This seminar will focus on three topics currently being debated by international relations scholars. The first – sovereignty and weak states – addresses, among other questions, why new weak states, like South Sudan, continue to be created despite decades of evidence suggesting such polities face tremendous economic, social and political challenges. The second topic – capital mobility, state autonomy and cooperation – considers the impact of international finance on the ability of governments to meet internal and external policy goals. One key question concerns the extent to which international cooperation has succeeded in curtailing tax evasion, inequality and other unwanted phenomena associated with high levels of capital mobility. The final topic – transnational soft law – is about the origins, definition, nature and effects of informal rules, standards and guidelines developed in “clubs” comprised of official representatives of countries, international organizations (such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and private bodies (such as the Forest Stewardship Council). Core questions include whether transnational soft law should be understood as global regulation, international law, a backlash against globalization or a form of international cooperation that sustains the international economy.

**Readings:**
The following required books are available at the bookstore.


The other readings are available electronically on the class Blackboard website.

**Course Requirements and Assignments:**
Undergraduate students: The tests will cover content from the readings, discussions and other material covered in class. The final paper will require some independent research. The participation grade will be based on the quality of in-class contributions, including presentations and responses to questions posed by the professor on a random basis. Students must be prepared to discuss assigned readings.

1) Three In-Class Tests (45%): **February 11, March 18 and April 15**
2) Analytical Essay, 4-6 pages (15%)
3) Final Paper, 8-12 pages (20%): **April 27 by 5pm**
4) Participation (20%)

I reserve the right to lower overall grades for three or more unexcused absences. Excused absences require prior consultation and/or a doctor’s note upon the professor’s request.

Graduate students: Students must attend sessions, participate in discussions, do assignments and take the three undergraduate tests. While failure to meet these requirements will result in a penalty, graduate student grades will be based primarily on the quality of a research paper. A proposal with a preliminary bibliography is due on March 30, but students must consult with me beforehand. The final paper is due on April 27 by 5pm.

**Course Policies:**
All graded work must be completed in accordance with the Case Academic Integrity Standards.

Unexcused absences from exams will be penalized.

Please feel free to drop in during my office hours. I encourage all students in this course to do so, especially individuals with disabilities who are registered with the Coordinator of Disability Services (368-5230) and may need individual arrangements. I am happy to make appointments for students with scheduling conflicts. I prefer to interact with students in person and am able to respond only to short email messages about appointments, absences and the like. If you send a message, please put the course number in the subject heading (i.e. “POSC 390”).
**Topics and Reading Assignments:**

**Week 1 (1/12 & 1/14): Introduction & Some Essentials of IR Theory**
The reading for 1/14 will depend on the backgrounds of enrolled students.

**Week 2 (1/21): Sovereignty, Weak States and the Case of South Sudan**
***No Class 1/19: MLK Day***

Using John Prendergast’s blog, “Enough,” and other sources report on arguments made in the US for South Sudanese independence.

**Week 3 (1/26 & 1/28): Puzzles, Problems and Solutions**

**Week 4 (2/2 & 2/4): Recent Research on Limited Statehood**
Week 5 (2/9 & 2/11): Sovereignty and Weak States
*** First Test, 2/11 ***

Week 6 (2/16 & 2/18): Capital Mobility and the International Political Economy

What do statistics tell us about current capital mobility trends?

Week 7 (2/23 & 2/25): Academic Debates

Week 8 (3/2): Tax Havens
*** No Class 3/4 ***

Spring Break: 3/9 & 3/11
Week 9 (3/16 & 3/18): Capital Mobility
*** Second Test, 3/18 ***

Week 10 (3/23 & 3/25): The Emergence of Transnational Soft Law

Reports on international soft law developed by national officials, civil society groups and firms.

Week 11 (3/30 & 4/1): What does soft law do?
Abraham L Newman and Elliot Posner, sample from current book project.

Week 12 (4/6 & 4/8): The Case of Global Financial Regulation
Other readings to be announced.

Week 13 (4/13 & 4/15): Transnational Soft Law
*** Third Test, 4/15 ***


Week 15 (4/27): A final discussion
*** Final Paper due, 5pm ***