

**Organizing the World:
International Institutions and Global Governance in Postwar Politics**

Time: Friday afternoons
Place: New York, New York

Instructor:

Christopher David LaRoche
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We sense something is breaking. The international order that surrounds us—ostensibly global, liberal, and open—is under attack both from within and without. According to its defenders, this open order and its institutions have for the past seventy years made the world more liberal, just, and peaceful. The order’s critics say it has unjustly imposed Eurocentric ideologies across the globe, upending local values, subjugating working classes, and ushering in a dystopic neofeudalism ruled by a technocratic elite.

This is the international story of our time. How can we take our bearings in it? We will try—by examining what contemporary international order is, and how liberal modes of ordering have concretely shaped the international relations of today. What is (liberal) international organization and global governance? What are the major institutions? The major issues?

We start with a brief tour of some major don’t-miss-it sights of liberal internationalism before proceeding to concrete international institutions by topic or “regime”: the UN-centred postwar order, regional organizations, humanitarianism and human rights, the nuclear politics and nonproliferation, global health, the environment, cities, and the future.

Aims

This course’s main aim is to provide students with understandings of:

- theories of international organization as they have been forwarded in historical and contemporary context, with a focus on institutions;
- the “mechanisms” and components of international institutions, multilateralism, human rights, etc.;
- how these components evolved devolved over time and in specific issue areas;
- current debates about the decline (or perseverance), viability, and desirability of the postwar liberal order and its alternatives; and
- Reflection on our role as thinkers and practitioners in the above.

Assessment	Class attendance & participation:	10%
	Reading responses:	10%
	Presentations:	20%
	Factsheets:	10%
	Written assignments:	50%

Class participation: Participation will be graded by attendance and quality of participation. Students should bring their reading responses into conversation on the relevant weeks.

Reading responses: write two short (1-2 pages) responses to readings in the class (discuss which readings with me).

Presentations: give two ~10-minute presentations on 1) an IO of your choice (as per the *adopt an IO program*) and 2) your home internship organization.

Factsheets: circulate factsheets about your adopted organization and internship organization before your presentations.

Written assignments: the first written assignment will ask you to think through the course materials and your adopted or home IO. The second assignment will ask you to present a briefing to a new executive of your adopted or home IO. More details will come.

Conduct

According to Thomas Hobbes of Malsbury justice lies in the keeping of covenants and those who make covenants promise to obey them (*Leviathan* I.xiv-xv). This syllabus is a covenant made between the instructor (me) and the students (you) in the spirit of learning. This class will discuss topics that are contentious or controversial. You are welcome to criticize each other's (and my) ideas, but not each other's characters.

Contact: laroche@ceu.edu + office hours.
If I don't respond within 48 hours, email again.

Absences, plagiarism, student needs, and other matters:
CEU maintains a robust set of policies governing student conduct and expectations (<https://ir.ceu.edu/policies>). These include policies on absences, plagiarism, and grading.

PROVISIONAL TOPICS SCHEDULE

1. <u>Introduction</u>	03 Feb
2. <u>The case for and against international organization</u>	10 Feb
3. <u>Bureaucratic pathologies and global governance</u>	17 Feb
4. <u>The postwar order and its institutions</u>	24 Feb
5. <u>Regional organizations I</u>	03 March
6. <u>Regional organizations II</u>	10 March

No classes 17 & 24 of March

7. <u>Humanitarianism and human rights</u>	31 March
8. <u>Nukes and nonproliferation</u>	07 April
9. <u>The environment</u>	14 April
10. <u>Ocean governance</u>	21 April
11. <u>Global health</u>	28 April
12. <u>Global cities</u>	05 May
13. <i>United Nations Tour</i>	12 May
14. <u>Course wrap-up</u>	19 May