

Syllabus: Introduction to International Cooperation

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Class Hours: Thursday, 10:15-11:45

Class Room: Zoom Room 11

Course Description

The goal of this class is to introduce the varying forms and causes of international cooperation. By focussing on theories of cooperation, students will be able to critically assess cooperative arrangements. By introducing empirical research on different types of cooperation students will familiarize themselves with the broad range of cooperative arrangements and by focusing on case studies of specific agreements and arenas students are repeatedly exposed to a key method of scholarship about international relations.

The 14 sessions of this course are structured in two substantive blocks. First, we will discuss the theoretical foundations of scholarship on international cooperation. Then we will turn to different types of international cooperation and international discuss different cases of cooperation through agreements, organizations, and between non-state actors.

Course Objectives

- Introduce varying forms of international cooperation with examples
- Understand the fundamental drivers of international cooperation
- Develop a research idea and write a research proposal

Organizational Information and Course Policies

Classroom Policies and Procedures

General: Given the continued effects of SARS-CoV-2 the course will be taught in an online format. The course is taught in English.

Course readings: We do not use a single textbook for this course. Selected readings for each session will be made available on the ILIAS course page.

E-mail: All e-mails concerning this course will be sent to your university e-mail address (username@mail.uni-mannheim.de) via ILIAS. Please make sure to regularly check the inbox or that e-mails get forwarded to not miss important information. When e-mailing me, please add "[ITIC21]" at the beginning of the e-mail's subject. I will try to respond in a timely fashion (48 hours or less).

Attendance: Even though attendance in lectures and seminars is not mandatory I strongly encourage you to regularly attend the Zoom-Sessions and try to participate.

Technology policy: Though this is an online class it is structured to promote discussion. If you do not have access to the technological prerequisites, please let me know and we will find a solution. Cell phones and computers can tend to obstruct attention when used inappropriately. Technology, however, can also be useful to engage with the material. I suggest responsibly using technology during the Zoom sessions. Hence, your laptop/tablet – if necessary – should only be used for note-taking and retrieving and reviewing articles.

Students with disabilities or chronic illness: Contact me or the Studienbüro if you need special assistance because of disabilities or chronic illness. Please do so early in the semester so we can immediately make the appropriate accommodations.

Late work policy: In general, I will not allow extensions on any of the assessments. Start early with them, so you do not run into time issues once the deadline approaches. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn something in on time, please advise me of this as soon as you can, and *not* the day the task is due or afterward. We will work together to come up with a solution.

Cheating and plagiarism: Plagiarising will lead to failing the course or expulsion from the University of Mannheim. All your submissions will be checked for plagiarism using the “Urkund”-Software.

Assessment

Grading policy: The examination regulations state that course assessment consists of two components: coursework (“Studienleistungen”) and examination (“Prüfungsleistungen”). Coursework is graded as pass/fail and is defined as preliminary required (“Vorleistung”) before you can be admitted to the examination. Therefore, you must pass all coursework successfully to be able to participate in the final examination. Nonaccomplishment or failure of successful completion leads to an exclusion from the final examination and consequently to failure of this seminar. The examination requirement will be graded on a scale from 1,0 (Sehr gut) to 5,0 (nicht ausreichend) and will be the grade for the entire course.

Studienleistung: Studienleistungen consist of the submission of *discussion questions*, *discussion protocols*, an *abstract*, a *research proposal*, and a *presentation of your research proposal* in the final session.

Discussion questions: Submit two questions that are related to the literature. Try to identify questions that scrutinize the arguments presented in the literature, or develop questions that further develop the argument. Submission can be done via e-mail.

The *discussion questions* will provide the basis of the discussion in the lecture and for the discussion protocol and are a way to prepare the class.

Discussion protocol: In week 2 you will be assigned to a group. Each group, ideally, consists of three people. As a group, you are expected to hand in a discussion protocol of the previous sessions. (length: min. 1 page; font: Times New Roman or equivalent; font-size: 12pt; double spacing; margins: 2.5cm)

The *discussion protocol* should summarize your efforts as a group to understand the literature and to critically assess the theories, concepts, and results of the papers we will read throughout this class. Both are due every **Tuesday of the week at 23:59**.

Abstract: Each student is required to submit an abstract on the **12.10.2021**. The abstract should encourage you to think early about your final paper. The abstract should be no longer than 200 words.

Submission and presentation of research proposal: You are expected to hand in a (minimum) 750-word research proposal for the term paper via ILIAS by **16.11.2021**. It should describe the puzzle/research question and working hypotheses.

Mini-conference: At the end of this course we will have a “mini conference”. Academic conferences allow scholars to receive feedback from their peers. This is the underlying idea of this mini-conference. The goal will be to allow you to present an academic project and receive some feedback by your peers. The final two sessions are dedicated to the “conference”. However, as in any conference you need to submit something first. While conferences often require abstracts or entire papers, we will follow have a slightly different process. Throughout the semester you will submit a research idea (**12.10.2021**) and a research proposal (**16.11.2021**). I will give you feedback on both. For the mini-conference we will have discussants who will give you additional feedback based on your research proposal. You will also have the chance to get feedback by your peers.

Prüfungsleistung: The term paper (length: 3000 words, excl. figures, tables, references, and appendix; font: Times New Roman or equivalent; font-size: 12pt; double spacing; margins: 2.5cm) should focus on developing a research question to answer a scientific research question concerning international cooperation. In doing so, students are expected to apply existing theories and explanations and to develop a research framework that would allow them to test their hypotheses and validate their theories. Particular attention should be paid to the development of the argument and the case selection.

If you feel like you need help with finding or developing a topic or research question, please make an appointment for my office hours.

Term papers have to be handed in at the latest by Tuesday, **11.01.2022**. **The term paper has to be handed in as an electronic copy (pdf-upload via ILIAS including all additional materials)**. In addition, you have to hand in a paper copy including the statutory declaration. Only after I have received the paper copy I will be able to enter your grade.) Should you fail to submit a term paper by the above-mentioned deadline or submit an insufficient term paper, you will receive the grade 5.0 (fail). It is not possible to retake the term paper since it is part of the overall assessment, which is only able to be retaken in its entirety in one of the following semesters.

Course Structure

I expect you to prepare for class by working through the literature listed under “Required readings” for each session. The material listed under “Optional readings” can help you to gain a deeper understanding of the contents we discuss. The optional readings are also a good starting point for your final papers.

There are two substantive blocs in this class. In the first five sessions, we will cover theoretical approaches to international cooperation. In the subsequent seven sessions, we will look at specific cases of international cooperation. We will cover international agreements, international organizations, and transnational cooperation. Each type will be covered in two sessions. We will have a mini-conference during the last two sessions of our class.

Week 01 (Sep 09): Introduction and course organization

In this first session, we will discuss all requirements for the class, the general structure of the session, and how you will be evaluated at the end of the semester.

We will have ample time to discuss any questions you may have about the class, syllabus, etc. We will also decide about the “mini-conference” at the end of the semester.

I suggest that you read the text listed under Optional readings (though it is not mandatory). It gives a nice overview of how we can generate knowledge in international relations.

Optional readings:

- de Mesquita, B. B. (2002). Domestic Politics and International Relations. *International Studies Quarterly*, 46(1), 1–9.

Further dates: *None*

Week 02 (Sep 16): The “grand theories” and their explanatory power in international relations (I)

After a short introduction to the grand theories of international relations and we will split into three groups (depending on the size of the course). Within these groups, you will discuss the US withdrawal from Afghanistan from the viewpoint of one of the grand theories.

As a group I want you to prepare a few slides for the next session. These slides are intended to answer the following questions:

1. Who are the relevant actors?
2. What are the actors’ motivations?
3. Why did the US withdraw from Afghanistan at this specific time?
4. What are the benefits and shortcomings of the theories

We will discuss this in more detail at the beginning of the session.

Required readings:

- Bueno de Mesquita, B. (2010). *Principles of international politics* (4.th ed.). Washington, D.C. - Chapter 1

- [Timeline of US withdrawal from Afghanistan](#)

Optional readings:

In case something is unclear, here are three articles that excellently describe the three theories that you have been assigned (though there are some differences between liberalism in the Bueno de Mesquita text and the Moravcsik chapter).

- Realism: Wohlforth, W. C. (2008). Realism. Oxford University Press.
- (New) Liberalism: Moravcsik, A. (2008). The New Liberalism. Oxford University Press.
- Constructivism: Hurd, I. (2008). Constructivism. Oxford University Press.

Further dates: Sep. 23 - Upload your slides by 10:00.

Week 03 (Sep 23): The “grand theories” and their explanatory power in international relations (II)

In week three you will have time to present your slides. Ideally, each group will take approx. 10 minutes. We will then have 30 minutes to go into smaller groups. In the final 30 minutes, we will have time to answer some questions in a poll and go over the results together.

Please make sure to upload the slides also as a .pdf to ILIAS on the day the presentations are due. This way we can make sure that should something go wrong on your side I can click through the slides on my computer while you give your presentation.

After your presentation, we will split into groups of three. In these groups, you will have time to discuss the benefits and shortcomings of your theories. You will serve as an “expert” on your theory and should be able to answer the questions of your peers.

At the end of the session, we will have some time to talk about the continuous groups you will be working in until the end of the semester.

Required readings:

Optional readings:

Further dates: Sep 28 - Submit *discussion questions* by 23:59.

Week 04 (Sep 30): Going beyond “grand theories”: bringing domestic politics into the game

In week four we will leave the “grand theories” behind us and focus on specific questions of domestic politics and international cooperation.

Required readings:

- Bueno de Mesquita, B. (2010). Principles of international politics (4.th ed.). Washington, D.C. - Chapter 2

- Putnam, R. D. (1988). Diplomacy and domestic politics: The logic of two-level games. *International Organization*, 427–460.

Optional readings:

- da Conceição-Heldt, E. (2013). Two-level games and trade cooperation: What do we now know? *International Politics*, 50(4), 579–599.

Further dates: Oct 05 - Submit *discussion questions* and *discussion protocol* by 23:59. Student Questionnaire ends at 23:59.

Week 05 (Oct 07): The second image reversed: how international politics shapes domestic politics

In the fifth week, we will take a look at the reverse process. Rather than answering questions about how domestic politics shape international outcomes, we look at the influence of international outcomes on domestic politics.

Required readings:

- Gourevitch, P. (1978). The second image reversed: The international sources of domestic politics. *International Organization*, 32(4), 881-912.
- Sebenius, J. K. (2013). Level Two Negotiations: Helping the Other Side Meet Its “Behind-the-Table” Challenges. *Negotiation Journal*, 29(1), 7–21.

Optional readings:

Further dates: Oct 12 - Submit *discussion questions* and *discussion protocol* and *abstract* by 23:59.

Week 06 (Oct 14): International agreements

In the sixth week, we will take a look at the design of international agreements and try to answer why and how national institutions may affect the design of international agreements.

Required readings:

- Dür, A., Baccini, L., & Elsig, M. (2014). The design of international trade agreements: Introducing a new dataset. *The Review of International Organizations*, 9(3), 353–375.
- Mansfield, E. D., Milner, H. V., & Rosendorff, B. P. (2002). Why Democracies Cooperate More: Electoral Control and International Trade Agreements. *International Organization*, 56(3), 477–513. JSTOR.

Optional readings:

- Voeten, E. (2019). Making Sense of the Design of International Institutions. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22(1), 147–163.

Further dates: Oct 19: Submit *discussion questions* and *discussion protocol* and *abstract* by 23:59.

Week 07 (Oct 21): International agreements - case studies

In this session, we will take a look at two specific cases of international agreements, namely TTIP and CETA, and try to answer why one was successful while the other failed.

Required readings:

- Eliasson, L. J., & Huet, P. G.-D. (2018). TTIP negotiations: Interest groups, anti-TTIP civil society campaigns, and public opinion. *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*, 16(2), 101–116.
- Hübner, K., Deman, A.-S., & Balik, T. (2017). EU and trade policy-making: The contentious case of CETA. *Journal of European Integration*, 39(7), 843–857.

Further dates: Oct 26: Submit *discussion questions* and *discussion protocol* by 23:59.

Week 08 (Oct 28): Intergovernmental organizations

In this session, we will take a look at institutionalized forms of cooperation and discuss why states delegate to international organizations and why dictatorships enter such agreements.

Required readings:

- Abbott, K. W., & Snidal, D. (1998). Why States Act through Formal International Organizations. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 42(1), 3–32. JSTOR.
- Vreeland, J. R. (2008). Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture. *International Organization*, 62(01).

Optional readings:

- Koremenos, B. (2005). Contracting around International Uncertainty. *The American Political Science Review*, 99(4), 549–565.
- Koremenos, B. (2016). *The Continent of International Law: Explaining Agreement Design*. Cambridge University Press.

Further dates: Nov 02: Submit *discussion questions* and *discussion protocol* by 23:59.

Week 09 (Nov 04): Intergovernmental organizations - case studies

In this ninth session, we will look at economic cooperation at the GATT/WTO and its dispute settlement mechanisms.

Required readings:

- Davis, C. L., & Wilf, M. (2017). Joining the Club: Accession to the GATT/WTO. *The Journal of Politics*, 79(3), 964–978.
- Kamradt-Scott, A. (2016). WHO's to blame? The World Health Organization and the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. *Third World Quarterly*, 37(3), 401–418.

Further dates: Nov 09 - Submit *discussion questions* and *discussion protocol* by, as well as your *research proposal* by 23:59.

Week 10 (Nov 11): Transnational governance

In session ten, we will go beyond the cooperation of states and look at non-governmental cooperation, specifically transnational governance. Who are the actors, why do they participate, why should we know this?

Required readings:

- Abbott, K. W., Green, J. F., & Keohane, R. O. (2016). Organizational Ecology and Institutional Change in Global Governance. *International Organization*, 70(2), 247–277.
- Tallberg, J., Sommerer, T., Squatrito, T., & Jönsson, C. (2014). Explaining the transnational design of international organizations. *International Organization*, 68(4), 741–774.

Optional readings:

- Dingwerth, K. (2008). Private Transnational Governance and the Developing World: A Comparative Perspective. *International Studies Quarterly*, 52(3), 607–634.

Further dates: Nov 16 - Submit *discussion questions* and *discussion protocol* by 23:59.

Week 11 (Nov 18): Transnational governance - case studies

In session eleven, we will take a look at two fields of transnational governance and try to explain why actors engage in these arenas.

Required readings:

- Andonova, L. B., Hale, T. N., & Roger, C. B. (2017). National Policy and Transnational Governance of Climate Change: Substitutes or Complements? *International Studies Quarterly*, 61(2), 253–268.
- Weyrauch D. & Winzen, T. (2020): Internet fragmentation, political structuring, and organizational concentration in transnational engineering networks

Further dates: Nov 23 - Submit *discussion protocol* by 23:59.

Week 12 (Nov 25): Wrap up

In this final substantive session, we will be able to discuss open questions and I will give a short conclusion to our class. We also have some time to discuss the final paper (scope, expectations, etc.) and the upcoming mini-conference.

Required readings: *None*

Optional readings: *None*

Further dates: *None*

Week 13 (Dec 02): Mini conference

In the final two weeks, we will have a “mini-conference”. Students will present their ideas for the final papers and have the chance to receive some feedback from their peers. I will also assign a “discussant” to each paper. The discussant will give some more substantive written feedback (ideally one page).

Required readings: *None*

Optional readings: *None*

Further dates: *None*

Week 14 (Dec 09): Mini conference

In the final two weeks, we will have a “mini-conference”. Students will present their ideas for the final papers and have the chance to receive some feedback from their peers. I will also assign a “discussant” to each paper. The discussant will give some more substantive written feedback (ideally one page).

Required readings: *None*

Optional readings: *None*

Further dates: *None*