

## New Course SP2025UP494KS

### International Institutions and the Global Governance of Local Urban Conflicts

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Mixed level seniors and graduates will learn key concepts, methods and skills for constructivist or socio-legal approaches to evaluating how international institutions govern conflicts in an emerging multi polar capitalist world order. We frame international institutions as outcomes of historical struggles between dominant and subordinated, state and non-state actors and their allies to regulate the resistance practices of excluded social movements across multiple scales. We focus on the relevance of international conventions and especially human rights discourses, institutionalized in the post WW2 uni-polar world order, to articulate an ethic of global justice. We use a critical story mapping methodology to map the range of responses arising from seismic shifts to an emerging multi-polar world order. Practically, students identify a specific rights-based conflict as a course-long case study to map whether and how resistance practices challenge and change international institutions and rights to develop more collaborative and democratic practices across global divides.

### Course Objectives

After taking this course, you will be able to understand how:

- international institutions shape our emerging multi-polar world capitalist order
- international conventions and human rights discourses are shape and shaped by resistance movements "from below"
- critical and creative storytelling practices make legible the counter legalities of subordinated actors
- collective resistance practices challenge bureaucratic decision-making processes
- multimedia ArGIS story maps make visible pathways to democratic governance

### Course Structure

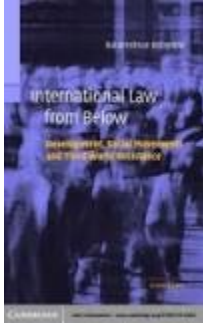
This **3 credit** course proceeds over **16 weeks via 8 content modules**. You should dedicate approximately **6–8 hours per week** to work on course content and for more information please see the policies page.

#### Modules

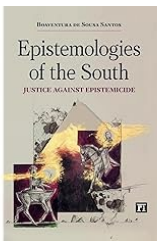
- 0 Welcome, course context, learning expectations, and self-introductions.
- 1 Framing concepts and critical storytelling methodology to create ArcGIS story map course project
- 2 BRICS +, global south cooperation and governance in an emerging multi-polar world order
- 3 International Law, Resistance "from below" and Institutionalization

- 4 Resistance "from below" , social movements and remaking/decolonizing human rights .
- 5 Case studies on resistance, remaking rights and regulating emancipatory struggles
- 6 Case studies on resistance, remaking rights and struggles of social movements continued
- 7 Project presentations and peer reviews
- 8 Final projects and evaluation

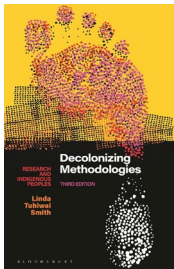
## Required Texts



Balakrishnan Rajagopal 2003 *International Law from Below Development, Social Movements and Third World Resistance* Cambridge UP



Boa Santos 2014 *Law and Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide* Routledge



Linda Tuhiwai Smith *Decolonizing Methodologies Research and Indigenous Peoples* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)

Video lectures and links to required readings (with \* for grads) are available for each module

### Course Components:

This course comprises 8 modules each with following components:

Module Overviews

Each module begins with an overview of key concepts, learning goals, readings and lesson activities with assignment due dates.

### Readings and Lessons

Each module will contain a reading list and recorded lessons that summarize key topics and do not include all important information from the readings.

### Discussions

The discussion forums are a ripe place to engage with one another as you wrestle with the content covered in the week. In Modules 1–6, several students will act as “presenters” by posting questions related to the module content to the rest of the class. The rest of the class will act as “responders” by responding to the questions for that week. As the discussions evolve, both presenters and responders will contribute their thoughts to the threads that interest them.

### Discussion Journals

For Modules 1–6, students will write journal entries to reflect on insights gleaned from participating in group discussions on questions that they and peers request for clarity. Graded activities include presenting and responding to questions and reflecting on the learning process during discussions.

### Project

Students will use the critical storytelling methodology to create an ArcGIS digital story map analyzing key sites site of struggles to move beyond liberal decisions of international institutions. In preparation, students will write four 1000/500-word project journals as steps towards creating a narrative and historical timeline of past events that shaped a present urban conflict of your choice. Project journals will 1) propose a present urban conflict for further study; 2) identify different historical archives of the conflict; 3) identify different acts of remembering struggles against liberal framings of international HR practices and institutions 4) write a manifesto for emerging anti-liberal HR framing actons. All students will present and review peer projects before submitting the final story map and manifesto.

### Accommodations

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students should contact both the instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. You can contact DRES at 1207 S. Oak Street, Champaign, (217) 333-1970, or via email at [disability@illinois.edu](mailto:disability@illinois.edu).

### Grading Distribution

Module	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	Total
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Discussions	5	5	5	5	5	5	NA		25
Discussion Journals	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	NA	25
Project Journals		5	5	5	NA		20	15	50
Module Total	10	15	15	15	10	10	10	15	100

We will drop the lowest grade for discussions and discussion journals.

### Grading scale

Percentage Letter Grade

97-100 A+

94-96.5 A

90-93.5 A-

87-89.5 B+

84-86.5 B

80-83.5 B-

77-79.5 C+

74-76.5 C

70-73.5 C-

67-69.5 D+

64-66.5 D

60-63.5 D-

Below 59.5 F