

**The Evergreen State College
Masters Program in Public Administration
International Administration Winter 2024**

**Weekend 1: January 19th (Friday) 6p-9p; January 20th and 21st (Sat/Sun) 9a to 5p
Weekend 2: February 16th (Friday) 6p to 9p; February 17th (Saturday) 9a to 5p
Final Class Session: March 9th (Saturday) 9a to 5p**

Draft Syllabus as of November 2023 – subject to change

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The global political framework is undergoing its most fundamental realignment since the end of World War II. A multi-polar world is emerging in which the US remains economically, militarily and socially powerful, but weakened. The rise of China and India and frustration with the US-led global system has changed the political calculus, and many countries in the Global South are exploring alternatives to an America-centric approach to world affairs. The United Nations and other multilateral institutions such as the World Bank are increasingly sidelined though the global community urgently needs to confront challenges such as climate change, immigration, and unequal development.

This course will explore the implications of these shifts for public administration at the global level. There will be two main themes: 1) how might comparative administration, the exploration of the public sector and public policy in other countries, help the US to improve the performance of our public sector and improve trust in government? 2) And what does the future hold for international and supranational organizations such as the UN and European Union that have both enhanced global and regional security and have major roles in providing global public goods? We will also study the challenges to performing comparative research, the role of nongovernmental organizations, and the cultural knowledge/skills needed to work effectively at the global level. We will use lectures, seminars, films and workshops to explore these issues.

Learning Objectives: Students completing this course will gain:

- An introduction to basic concepts in international relations and insights into the international system and changing role of the United States;
- Insights into how other countries structure and manage their public sectors, and particular policy issues;
- An understanding of and the ability to apply comparative analysis to important questions of public administration and public policy;
- An introduction to theories of international and supranational organization and to the practical realities of leading and managing them;
- An introduction to intercultural communication and improved skills at recognizing intercultural differences.
- An introduction to the work of non-governmental organizations (NGO's).

Texts.

Hanhimäki, J. M. (2015). *The United Nations: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press.

Articles (Available on course Canvas site).

Adler, N. (2002). "How do Cultural Differences Affect Organizations?" In *International Dimensions of Organizational Behavior*. Cincinnati: South-Western.

Huntington, S. (1993). The clash of civilizations. *Foreign affairs*, 72(3), 22-49.

Gates, R. (2023). "The Dysfunctional Superpower: Can a Divided America Deter China and Russia?" *Foreign Affairs*, November/December.

Abbott, Kenneth and D. Snidal (1998). "Why States Act through Formal International Organizations. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Vol. 42, No. 1 (Feb.), pp. 3-32

Barnett, Michael N. and Martha Finnemore (1999). "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations." *International Organization*, Vol. 53, No. 4 (Autumn), pp. 699-732.

Bebbington, AJ; Hickey, S. and Mitlin, D. Eds. (2008). "Introduction: Can NGO's Make a Difference?" *In Can NGOs Make a Difference?: The Challenge of Development Alternatives*. New York: Zed.

Bennett, M. (1998). "Intercultural Communication: A Current Perspective." *In Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication: Selected Readings*. Boston: Intercultural Press.

Katz, Jonathan (2015). "The Secretary General in his Labyrinth." *The New Republic*, March 3rd.

Lijphart, Arend (1971). "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 65, No. 3 (Sept.), pp. 682-693.

Luck, Edward (2005). "How Not to Reform the United Nations." *Global Governance* 11, 407-14.

Smith, J.M. (2023). "Samuel Huntington's Great Idea Was Totally Wrong." *The New Republic*. October 19th.

The Economist. (2023). "One Last Push." September 28th.

McBride, J. (2022). "Backgrounder: How does the EU work?" Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-does-european-union-work>. New York: Council on Foreign Relations.

Assignments

Format: All papers should be double spaced (unless otherwise stated), 12-point font, and follow APA citation style.

1. Write a one or two page paper describing what you believe to be the single most important global problem. Provide evidence in support of your thesis. And briefly assess whether the structures and interventions that aim to lessen the severity of the problem are robust enough to impact the problem. **Due Friday, January 19th**
2. Read Huntington's classic article, "The Clash of Civilizations," and Smith's 2023 *New Republic* rejoinder. Write a 2-3 page paper that aims to answer these questions: Do you find Huntington's thesis convincing, and if so, why....or why not? What world events since the article's publication help to support or reject his thesis? **Due Saturday, January 20th**
3. The text by Hanhimäki on the United Nations provides a reasonably balanced portrait of the structure and performance of the United Nations. Do you believe we even need the UN? If you believe so, what changes in the structure and responsibilities of the UN would you recommend? **Due Sunday, Jan. 21st**.

4. Pick a public problem in which you have an interest. Write a 2-3 page paper in which you identify a country that manages this challenge using a different approach than the US. What led to the adoption of this alternative approach? Is it effective? Might it be transferable to the US? Why or why not? **ue Friday, February 16th.**
5. Read a novel by a foreign author in which the primary action takes place outside the U.S. What insights, if any, does the novel provide into the culture of that country? Be prepared to give a 5-minute summary of the book and your response to these questions in class on **Saturday, February 17th.**
6. Final paper: Research and write a 10-page paper in which you analyze a global public policy issue using a comparative framework or perform an organizational analysis of an international/supranational organization. More information on this assignment will be provided the first day of class. Be prepared to give a short presentation on your project in class on March 9th.

Tentative Class Schedule

<p>Weekend 1. <u>Friday, Jan. 19th</u></p> <p>Where is the world now? Global challenges, global public goods Map Quiz! Huntington and the “Clash of Cultures” China, Russia and the move toward a multipolar world</p> <p>Read: Huntington; Gates; Smith</p> <p>Due: Assignment 1</p>	<p><u>Saturday, January 20th</u></p> <p>International Institutions, I Theory—why we have them Reality: UN and UN “reform” IMF, World Bank</p> <p>Read: Abbott and Snidal; Barnett and Finnemore; Luck; Optional: Katz Book: Hanhimäki on the UN</p> <p>Due: Assignment 2</p>	<p><u>Sunday, January 21st</u></p> <p>International Institutions, II European Union Non-governmental organizations (NGO’s)</p> <p>Read: Bebbington, AJ; Hickey, S. and Mitlin; McBride; <i>Economist</i> on the EU</p> <p>Due: Assignment 3</p>
<p><u>Weekend 2. Friday, Feb. 16th</u></p> <p>Comparative Admin and Policy Methodology: why compare? Intro to comparative bureaucracy Examples of comparative administration and comparative policy</p> <p>Read: Lijphart, Comparative Pol and Bureaucracy, TBD</p> <p>Due: Assignment 4</p>	<p><u>Saturday, February 17th</u></p> <p>Intercultural Communication Lecture and workshop in intercultural communication Foreign Novel presentation</p> <p>Read: Barnett, Adler; Foreign Novel of your choice</p> <p>Due: Assignment 5</p>	<p>NO CLASS Saturday, Feb. 18th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>
<p>(No class Friday, March 8th)</p>	<p><u>Saturday, March 9th</u> Final Presentations, Film Due: Final Assignment</p>	<p>No Class Sunday, March 10th</p>