ICIR 332 Comparative Regionalism

**Course Description & Aims:**
This course will discuss, interpret, analyze and evaluate regionalism from different theoretical viewpoints. Historical underpinnings and development of regional organizations will be examined. Organizational structures and institutional configurations will be analyzed to identify why different regional organizations operate in differentiated ways. Students will understand the basis, differences, historical underpinnings for regions and regional organizations in the contemporary world. Students will be able to analyze and evaluate different regional organizations, structures and their purposes to member states and non-member states. Students will be able to apply different theoretical models for the study of regional organizations. Students will be able to analyze and evaluate the performance of regional, interregional and sub-regional organizations.

To discuss; interpret; analyze; evaluates regionalism theoretical viewpoints. Students will examine; understand; analyze; evaluate major regional organizations; foundations; purposes; functions; institutional designs; methods of interaction in a global perspective.

**Lecturer:** William J. Jones  
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Office hours Monday – Thursday 10:00-18:00  
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**Assessment**
- Quiz: 10%  
- Short position paper: 20%  
- Presentation: 30%  
- Comparative essay: 40%

**Course Learning Outcomes**
At the completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Developed an understanding of the main theories of regionalism  
2. Understand the functions of key regional institutions such as EU, ASEAN, and the African Union, Mercosur  
3. Able to analyze regional organizations and their functions  
4. Able to compare and evaluate the functions and performance of regional organizations
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Assessment Methods & Criteria

1. **Quiz 10%**
   A short quiz consisting of short answer questions assessed in week 4 which covers content of the previous three (3) foundational weeks of content.

2. **Short position paper 20%**
   Students will research and submit a short position paper in week 9. The paper will be based on a European or Asian regional institution towards a contemporary issue which effects the organization in question. The paper must be short and consist of no more than 1,500 words.

3. **Presentation 30%**
   Students will choose two (2) regional organizations and/or regional organization institutions to present on in a comparative method. The presentation will consist of the chosen organizations/institutions legal basis, powers, areas of competence, performance and capabilities regarding a given topic or issue area of contemporary significance. Students will present in groups with organization dependent solely on students themselves.

4. **Comparative essay 40%**
   Students will choose and research two (2) regional organizations from a comparative perspective.
The Study of Regions and Regionalism

Topic description: This week students will be introduced to field of studying regions as individual phenomena as well as regionalism from a comparative perspective. Different strains of thought in categorizing regionalism and regionalization will be analyzed in order differentiate different forms which regionalism is undertaken.

Expected learning outcomes: Students to understand different perspectives of regional formation as well as different forms of regionalism and their variations.

Readings and activities:
- Short student based discussion on what regions may or may not be and if there is anything ‘naturally’ inherent to what makes or defines a region.

Regionalism and Theories of Regionalism

Topic description: This week students will continue with the previous topic what regionalism and further the discussion on understanding regions through different theoretical frameworks of international relations theory as applied to regions rather than general international relations issues.

Expected learning outcomes: Students to understand what regionalism is as well as display an understanding of various mainstream theories of international relations applied to regions and regionalism.

Readings and activities:

Security, Regionalism and Regional Institutions

Topic description: This week students will be introduced to security studies within the context of regional frameworks. The differentiation between interests, structures and imperatives between global and regional level security complexes will be analyzed and evaluated.

Expected learning outcomes: Students to understand conceptual and substantive differences between global and regional security governance. To understand and analyze different theoretical frameworks for studying regional security complexes.

Readings and activities:

**Regionalism and Global Governance**

**Topic description:** This week students will be introduced to regionalism within the larger context of global governance and global governance structures. Students will also be introduced to regionalism within Europe.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students to understand regionalism within the framework of global governance. To understand the historical context and current trends in global governance and its effects on regional governance.

**Readings and activities:**

**European Regionalism: The European Union**

**Topic description:** This week students will be introduced to the European Union, its historical context of the post-World War II world its evolution towards a rules based common market and institutions.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students to understand the underpinnings of the European Union and regionalism in the European space. The historical context of European integration and its evolution over time in line with its institutional structures.

**Readings and activities:**

**European Regionalism: EU, NATO, OSCE**

**Topic description:** This week students will continue with the European Union within the context of its security institutions and global governance framework. The European Union’s CFSP and ESDP will be analyzed as well as the complementary frameworks of NATO and the OSCE.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students to understand the complex regional and global convergence of the European Union’s institutions within the context of regional and global security governance structures.

**Readings and activities:**
Asian Regionalism: ASEAN, ASEAN+3, East Asia, SAARC

**Topic description:** This week students will be introduced to Asian regionalism and its different sub-regional institutions of ASEAN, ASEAN +3 and SAARC. The historical and contemporary context of regional development and institutions of sub-regional groupings will be analyzed. The performance, impediments and possible trajectories for regional cooperation will be evaluated.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students to understand the historical underpinnings of sub-regional groupings. To analyze the frameworks of operation of Asian regional organizations and evaluate effectiveness of Asian regional groupings.

**Readings and activities:**

**Latin American Regionalism: Mercosur**

**Topic description:** This week students will be introduced to regionalism in Latin America namely, South America and its regional institution of Mercosur. The process of and historical impediments to regionalism will be analyzed and evaluated.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will be able to analyze and evaluate the historical process and current state of regionalism from economic to security within the framework of Mercosur.

**Readings and activities:**

**African & Middle East Regionalism: African Union, Arab League & GCC**

**Topic description:** This week students will be introduced to regionalism and regional organizations of Africa and the Middle East. Consideration will be paid to the process and structures of regional governance in these two geographically distinct locations. The development and impediments to a broad rules based regional order in both regions will be evaluated.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students to understand the historical development of regional organizations in Africa and the Middle East. To analyze and evaluate the institutions, structures and performance of the African Union, Arab League and Gulf Cooperation Council.

**Readings and activities:**

**Comparative Regionalism and Inter-Regionalism: ASEM, ASEF**

**Topic description:** This week students will be introduced to the study of comparative regionalism from the perspective of inter-regionalism. Focus will be made upon inter-regional cooperation between the European Union and ASEAN namely, the Asia-Europe Meeting and the Asia-Europe Foundation.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students to understand the process, structures and institutions of the bilateral regional cooperation between regional organizations. The progress, tensions and issues which have been displayed through inter-regional dialogue.

**Readings and activities:**

**Sub-regionalism and Microregionalism**

**Topic description:** This week students will be introduced and study regionalism from the sub-regional and microregional perspective. Focus will be paid towards microregionalism in Asia and Europe namely, microregionalism in Southern China and Hong Kong and the European Union’s Regional Policy.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students to understand and identify characteristics, purposes and performance of microregional sub-groupings. To analyze and evaluate from a local perspective microregional groupings and their respective performance.

**Readings and activities:**

**Student Presentations**

**Topic description:** Students will present on a topic of their choosing that has been approved by the lecturer. Students can choose to present from a comparative perspective any the themes, organizations and institutions which have been covered during the course. Students may also choose a regional organization or sub-regional grouping which has not been in the course material from a comparative perspective.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students to gather, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information related to regional groupings and present this in an organized, coherent and compelling manner. Students will work in groups and participate equally.

**Readings and activities:**