will lose points. Each class session will be 2.5% of your total grade.

- Joining the class, being active in the class and group discussions, and filling out the exit ticket are enough to receive the grade. The class sessions will be discussion-heavy. Students who join via Zoom but do not participate in any class or group discussion will not receive the participation grade.
- Given the remote nature of the course, I understand that some of you may not feel comfortable enough to turn the camera on. As long as you actively participate in the class discussion, you are not required to have your camera on.

Late Policy: It is your responsibility to submit your work on time. For each day after the deadline, your submission will receive a 5% late penalty of the assigned grade for that assignment.

- Use the late policy strategically. If you don't have a viable document to submit at the time of the deadline, submit late instead of submitting something that will cost you more points than the late penalty.

Appeal: You can appeal your grade. You are required to write a one-page appeal with the arguments for a higher grade.

AI Policy: You are free to use ChatGPT and other AIs. You must acknowledge that you used ChatGPT or other generative AI in your submission comment. Otherwise, I will consider your use of AI to be cheating. Transparency is important here.

- The goal of this course is to ensure that you acquire some skills that will help you in academia, at law school, or get a job at a law firm. Do not submit whatever AI gives you. You must use your judgment and use this course to develop your analytical and critical thinking skills. To be able to use your judgment and assess the quality of the AI input, you need to know the course material.

Accessibility

If you are a student with a documented disability who will be requesting accommodations in my class, please make sure you are registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities (<https://osd.ucsd.edu/contact/index.html>) and provide me with documentation outlining your accommodations. I am happy to meet with you privately during office hours to discuss how I can help you with the accommodations.

UCSD Rules of Academic Integrity

You are expected to do your own work. Students are not permitted to use unauthorized assistance of any kind. Students who are caught plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office for administrative sanctions. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Students also agree that by taking this course, all required midterm and final projects will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted answers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Class Behavior and Inclusive Classroom

I am committed to providing an inclusive learning experience and supporting diversity of experiences, thoughts, and identities. Students are free to express their opinions respectfully and are expected to be respectful of classmates' views and behave courteously toward each other in and outside the classroom. If students encounter any barriers to participation in class, they are encouraged to notify me. No one shall target any other participant of the class personally.

Course Schedule

See Canvas for the reading materials and assignments.