

SO376-15 Global Governance

26/27

Department

Sociology

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Katy Harsant

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module explores global governance in both historical and contemporary forms, addressing the role of global governance institutions – primarily the United Nations and its associated specialised agencies. Drawing on scholarship from Sociology and cognate disciplines, students will gain an understanding of some of the key concepts embedded in institutions of global governance, such as sovereignty, responsibility, development, and progress.

The first part of the module will look at histories of global governance, including the League of Nations and the United Nations, thinking about how these institutions both reflect and reinforce global power structures. This section provides the theoretical framework, highlighting the historical context of the UN's establishment and the implications of this for its contemporary activities.

The second part of the module will examine case studies, exploring global governance in four different areas: peace and security; economic co-operation; development; and tradition and culture. In doing so, we will think about the key concepts and principles that underpin global governance, and the extent to which the United Nations is capable of addressing global inequality. The module will finish by looking at 'rising' powers and shifts to the global political landscape, asking what the future of global governance looks like.

Module aims

This module will introduce students to an interdisciplinary body of literature on global governance, providing them with an understanding of how key concepts such as 'sovereignty', 'responsibility', 'development' and 'progress' are not neutral terms, but are socially and historically constructed. They will gain a critical understanding of the implications of historical processes of global entanglement for contemporary institutional structures.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. Introduction: Global Governance
2. Histories of Global Governance
3. The Founding of the United Nations
4. Peace and Security: Sovereignty and Responsibility
5. Economic Co-Operation: Aid, Trade and Loans
6. Reading Week
7. Development: Sustainability and Progress
8. Tradition and Culture: Protection and Preservation
9. Rising Powers and the Future of Global Governance
10. Can Global Governance Work?

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of how the UN operates as an institution of global governance
- Identify, explain and critically evaluate key theoretical concepts related to global governance, drawing on appropriate scholarship
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between histories of colonisation and contemporary global power structures
- Address the aims and objectives of the module demonstrating close engagement with module materials

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

Independent library-based research for assessment, which may also include accessing archival material

Interdisciplinary

The module topic is interdisciplinary in nature and while it looks at global governance primarily

from the perspective of historical and political sociology, we will also draw on relevant theories/concepts/literature from International Relations and Law

International

The module is addressing global governance, which will draw on examples from various national contexts and international debates

Subject specific skills

1. Systematic understanding of key aspects of global governance, including the acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, informed by scholarship at the forefront of historical and political sociology
2. Ability to deploy established techniques of analysis and enquiry, including critical engagement with relevant theoretical scholarship
3. Conceptual understanding of global governance and related themes, which will enable the student to devise and sustain arguments, and to comment on existing research

Transferable skills

1. Understanding of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
 2. Ability to apply methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects
 3. Ability to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences
 4. Ability to manage their own learning, making use of appropriate literature and sources (e.g. refereed research articles and/or original materials)
-

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	52 hours (35%)
Assessment	80 hours (53%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading and note-taking for seminars, answering set questions for seminars, research and further reading for assessment.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Summative Essay	100%	80 hours	Yes (extension)
Choice of essay questions, including the option to conduct a case study analysis of one of the case studies presented in the module.			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

1. Written Feedback via Tabula.
 2. Option to discuss the essay/feedback before or after submission, during advice and feedback hours.
-

Availability

Courses

Course availability information is based on the current academic year, so it may change.

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of USOA-L301 BA in Sociology
- Year 4 of USOA-L306 BA in Sociology (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of USOA-L314 Undergraduate Sociology and Criminology
- Year 4 of USOA-L315 Undergraduate Sociology and Criminology (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL17 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)