

ISS 4307 Politics of Global Development: Debating Liberal Internationalism

Institution:	International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Year:	Year 1
Course type:	Track-specific course
Assessment:	Assignment: 85%, Presentation: 15%
ECTS:	8

Learning objectives

After completion of the course, students will have:

- enhanced their knowledge of contemporary global governance, in particular of the institutions and ideas shaping global public policy;
- acquired an understanding of the various interpretations that are relevant to explaining global governance and global public policy;
- strengthened their ability to analyse critically the claims made by scholars and other observers of global governance and global public policy;
- developed a nuanced understanding of the extent to which liberal ideas, norms and values continue to shape global institutions;
- developed a critical understanding of the different ways in which emerging powers influence the role and agenda of global governance institutions;
- developed their skills of presenting the results of their own research to an audience and assessing the research findings of others.

Course description

This course, which is focused on the global political-economic context of the development process, aims to contribute to a better understanding of the various manifestations of global governance in today's world, as well as the arguments for global – that is, not territorially confined – public policy making. Regimes of global governance have an important impact on policy formulation in countries of the global South, and an understanding of these regimes is required in order to assess the constraints and opportunities that governments, the private sector and civil society are facing in achieving their objectives.

The course is divided into three parts. The first part lays the groundwork for a critical discussion of liberal internationalism, global governance and its various manifestations. Moreover, it assesses the extent to which the current global order is being challenged by the increasing role of so-called 'emerging powers'. Second, we move onto the institutional paraphernalia of global governance itself, zooming in on the United Nations (UN); the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including global trade politics more broadly; the Group of 8 (G8) and the Group of 20 (G20); and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and other institutions driving international development cooperation. We assess the (lack of) changes within these institutions and the implications for the broader edifice of the liberal world order. The third part of the course builds on the previous two parts and discusses liberal

internationalism in relation to neoliberalism and the international legal domain. Moreover, it explores the future of global governance theorizing.