



Mahidol University
International College

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

Topic No.	Topic
1	The study of regions and regionalism
	Theories of regionalism
2	Theories of regionalism
	Ideational Formation of the Region and Regionalism
3	Security and Regionalism
	Comparative Regional Institutions
4	Regionalism and Global Governance
	Regionalism and Global Governance
5	European Regionalism: European Union
	European Regionalism: European Union
6	European Regionalism: European Union
	European Regionalism: EU, NATO, OSCE
7	Asian Regionalism: ASEAN, ASEAN+3, East Asia, SAARC
	Asian Regionalism: ASEAN, ASEAN+3, East Asia, SAARC
8	Latin American Regionalism: Mercosur
	Latin American Regionalism: Mercosur
9	African & Middle East Regionalism: African Union, Arab League & GCC
	African & Middle East Regionalism: African Union, Arab League & GCC
10	Comparative Regionalism and Inter-Regionalism: ASEM, ASEF
	Comparative Regionalism and Inter-Regionalism: ASEM, ASEF
11	Sub-regionalism and Microregionalism
	Sub-regionalism and Microregionalism
12	Presentations
	Presentations

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 to 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:

- Amitav, A. (2002). Regionalism and the Emerging World Order: Sovereignty, Autonomy, Identity. In Breslin, S. et. al. (eds.) *New Regionalisms in the Global Political Economy* (pp. 20-32). New York: Routledge.
- Breslin, S., Higgott, R., & Rosamond, B. (2002). Regions in Comparative Perspective. In Breslin, S. et. al. (eds.) *New Regionalisms in the Global Political Economy* (pp. 1-19). New York: Routledge.
- 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:

- De Lombaerde, P., & Langenhove, L. V. (2006). Indicators of Regional Integration: Conceptual and Methodological Aspects. In De Lombaerde, P. (ed.) *Assessment and Measurement of Regional Integration* (pp. 9-41). New York: Routledge.
- Hettne, B., & Söderbaum, F. (2002). Theorising the Rise of Regionness. In Breslin, S. et. al. (eds.) *New Regionalisms in the Global Political Economy* (pp. 33-47). New York: Routledge.

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:

- Buzan, B. & Wæver, O. (2003). Security Complexes: A Theory of Regional Security. In Buzan, B. & Wæver, O. *Regions and Powers The Structure of International Security* (pp. 40-93). New York: Cambridge UP.

- Frazier, D. & Stewart-Ingersoll, R. (2010). Regional Powers and Security: A Framework for Understanding Order Within regional Security Complexes. *European Journal of International Relations*. 16(4), 731-753.

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:

- Gheciu, A. (2008). *Securing Civilization? The EU, NATO, and the OSCE in the Post-9/11 World*. (pp. 39-78). Oxford: Oxford UP.
- Hettne, B. (2005). Regionalism and World Order. In Farrell, M. et. al. (eds.) *Global Politics of Regionalism: Theory and Practice* (pp. 269-286). Ann Arbor: Pluto Press.

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:

- Archer, C. (2008). *The European Union* (pp. 19-58). London: Routledge.
- Zielonka, J. (2006). Europe as Empire: The Nature of the Enlarged European Union (pp. 140-163). Oxford: Oxford UP.

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:

- Giegerich, B. (2007). European Positions and American Responses: ESDP–NATO Compatibility. In Casarini, N. & Musu, C. (eds.) *European Foreign Policy in an Evolving International System The Road Towards Convergence* (pp. 43-56). New York: Palgrave.
- Luif, P. & Radeva, M. (2007). EU Co-ordination in International Organizations: The Case of the United Nations General Assembly and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. In Casarini, N. & Musu, C. (eds.) *European Foreign Policy in an Evolving International System The Road Towards Convergence* (pp. 27-42). New York: Palgrave.

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:

- Beeson, M. (2009). *Institutions of the Asia-Pacific: ASEAN, APEC, and beyond* (pp. 17-36). New York: Routledge.
- Chakma, B. (2018). SAARC and Region-building: Is South Asia a Region?, *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region*. 14(2), 189-205.
- Terada, T. (2003) Constructing an 'East Asian' Concept and Growing Regional Identity: from EAEC to ASEAN+3. *The Pacific Review*. 16(2), 251-277.

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:

- Dominguez, J. I. (2007). International Cooperation in Latin America: The Design of Regional Institutions by Slow Accretion. In Acharya, A. & Johnston, A. I. *Crafting Cooperation: Regional International Institutions in Comparative Perspective* (pp. 83-128). New York: Cambridge UP.
- Oelsner, Andrea (2009) Consensus and Governance in Mercosur: The Evolution of the South American Security Agenda. *Security Dialogue*. 40(2), 191-212.

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:

- Barnett, M. & Solingen, E. (2007). Designed to Fail or Failure of Design? The Origins and Legacy of the Arab League. In Acharya, A. & Johnston, A. I. *Crafting Cooperation: Regional International Institutions in Comparative Perspective* (pp. 180-220). New York: Cambridge UP.

- Herbst, J. (2007). Crafting Regional Cooperation in Africa. In Acharya, A. & Johnston, A. I. *Crafting Cooperation: Regional International Institutions in Comparative Perspective* (pp. 129-144). New York: Cambridge UP.
- Makinda, S. M. & F. Okumu, W. (2008). The African Union: Challenges of Globalization, Security, and Governance (pp. 28-57). Oxford: Oxford UP.

Comparative Regionalism and Inter-Regionalism: ASEM, ASEP

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:

- Gaens, B. (2008). ASEM as a Tool to “Bridge the Cultural Divide”. Gaens, B. (ed.) In Europe-Asia Interregional Relations: A Decade of ASEM (pp. 85-100). England: Ashgate.
- Hwee, Y. L. (2008). The Origins and Development of ASEM and EU–East Asia Relations In Murray, P. (ed.) *Europe and Asia: Regions in Flux* (pp. 102-121). New York: Palgrave.

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:

- Sasuga, K. (2002). Microregionalization across Southern China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In Breslin, S. & Hook, G. D. (eds.) *Microregionalism and World Order* (pp. 66-94). New York: Palgrave.
- Dunford, M. (2006). Regions and Economic Development. In Le Galès, P. & Lequesne, C. (eds.) *Regions in Europe* (pp. 68-84). New York: Routledge.

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: