

PS302 GLOBAL POLICIES AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Seminar Leader: Gale Raj
Course Times: Wednesdays & Fridays 14:00 -15:30
Location: P24 Seminar Room 5
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course focuses on examining global policies, international organizations, and their impacts on countries located in the Global South. We understand global policy to mean policies which have a cross-border or transnational effect both directly and indirectly. This includes policies developed and enforced at the national level which 'reach' countries in the Global South and policies established at the intergovernmental or international level which set out rules and norms for many countries.

The aim of the course is for students to understand which questions to ask and generally to critically examine and assess global policy impacts on economies, communities, and the environment in the Global South. An important aspect of our discussions will be focused on understanding the ways in which different international organizations function and the influence different actors (and their politics) have on the policymaking process and outcomes.

We will engage with a wide and interdisciplinary set of readings and concepts and interrogate how they are in conversation with each other and relate to each other through commonalities and differences. During the weeks on the global policy case studies, we will read policy-related publications and discuss how the current policies affect the Global South specifically.

**This is an advanced level course. A prerequisite is at least one course from the International Studies and Globalization module. It is also highly recommended that students have taken PS185 Introduction to Policy Analysis.

Requirements

Required Textbook and readings:
Please refer to the Course Reader.

In-class participation

It is expected that core readings are completed *before* each seminar as our discussions will be based on them. Please read actively – try to relate what you are reading with what you already know and have gained knowledge about the topic from other courses or from your own personal interests and explorations (engage in a personal self-reflective discussion). Take notes, be critical, ask questions, and come to class prepared to share!

We will be engaging in and discussing current issues of global public policies. Many if not most of the issues will be news-worthy items and part of current public debates. It is highly recommended that you regularly check the news and/or other policy related reporting outlets (newspapers, blogs, policy briefs, Twitter, etc.) for insights and different opinions that relate to the topics in the course – which can be shared during class discussions.

Participating in different ways, either through larger group discussions or in small group/partner exercises, is an integral part of the learning process and it is expected that every student makes a good effort in this regard.

Course assignments, grade breakdown and deadlines

1. Discussion participation **20%**

Half of this grade will be based on in-class discussions of the readings and also include participation in small group work or in pairs. The second half of this grade will be based on discussions of your policy memo outline and presentation of your research report outline.

2. One policy memo **30%**

Please choose one problem (this can be a problem affecting all of the Global South, or a region, or a country) and present a policy recommendation within an international organization weighing its costs and benefits for solving it. You can compare and contrast two policy recommendations as an option.

The policy will be recommended and expanded on as the best policy option based on analysis and evidence. The policy memo must be between 1,000 and 1,500 words (1.5-spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman). Please use the Chicago Style of Referencing.

The policy memo must be written from the perspective of a particular actor chosen from the following list:

- Staff for a member of parliament or congress
- Industry lobby group
- Nongovernmental campaign organisation
- Trade union representative
- A different actor (based on discussion with and approval of seminar leader)

We will discuss the format of the policy memo in class.

Policy memo deadline: Tuesday 7 April, 11:59pm via Google Classroom.

3. Presentation of outline on policy research paper 10%

A presentation on the outline of the policy research paper (see below for what the policy research paper must cover). To ensure helpful feedback, please make sure to present a background to the policy problem/issue and the current and alternative policies that will be discussed in the analysis section. This can be between 1 to 1.5 pages long.

Presentations will be scheduled at the end of April.

4. Policy research paper 40%

The aim of the policy research paper is to discuss a global policy problem affecting one or several countries of the Global South, a global policy which has failed or been unsuccessful in improving or solving the policy problem, and an analysis of an existing and alternative policy to better address the problem.

The policy research paper must include the following sections:

1. Introduction: Introduce the policy problem or policy issue. Make sure to address the global nature of the problem, in other words, the policy problem/issue must not be a domestic/national one in nature. As an introduction section, it can include a synopsis of the paper, a research question, and/or aim of the paper including its findings/conclusion.
2. Background: Discuss the nature of the problem. Some questions to include: Why is it global in nature? How does it affect the specific country or countries of the Global South (the paper is focused on) specifically? Why does the problem exist?
3. Analysis: There are 2 parts to this section: a) Discuss an existing or current global policy which addresses the problem/issue which has failed to or has been less successful in improving or solving the problem. This **MUST** be a global policy and not a domestic or national policy. It could be a global policy that is implemented varyingly by individual countries. Analyze and argue the reasons why the global policy has failed or been less successful based on conceptual and/or theoretical reasoning. B) Discuss and alternative global policy* or conceptual or theoretical features or framework of an alternative global policy that is or would be more superior.

*As an exception, this can be a national policy. To choose a national policy **REQUIRES** prior a discussion and approval from me.

**For both the discussions on the current and alternative policy, relate the analysis to concepts discussed in class on the characteristics or nature of the global policy and what it means for or what impacts (positive or negative) it has on the country or countries of the Global South.

***This is a very important section of the paper. It requires research, understanding and use of concepts and theories, and logical and careful argumentation with evidence.

4. Conclusion: A summary of the paper with a recap on the main findings.

The policy research paper must be between 4,000 to 4,500 words (1.5-spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman). Please use the Chicago Style of Referencing.

Research paper deadline: Friday, 16 May, 11:59pm via Google Classroom.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences should not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Written assignments that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Schedule

Weeks 1 to 7 – Conceptualising global policy: processes, actors, and institutions

Week 1 – Globalization and policies

We begin by exploring policy research that is concerned with problems which are cross-border or transboundary in nature. Much of this is tied to discussions of policy in the era of ‘globalization’. Readings for this week disentangle and unpack how we can think about policies in a world of interconnected problems, including their impacts in the Global South. The set of readings this week are inter-disciplinary. How do the different concepts and perspectives agree or disagree with each other?

<https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en>

Wednesday 29 January

Amrith, S. and Sluga, G. (2008) New Histories of the United Nations, *Journal of World History*, 19 (3): 251-274.

Muschik, E-M (2022) Special Issue Introduction: Towards a global history of international organizations and decolonization, *Journal of Global History*, 17 (2): 173-190

Orbie et al. (2023) Decolonizing rather than decentering ‘Europe’, *European Foreign Affairs Review*, 28 (1): 1-8.

Friday 31 January

No class

Week 2 –The ‘rising powers’ and the South-South cooperation in international organizations

Policy problems which contend with globalisation are taken up global policymaking spaces that include global networks of actors and global institutions. Research on understanding these processes is largely focused on transnational ‘networks’ of policymaking. Readings this week focus on state or government actors and institutions within these networks and also address how they interact with non-state or non-governmental actors. An important question in the functioning of these transnational networks is the inclusion of and the decision-making powers of governments and non-state actors in the Global South.

Wednesday 5 February

Milhorance, C. and Soule-Kohndou, F. (2017) South-South cooperation and change in international organizations, *Global Governance*, 23: 461-481

Hoffman, S.J. (2012) Mitigating Inequalities of Influence among States in Global Decision Making. *Global Policy*, 3: 421-432.

Friday 7 February

Mawdsley, E. (2007) China and Africa: Emerging Challenges to the Geographies of Power, *Geography Compass*, 1(3): 405-421.

Stone, D. (2004) Transfer agents and global networks in the 'transnationalization' of policy, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11(3): 545-566.

Week 3 – Private actors in global governance

Non-state actors also shape and help implement global policies. They are actors that engage in both contestation and cooperation in global policymaking. This includes global social movements and their power to influence global policies (including their representation of and participation by actors in the Global South). Readings this week introduce these non-state actors and the different ways in which they engage in global policymaking.

Wednesday 12 February

O'Brien, R., Goetz, A.M., Scholte, J.A., Williams, M. (2000) Chapter 1: Contesting governance: multilateralism and global social movements', in *Contesting global governance: Multilateral economic institutions and global social movements*.

Choudry, A. (2016) Chapter 2: 'Global Justice? Contesting NGOization: Knowledge Politics and Containment in Antiglobalization Networks', in *Learning from the Ground up: Global Perspectives on Social Movements and Knowledge Production*.

Friday 14 February

Raymond M, DeNardis L. (2015) Multistakeholderism: anatomy of an inchoate global institution. *International Theory*, 7(3): 572-616

Bäckstrand, K. Kuyper, J. W., Linnér, B.-O. & Lövbrand, E. (2017) Non-state actors in global climate governance: from Copenhagen to Paris and beyond, *Environmental Politics*, 26:4, 561-579,

Week 4 – Bretton Woods institutions

For weeks 5 to 8 we focus on global policy institutions. Readings will introduce the historical and political origins of various institutions and how they impacted outcomes for the Global South.

Wednesday 19 February

Woods, N. (2014) Chapter 2: ‘The Globalizing Mission’ & Chapter 3 ‘The Power to Persuade’, in *The Globalizers: the IMF, the World Bank, and their Borrowers*.

Friday 21 February

Bello, W. (2000) The Iron Cage: The World Trade Organisation, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the South. *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism*, Vol. 11, No. 1.

Week 5 – The World Trade Organization

Wednesday 26 February

Narlikar, A. (2005) Chapter 2 – The creation of the World Trade Organization, in *The World Trade Organization: A Very Short Introduction*.

Khor, M. (2008) Chapter 11 – The World Trading System and Development Concerns, in *The Washington Consensus Reconsidered: Towards a New Global Governance*.

Friday 28 February

O’Hara, C. (2022) Consensus and Diversity in the World Trade Organization: A Queer Perspective. *AJIL Unbound*. 116: 32-37. doi:10.1017/aju.2021.74

Gola, S. (2024) Resistance at the WTO: (DE)Coloniality in the Making? *Journal of Indian Law and Society*, 14 (1).

Week 6 – United Nations

Wednesday 5 March

Bandyopadhyaya, J. (1977) THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. *India Quarterly*, 33(2), 137–164.

Rowe, E. T. (1964). The emerging anti-colonial consensus in the United Nations. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 8(3), 209-230.

Friday 7 March

Van der Linden, M. (2019) 'The International Labour Organization, 1919-2019: An Appraisal'. *Labour: Studies in Working-Class History*, 16, No. 2.

Week 7 – European Union

Wednesday 12 March

Orbie, J. (2012) Chapter 18 – International Development: A distinct and challenged policy domain in *Policymaking in the European Union*, Oxford University Press.

Damro, C. (2012) Market power Europe, *Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol. 19, No. 5.

Friday 14 March

Niemann, A. and Zaun, N. (2023) Introduction: EU external migration policy and EU migration governance, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 4(9)12: 2965-2985.

Rasche, L. (2023) "The EU needs a new migration diplomacy", Policy Brief, Jacques Delors Centre, Hertie School.

Weeks 8 to 14 – Global policy case studies

In this second themed focus of the course, we will discuss a variety of global policy case studies. Small groups of students will lead discussions during these weeks. Readings will introduce the policy problem and the policy solutions or ongoing negotiations (there are online policy sources provided and feel free to do your own additional search and readings), followed with writings from the perspective of policy analysis on the impacts of these global policies for countries of the Global South. In our discussions we will relate back to the conceptual and institutional readings from the previous weeks.

Week 8 - Climate change

Wednesday 19 March

William, J. et al. (2023) Africa and climate justice at COP27 and beyond: impacts and solutions through an interdisciplinary lens, *UCL Open Environment*.

**Please familiarize yourself with at least one set of climate change policies originating in the Global North and one in the Global South

European Climate Law

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/climate-change/>

United States policies on climate change

<https://css.umich.edu/factsheets/climate-change-policy-and-mitigation-factsheet>

Take a look at <https://climateactiontracker.org/> for climate change policies on a number of countries, including in the Global South

Supplementary:

The Paris Agreement

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

Friday 21 March

Tran, M. and Salamanca, A. (2023) Advancing climate policy: harnessing indigenous knowledge at the science-policy interface, *Stockholm Environment Institute*.

Lefale, P. F. (2010) Ua 'afa le Aso' Stormy weather today: traditional ecological knowledge of weather and climate. The Samoa experience. *Climatic Change*, 100: 317-335.

Week 9 - International labour standards

Wednesday 26 March

Bair, J. et al. (2020) The political economy of private and public regulation in post-Rana Plaza Bangladesh, *International Labor Review*, 73(4): 969-994.

Read about the ILO Core Labour Standards at:

<https://www.ilo.org/global/standards/introduction-to-international-labour-standards/conventions->

and-recommendations/lang--en/index.htm

Read about the ILO's Decent Work Agenda at:

<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work/lang--en/index.htm>

Friday 28 March

Marques, J. C., and Eberlein, B. (2021) Grounding transnational business governance: A political-strategic perspective on government responses in the Global South, *Regulation & Governance*, 15: 1209-1229.

Week 10 – Guest lecture

Wednesday 2 April

Readings TBC

Friday 4 April

Guest lecture (per Zoom) by Professor Dalindybo Shabalala, Professor of Law, Suffolk University

The World Intellectual Property Organization and Indigenous Knowledge

Week 11 – Guest lecture

Wednesday 9 April and

Readings online

Friday 11 April

Guest lecture by Khaled El Mahmoud, PhD candidate and research assistant at the Chair of European and International Law, University of Potsdam

The International Court of Justice

Week 12 – NO CLASS

Week 13: Research paper presentations

Wednesday 23 April and Friday 25 April

Week 14: Topics TBD

Wednesday 30 April and Friday 2 May

Week 15: Wrapping-up

Wednesday 7 May and 9 May