Overview

This course equips students to analyse the causes and processes of order and disorder in a world where the international and domestic increasingly intersect. More specifically, it is an inter-disciplinary overview and critical introduction to key issues of governance and conflict within international studies. Under governance, we explore the political, economic and ethical dimensions of globalization; the role of international institutions and organizations; the spread of global human-rights standards; and the sources of regional order. For conflict, we consider the dramatic decline of inter-state war in the contemporary international system; complex emergencies; civil wars; and international interventions.

Over the course of the term, we will examine these topics from various disciplinary perspectives, including sociology, anthropology, political science and economics/political-economy. Do differing disciplinary starting points give differing perspectives on governance and conflict? If so, then what should we do about it? Retreat into our disciplinary comfort zones? Or give real meaning and content to that buzz phrase ‘inter-disciplinarity’? If the latter, how do we do it?

Objectives

Consistent with the School’s mission as an inter-disciplinary social-science research unit, the course will provide students with multiple tools – drawn from different disciplines – to make better sense of contemporary international studies. The goal will be to argue the scholarly and policy synergies that result when they are rigorously combined.

Students will finish with the following knowledge and skills.

- A basic understanding of both governance and conflict within the international system
- An ability to assess the analytic rigor of social science research, along design, method, theory and ethical dimensions
- A critical sense of how inter-disciplinarity works in practice. What is gained by such a move? What is lost?

Teaching Method

There will be 12 class sessions, each lasting 3 hours and 50 minutes. Each class will consist of lectures, as well as seminar debate and discussion. MA students will take turns leading the debates.

Requirements

There are three requirements.
• **Critical Review Essays (Two)** – Of the various substantive issues within governance and conflict, theoretical schools and disciplinary approaches covered in the course, students choose two for in-depth exploration. Each critical review will be 8-10 pages long (6-8 pages for undergraduates), will be written in superior English, and will assess the strengths and weaknesses and cutting edge challenges of the chosen topic. Review #1 is due on 17 October 2016, and Review #2 is due 14 November 2016.

• **Class Participation** – Active, intelligent and articulate participation in all discussions is mandatory. MA students are also required to lead one or two (depending on class size) discussion/debate sessions.

• **Comprehensive Final Take-Home Exam** – The exam will be 15-20 pages in length (10-15 pages for undergraduates) and cover all parts of the course. It will be distributed in our last class on Monday, 5 December 2016, and be due on Wednesday, 14 December 2016, by 1600.

Final course grades will be calculated as follows: Critical Review Essays (40%); Participation (25%); Final Take-Home Exam (35%).

**Reading**

The following books (all paperback) are available for purchase at the SFU Book Store.


All other required reading will be available via SFU’s Custom Courseware or on reserve at the library.

Students are required to have done the reading for any given week prior to lecture; if you have not done so, do not bother coming to class.
Grading

**MA Students:** Grading in graduate school is harder and stricter than what you may be used to as undergraduates. Grades in the A range (A-, A) are reserved for truly exceptional performance. And the latter means the writing and grammar will be superior (no typos, no awkward constructions, no page-long paragraphs) and students will show a mastery of the relevant course material. Grades in the C range (C-, C, C+) will be awarded for sloppy and lazy work, where the writing is poor and engagement with course material is minimal at best.

**Undergraduates:** Grades in the A range are reserved for exceptional performance. And the latter means the writing and grammar will be superior (no typos, no awkward constructions, no page-long paragraphs) and students will show a mastery of the relevant course material. Grades in the C range will be awarded for average efforts, where the writing is sloppy and engagement with course material is minimal. Grades of D and F are reserved for poor performance – that is, spotty class attendance, little or no engagement with assigned readings, and weak writing.

**Policy on Make-Ups and Late Submissions**

- Critical Review Essays – They are due in class on the days and times indicated above; late essays will not be accepted. The only exception is in the case of a documented medical or family emergency.
- Take-Home Final Exam – It is due on the day and time indicated above; late exams will not be accepted. The only exception is in the case of a documented medical or family emergency.

**Prerequisites**

The course is designed in the first instance for graduate students enrolled in Stream B (Governance and Conflict) of the MA in International Studies. Qualified undergraduates are also welcome.

**Academic Integrity**

All students taking courses in International Studies are expected to read and understand the university’s policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T10.02 and T10.03). Forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following.

- Submitting all or a portion of the same work for credit in more than one course.
- Representing another person’s work as your own for course assignments.
- Failure to acknowledge sources of facts, information, analyses, interpretations, and arguments that you incorporate in your work, whether from a source that is written, spoken, or on the internet, and whether or not it is published or unpublished. Appropriate documentation of your sources is necessary when you quote, paraphrase or incorporate information and ideas generated by others.

In addition, all students in IS classes are expected to read the SFU Library lesson on “What is Plagiarism?” and take the interactive tutorial, “Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism.”
Lecture Plan

- **12 September**: Introduction to Course; Governance/Order & Conflict/Disorder; Inter-Disciplinarity – In Theory & Practice

*Part I – Globalization, Global Governance & Regional Order: Institutions Matter*

- **19 September**: Globalization and Governance – Thinking Like a Political Economist, a Political Scientist, An Institutional Theorist, A Sociologist … Or all of the Above!
- **26 September**: International Institutions and Global Governance – Perspectives from Economics and Sociology
- **3 October**: The Power – or is that Pathologies? – of International Institutions
- **10 October**: No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)
- **17 October**: International Human Rights and Domestic Change I – Insights from International Law and Political Science
- **24 October**: International Human Rights and Domestic Change II – Insights from Sociology
- **31 October**: Regional Order, Regional Identity and Institutions – The (Special?) Case of Europe

*Part II – Conflict and Disorder: From Interstate War to Complex Emergencies and Civil War*

- **7 November**: War in the World Today – From Interstate Conflicts to Complex Emergencies
- **14 November**: Civil War – (Differing!) Insights from Political Economy, Political Science and Sociology
- **21 November**: Collective Mobilization and Violence – Why Rebel?
- **28 November**: Conflicts without Borders – The International Dimensions of Civil War and Complex Emergencies
- **5 December**: Complex Emergencies and International Responses – Condemned to Fail?

*Detailed Syllabus*

**September 12**: Introduction to Course; Governance/Order & Conflict/Disorder; Inter-Disciplinarity – In Theory & Practice

Reading: --

Seminar Discussion: What are the defining features of governance and conflict in the world today – and how should we study them? Is governance always about order while conflict is about disorder, or …

*Part I: Globalization, Global Governance & Regional Order – Institutions Matter*
**September 19: Globalization and Governance – Thinking Like a Political Economist, a Political Scientist, An Institutional Theorist, A Sociologist … Or all of the Above!**

Reading: Caporaso and Madeira (2012; chs.1-7).

Seminar Discussion: ‘Globalization has fundamentally changed the contemporary world.’ Discuss.

**September 26: International Institutions and Global Governance – Perspectives from Economics and Sociology**

Reading: Keohane (1984; chs.1, 5-6); Johnston (2001).

Seminar Discussion: ‘International institutions matter.’ Discuss.

**October 3: The Power – or is that Pathologies? – of International Institutions**

Reading: Barnett and Finnemore (2004; chs.1-6).

Seminar Discussion: International institutions are increasingly important actors in world politics. But are they legitimate actors? How would we know and why should we care?

**October 10: No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)**

**October 17: International Human Rights and Domestic Change I – Insights from International Law and Political Science**

Reading: Simmons (2009; chs.1-4, 6).

Seminar Discussion: Simmons’ book has won many awards. Why? From a social-science perspective, is there something particularly notable about her findings, research design or methods?

**October 24: International Human Rights and Domestic Change II – Insights from Sociology**

Reading: Risse, Ropp and Sikkink (1999; ch.1); Risse, Ropp and Sikkink (2013; chs.1, 3, 4, 6, 8-9, 12, 15).

Seminar Discussion: ‘Human rights institutions and treaties are a dime a dozen, but when push comes to shove, they matter not at all. Think of Chechnya (the right to life), America (capital punishment), Russia (basic political liberties), Guantanamo Bay (torture), and China (thousands upon thousands of executions).’ Discuss.

**October 31: Regional Order, Regional Identity and Institutions – The (Special?) Case of Europe**

Reading: Fliedstein (2009; chs.1, 2, 5, 6, 8); Checkel and Katzenstein (2009; chs.1, 7)
Seminar Discussion: ‘Europe has been at peace for nearly 70 years now. For this, we must chiefly thank the European Union, its institutions, and the sense of community they have constructed.’ Discuss.

**Part II: Conflict and Disorder – From Interstate War to Complex Emergencies and Civil War**

**November 7: War in the World Today – From Interstate Conflicts to Complex Emergencies**


Seminar Discussion: ‘“Complex emergency” is a fashionable term that obscures more than it reveals. It undercuts the development of effective policy responses and hinders the creation of focused scholarly research programs.’ Discuss.

**November 14: Civil War – (Differing!) Insights from Political Economy, Political Science and Sociology**

Reading: Blattman and Miguel (2010); Tarrow (2007); Wood (2008).

Seminar Discussion: Why do the degree and type of violence in civil war vary so dramatically?

**November 21: Collective Mobilization and Violence – Why Rebel?**

Reading: Weinstein (2007; Introduction, ch.1); Wood (2003; chs.1-4, 8).

Seminar Discussion: What motivates rebellion, and why do different disciplines answer this question in different ways?

**November 28: Conflicts without Borders – The International Dimensions of Civil War and Complex Emergencies**

Reading: Gleditsch and Salehyan (2006); Checkel (2013); Bakke (2013).

Seminar Discussion: ‘Civil wars are rarely pure domestic affairs.’ Discuss.

**December 5: Complex Emergencies and International Responses – Condemned to Fail?**

Reading: Autesserre (2009); Keen (2011; chs.6, 8).

Seminar Discussion: ‘Interventions by the international community fail because of vested interests, poorly designed programs (DDR) and institutions, organizational pathologies within IOs, or ignorance of local context and culture. Choose your answer and disciplinary starting point!’
Reading – Bibliography


