Engaging International Organizations in Vienna

Course description

Vienna hosts a large number of international organizations, including several UN agencies, in a diverse set of areas, from international development, migration, drug and crime control to European security, democracy-building and protection of human rights, including the right of children to a decent life. This practically-oriented two-credit course will: (i) discuss key global challenges to set the stage for interactions with the representatives of some of these institutions; (ii) introduce the concept of results-based management in public policy, increasingly used by international organizations, and (iii) familiarize students with a set of international organizations operating in Vienna. About half of the time is expected to be devoted to visiting such organizations or otherwise interacting  with their representatives in order to obtain first-hand knowledge from practitioners about the objectives and operations of their respective institutions and learn about their personal experiences in working in an international setting.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will have (i) developed a broad understanding of global public policy issues in areas such as global poverty, inequality, conflicts, migration and climate change, and the role of international organizations in addressing them; (ii) become familiar with the concept of results-based management in public policy and its application by international organizations; and (iii) learned about the objectives and operations of select international public and non-governmental organizations located in Vienna.

Course assessments

Brainstorming in response to instructor’s requests prior to the course

Full class attendance and participation

Team work and team presentations throughout the course

Moderation of discussions with representatives of international organizations

Course pre-requisites

None required but some knowledge of global governance is useful.

Course schedule

The schedule below is subject to change, depending on the availability of representatives of international organizations and whether the course will be online or in-person. If feasible, visits will be organized to select international organizations in Vienna.

April 21, 2021 (Wednesday)

9:00-10:40Introduction to the course and framing the interactions with international organizations

This session will start with mutual introduction, description of course objectives, content and key messages, followed by a presentation on and discussion of global challenges to frame the interactions with select international organizations present in Vienna.

10:40-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:40Global challenges (continued)

This session will continue the discussion on global challenges around six topics:

* poverty and inequality
* human capital and the future of work
* infrastructure development
* conflict, displacement and migration
* crises (natural and man-made), and
* climate change

Teams will discuss the relative importance of each topic, the interconnections between them and the public policy trade-offs in devising sustainable solutions.  The teams will also discuss the roles of international organizations in addressing these challenges.

12:40-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:10Introduction to results-based management used by international organizations

This session will explain the importance of results-based management in public policy and its applicability at different levels (from individual projects to broad programs), introduce the “theory of change”, highlight the need for devising realistic and measurable objectives and note the difficulties of designing meaningful results frameworks. It will also touch upon the importance of monitoring and evaluation. The session will look at how international organizations use results-based management. In the second part of the session, teams will develop results frameworks for a goal of their choice.

15:10-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:10Results-based management (continued)

The first part of the session will hear presentations from teams on their results frameworks.

The second part of the session will be devoted to joint preparation for the meetings with representatives of international organizations the next day.

April 22, 2021 (Thursday)

 9:00-10:40The World Bank

10:40-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-13:00International Finance Corporation

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30United Nations (Vienna International Center)

15:30-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-17:10 **International Organization for Migration**

April 23, 2021 (Friday)

9:00-10:40 **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

10:40-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:40SOS Children’s villages

12:40-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:10Reflections and consolidation of knowledge through teamwork

The session will allow students to consolidate their knowledge, based on the course materials, the earlier discussions on global challenges and the interactions with representatives of international organizations. Teams will discuss three topics: (i) why concerted international efforts are required to address today’s key security, political and economic challenges; (ii) how the use of results-based management by international organizations could sharpen their focus and increase their transparency and accountability, and (iii) how international organizations operating in Vienna balance their work between individual country-based activities and their global mandates.

15:10-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:10 Team presentations and discussion

This session will hear presentations by the teams, followed by discussion. It will also allow students to share their take-aways from the course.

Required learning materials

Below is a list of viewing and reading materials for the course. Please kindly view/read these materials before the beginning of the course.

I. Global challenges

1. Poverty and inequality

Reversals of fortune, World Bank, YouTube (2:34)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=4Jebn1disiA&feature=share>

To end extreme poverty by 2030; World Bank, YouTube (0:57)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=-EFZ1r18xuA&feature=share>

Income and Wealth Inequality, Crash Course Economics #17, YouTube (10:16)

<https://youtu.be/0xMCWr0O3Hs>

Gender inequality: Now, YouTube (3:04)

<https://youtu.be/4viXOGvvu0Y>

1. Human capital and future of work

Bill Gates: You need health care, education and opportunity to escape poverty CNBC, YouTube (4:16)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=npmdbDsWKdE&feature=share>

Jack Ma: Education is the biggest challenge, YouTube (2:42)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=7fu40RRlMMk&feature=share>

What is the World Bank’s Human Capital Index? World Bank, YouTube (3:00)

<https://youtu.be/iCUIAQkOwKw>

What is the Fourth Industrial Revolution? WEF, YouTube  (11:31)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=kpW9JcWxKq0&feature=share>

What will the future of jobs be like? WEF, YouTube (2:30)

<https://youtu.be/eH1fFdjzJAw>

1. Infrastructure development

Why and how to build sustainable infrastructure? NichInstitute, YouTube, (first 2:18)

<https://youtu.be/GDeI4m20gW8>

1. Conflicts, displacement and migration

UNHCR Global trends: Forced displacement in 2019 (The 1%: UNHCR’s global trends video on UNHCR.org website) 5:25

<https://youtu.be/tY7WWD6tCAM>

1. Crises

“Impact of COVID-19 on people’s livelihoods, their health and our food system”, joint statement by ILO, FAO, IFAD and WHO, dated October 13, 2020, on WHO’s who.int website.

<https://www.who.int/news/item/13-10-2020-impact-of-covid-19-on-people's-livelihoods-their-health-and-our-food-systems>

1. Climate change

Climate change-We are the problem and the solution (Animated infographic) YouTube (8:43)

<https://youtu.be/-D_Np-3dVBQ>

Optional

World Bank: Reversals of Fortune-Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report 2020 overview 19 pages

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/34496/211602ov.pdf?sequence=28&isAllowed=y>

Recommended

Yuval Noah Harari: 21 Lessons for the 21st Century, 2019

David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet, 2020, documentary 1:54:00

II. Results-based management

Measuring your social impact-Theory of change, YouTube (2:26)

<https://youtu.be/dpb4AGT684U>

Theory of change-Logic model, YouTube (7:23)

<https://youtu.be/cg4J1g0IVHg>

Designing a Results Framework for Achieving Results-A how to guide, World Bank’s Independent Evaluation Group (42 pages)

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/32158/Designing-a-Results-Framework-for-Achieving-Results-A-How-to-Guide.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Measuring Results Fact Sheets, 2019, World Bank

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/993981558646869961/Measuring-Results-Fact-Sheets-2019.pdf>

What is impact evaluation? World Bank, YouTube (2:08)

<https://youtu.be/HEJlT8t5ezU>

III. International Organizations in Vienna

1. United Nations (UN)

Sustainable Development Goals-Introduction, YouTube (6:18)

<https://youtu.be/5EW5vVCiXlQ>

Nations United: Urgent solutions for urgent times, YouTube (34:10)

<https://youtu.be/xVWHuJOmaEk>

1. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

What is OSCE? OSCE website (4:22)

<https://youtu.be/KRYMwpQ44X0>

What it is like to be an intern at OSCE? YouTube (5:23)

<https://youtu.be/OlEcNt9mDPE>

1. The World Bank

What’s the difference between the IMF and the World Bank, CNBC, YouTube (4:16)

<https://youtu.be/lN3qrFA4jXc>

What is the World Bank and what does it do? YouTube (8:20)

<https://youtu.be/gKpTL8KVy1Q>

World Bank: worldbank.org, opening page

[Who We Are](https://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are)

World Bank’s Kim on poverty and inspiration 2014, YouTube (1:12)

<https://youtu.be/wxxskINm9Pc>

Doesn’t everyone deserve a chance at a good life? Jim Kim TED talk (20:33)

<https://www.ted.com/talks/jim_yong_kim_doesn_t_everyone_deserve_a_chance_at_a_good_life?utm_campaign=tedspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare>

Wolfensohn on cancer of corruption, World Bank Facebook Dec 9, 2020 (0.39)

<https://fb.watch/3c_vlPp0PT/>

World Bank Group - Together we all prosper, YouTube (4:35)

<https://youtu.be/VxuCwLEyrfU>

World Bank: Restoring infrastructure for public services and economic recovery in flood affected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina (results story and video)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2020/10/09/restoring-infrastructure-for-public-services-and-economic-recovery?cid=EXT_WBEmailShare_EXT>

1. International Finance Corporation (IFC)

About IFC: IFC.org website

[About IFC](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/corp_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/about+ifc_new)

Measuring and monitoring the impact of our work IFC, YouTube (2:48)

<https://youtu.be/P5O-S2w1F2o>

1. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

What is IOM? Youtube (1:28)

<https://youtu.be/xoQ6HgSnStY>

IOM’s principles for humanitarian action, YouTube (3:24)

<https://youtu.be/HrSpBPF3YFY>

World migration report 2020 infographics, YouTube (1:19)

<https://youtu.be/S8H17inUlWg>

Fighting stigma and discrimination against migrants during COVID-19, YouTube (0:55)

<https://youtu.be/tABjL0OD3tQ>

Optional

Returning to your home and its difficulties TEDxLinz talk by Andrea Götzelmann YouTube (12:26)

<https://youtu.be/EXB3DZPf_Ys>

1. SOS Children’s villages

SOS Children’s villages.org: This is SOS children’s villages, YouTube (3:00)

<https://youtu.be/Z5f36a8RAZE>

70 years of impact (23 pages)

<https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/getmedia/6bc4dad4-d496-4761-aa0f-e1fa572e428f/SOS_70_years_of_impact_report_SPREADS-WEB.pdf>

Optional

Who we are (24 pages)-optional

<https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/getmedia/df273cda-af41-4397-a17b-e4219663fae3/101206-WhoWeAre-en-WEB.pdf>