JPD 2232S
Global Governance
Spring 2011
Professor John Kirton
Wednesday 10.00-12.00
UC 330
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Office Hours: Monday 2:00-4:00PM and by appointment

This course explores the changing forms and effectiveness of global governance. It focuses
on intergovernmental regimes in particular issue areas, with regimes defined as explicit or
implicit principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures guiding the actions of
states and non-state actors, together with institutions and organizations expressing these
principles and rules. Key issue areas include climate change, health, finance, development,
energy, trade, food, investment, intellectual property, labour, biodiversity, communications,
migration, human rights, crime, terrorism, arms control and regional security.

The course identifies the changing causes, content, compliance and consequences of the
regimes prevailing for key individual issue areas, especially after the rise of the United
Nations and Bretton Woods organizations from the 1940s, the more informed institutions for
global governance arising from the crises of the 1970s and those of the current post–Cold
War, globalizing, post-9/11 era.

A particular focus is the difference between two types of international institutions: 1) the
formal “hard law,” broadly multilateral organizations of the Bretton Woods–United Nations
system with their core values of exclusive, territorial sovereignty, non-interference and
“embedded liberalism” at the core, and 2) the informal “soft law,” plurilateral, often summit-
level institutions, including the revival of 19th-century concert and club arrangements
centered in the G7/G8 summits since 1975 and the G20 summits since 2008. Also relevant
are multi-level global networks from governmental actors, private authorities and civil
society.

In the first part of the course students will lead and participate in discussions of the assigned
readings. In the second part students will present their own research on the creation, content,
compliance, consequences, causes and reform of global regimes in a particular issue area of
their interest.

In each issue area, the analysis should include:

1. The changing content of the regime – the principles, rules, norms and decision-making
procedures (institutions) of the earliest regime (or precedents to the present regime), how
it ended or changed, and the content and changes in subsequent regimes;
2. The causes of regime creation, content, continuity and change;
3. The regimes’ compliance, accountability mechanisms, effectiveness and distributional
consequences for states, and social categories such as class, race, culture, and gender.
4. Policy recommendations for consequential actors for regime reform that will feasibly and realistically help bring desired outcomes about.

**Course Textbook (Required for Purchase):**


**Grading Scheme**

1. Part 1 – seminar presentation chairing (perhaps with a partner) and participation 25% of final grade.
2. Part 2 – participation and paper presentation (perhaps with a partner) 25%. Students should assign and make available two weeks in advance of their presentation two article-length readings that will help the others prepare for their seminar. Please provide copies for the instructor(s). Students should arrange an early meeting with the instructor and submit a one-page proposal with a preliminary bibliography by the fifth seminar.
3. Final Research Essay 50% of final grade – a research paper of 5,000 words on your chosen regime due at the end of the course.

Some of the key readings listed below are readily available in:
John Kirton with Jelena Madunic, eds. (2009), *Global Law* (Farnham: Ashgate).

**Schedule (** = background reading)**

1. **January 12: Introduction: Global Governance in an Interdisciplinary Perspective**

2. **January 19: Hegemonic Transition and International Institutionalization**


3. January 26: Core Concepts and Approaches


John Kirton, Marina Larionova and Paolo Savona, eds. (2010), Making Global Economic Governance Effective: Hard and Soft Law Institutions in a Crowded World (Farnham: Ashgate), Chapter 4, plus other chapters relevant to your essay.


5. February 9: The Soft Law G8 and G20, Plurilateral Institutions


*Bayne, Nicholas (2005), Staying Together: The G8 Summit Confronts the 21st Century* (Aldershot: Ashgate), Chapters 1, 14.

*Kirton, John (Forthcoming), G20 Governance in a globalizing World (Farnham: Ashgate)–manuscript available at Trinity College John Graham Library.

6. February 16: Enhancing Compliance, Accountability and Effectiveness


Remaining Classes: Student Presentations

March 2:
March 9:
March 16:
March 23
March 30
April 6:

Student Presentations of Issue Areas (for a general model see the published version of previous course essays):


Essay and Seminar Presentation Guidelines

1. **Introduction.**
   What is the problem (the global governance challenge), the competing schools of thought among scholars on this subject/issue area, the puzzles that arise from these existing accounts and your thesis that provides a better account of what happened, why, and to what effect?

2. **Regime Content and Change**
   a. What were the first principles, norms, rules and institutions regulating your issue area and when did they come into being? Which were central and contested? Which international institutions were involved in this “regime complex”?
   b. At what points, especially after 1945, did the regime go into crisis or change to generate particular successive regimes? What tensions, new actors, or other features were/are involved in the change?

3. **Causes of Regime Change**
   What were the major causes of regime change, from different levels of analysis, understood in relation to the course readings and the issue-specific literature?

4. **Compliance, Accountability, Effectiveness and Distributional Consequences**
   a. How much, how and why did key actors comply with the regime, and what available implementation, monitoring, enforcement, support, and other hard and soft law incentives and mechanisms affected compliance and ultimate regime effectiveness?
   b. What are the social bases and distributional consequences (including burden sharing, costs and benefits) of the prevailing regime, at the international and domestic levels, on an inter-state, inter-regional (e.g., North-South), intra-national social class, racial, regional, cultural or other basis. How do these promote regime stability, instability, social cohesion and change?

5. **Policy Recommendations.** Given your analysis, what policy recommendations would you make, to what consequential actors, to bring about the change you normatively prefer, in the policies produced by the regime and/or in the global governance arrangement itself? In particular, how could compliance, accountability, effectiveness and equity be improved?

In preparing your essays, and selecting the articles you will ask the class to read for your presentation, you should consider, in the first instance, articles in the major relevant scholarly journals in political science and related disciplines, as follows:

- International Organization
- Global Governance
- International Studies Quarterly
- International Affairs
- International Security
- Mershon International Studies Review
- World Development
- Studies in Political Economy
- Review of International Organizations
In addition to the books listed above, useful material on your particular regime can be found in major edited collections, including:


