

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
POLI 3321.1
2011-2012

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Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays
9:00am to 12:00pm

Classroom: McNally Main 201

Class Time: Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30pm to 3:45pm

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the concept of international organization. It will focus on the tensions between emerging forms of global governance and existing structures of inter-governmentalism. The course explores current trends and debates within organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and may examine areas such as peace and security, human rights, gender, economic development, environmental protection, and civil society.

COURSE SUMMARY

International organizations (IOs) often seem caught between two political worlds that have been well captured by the course of recent international events such as the rebellion in Libya, the humanitarian crisis in East Africa or the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On the one hand, IOs are the creations of governments. For many, this means that IOs are above all frameworks created by governments to coordinate efforts to address international issues and problems. From this perspective, IOs have no autonomy or political power other than what states, most notably the most powerful among them, are willing to grant or authorize. IOs then merely reflect the play of 'inter-state power politics' and will always be held hostage by the interests of the most powerful governments. Their poor record of success at defending universal human rights and implementing international norms on gender equality, economic development or environmental protection is held as evidence that they are at best failed utopian dreams, or at worst tools of an imperial world order in service of Western civilization and its economic and political privileges. For others however, the daily work of IOs suggests a different picture. Increasingly, IOs are becoming the central political nodes for complex patterns and networks of 'global governance'. From this perspective, IOs help to create, monitor, and at times, enforce important international norms and rules which subsequently shape and guide the policy decisions of national governments in multiple issue areas that require global governmental coordination such as the environment, the economy, human rights, as well as other policy sectors which were previously left to national governments. On this account, IOs embody emerging transnational or even universal norms which reflect the evolving political, social, technological, and economic integration of our contemporary globalized world. While always imperfect, as any large governmental body might be, those who adhere to this latter position consider IOs as essential political and governance tools to the work of advancing the cause of humanity's progress.

This course will revolve around these opposing worldviews. **Are international organizations components of an emerging network of global governance, or are they at the mercy of national government interests, notably those of the most powerful?** Rather than examine a range of IOs, which risks being too superficial given our time constraints, our course will examine the above question by exploring the key areas of work of the United Nations. Not only is the UN the premier IO of contemporary global politics, it also embodies in unique ways the tension between the two worldviews briefly described above, a tension which seems only to have intensified in recent years.

PEDAGOGY

This course is comprised of two main components: lectures and student participation. The lectures will address the themes in the program found below. Student participation will be based on attendance, informal class discussions and reading the course material. Students are asked to bring in class their required readings. In addition to lectures and student participation, the course pedagogy will include documentaries where time permits.

REQUIRED READINGS

Mandatory weekly readings complement and complete the content of the lectures and constitute, along with your personal notes the basis for the final take-home exam. It is imperative, therefore, that a strict reading schedule be maintained throughout the semester in order to succeed in this course. The mandatory readings are comprised of the following:

- Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws (eds), *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Electronic readings posted on Blackboard under poli 3321.1.

In view of completing the content of the course, students are encouraged to explore:

- The Global Policy Forum website (www.globalpolicy.org)
- Security Council Report (www.securitycouncilreport.org),
- International Crisis Group (<http://www.crisisgroup.org/>)
- The International Studies Compendium (excellent source of current scholarly articles) (<http://www.isacompendium.com/subscriber/uid=3977/online?authstatuscode=202>)

These sites offer a wide array of news articles, reports, and academic pieces with a particular focus on UN related topics and international relations. Students are also encouraged to subscribe to the UN News Service <http://www.un.org/news/>. Finally, several online academic journals accessible through the Patrick Power Library offer specialized articles on world affairs, the UN, and UN related issues. All of the above are crucial sources for the research paper described below.

EXAMPLES OF ONLINE ACADEMIC JOURNALS:

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| Alternatives: Global, Local, Political Cambridge Review of International Affairs Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies Ethics and International Affairs European Journal of International Relations Global Environmental Politics Global Governance Global Society Globalizations International Affairs International Feminist Journal of Politics International Organization International Security International Studies Perspectives | Interventions: The International Journal of Post-Colonial Studies Journal of International Affairs Millennium: Journal of International Studies New Political Economy Peacekeeping and International Relations Security Studies Security Dialogue Journal of International Relations and Development The Review of International Affairs Third World Quarterly UN Chronicle World Affairs |
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EVALUATION: (See page 33-34 of the Academic Calendar for the undergraduate rating table.)

- 1) **Two text summaries: 5% X 3= 15%** (instructions for the text summaries, along with due dates, will be provided).

- 2) **Attendance: 5%.** The attendance mark is meant to reward physical presence. An attendance sheet will be distributed at every class. Failure to sign the attendance sheet will result in the mark of zero for that session. The attendance mark is calculated based on the total number of sessions per semester. For example, a record of attendance of 19 of 21 sessions equals 4.5/5 (A+) while a record of attendance of 15/21 equals 3.5/5 (C+).
- 3) **Final take-home exam: 30%.** The format of the take-home exam is essay style. The essay should be typed, double spaced, and **maximum 5 pages in length (12 pt font, 1 inch margins. Approximately 1,500 words)**. The essay must integrate the course material (i.e. the lecture notes, course readings (textbook and electronic readings), slides, and handouts). If necessary, you may use non-course material to complete your essay. **However, any such material should be used only in addition to the course material and should be added to a reference list at the end of your essay.** Essays will be evaluated based on **form** (20%) (grammar, syntax, and presentation), **content** (40%) (use of course material), and **analysis** (40%) (nuance, balance, and critical assessment). The essay questions will be distributed on **Wednesday, November 30th**. Two questions will be provided, students will answer one. **The due date is Wednesday, December 7th.**
- 4) **Research proposal (15%) and Research Paper (35%):**
The purpose of the *research proposal* is to prepare a plan of a proposed *research paper*. It is important to note that the research paper **is not** an essay. Contrary to an essay, which tends to begin with an argument and then draws from scholarly literature to support and defend its position, a *research paper* begins with a review and an evaluation of the scholarly literature on a given topic. The *argument* of a research paper is based on the author's evaluation of this scholarly literature rather than on a preformed *opinion* on the topic as is often the case with an essay.

Research Proposal DUE DATE: Wednesday, October 5th.

The research proposal will include the following three sections:

Section 1: Title: The title of your proposed research paper is very important and should not be considered as secondary. It should be clearly related to the topic and should be seen as a short and succinct statement summarizing the topic of the proposed research. The use of subtitles separated by a colon such as "The Rise of UN 'Peacebuilding' Operations: Asserting the West's Global Presence in Post-Conflict Zones" is strongly encouraged.

Section 2: Topic: (minimum 500-700 words): The objective of this section is to describe the topic of your proposed research paper.

- The topic should be related to the UN's work (e.g. peacekeeping/ peacebuilding, sustainable development, humanitarian intervention, the struggle for gender equality, human rights, global environmental governance, or civil society).
- The description of your topic should **start with the general context** of your proposed research (e.g. UN sponsored international environmental regimes) and **move towards the more specific area of analysis** (e.g. the Biosafety Protocol). It is essential that the topic be sufficiently narrowed otherwise the area of research will be too broad and unmanageable for a paper of 10 pages in length.

- Reference the sources you have used to describe your topic and list such sources in the reference list (see section 3 below).
- Finally, the description of the topic **must also contain your proposed research question** (e.g. “Is the Biosafety Protocol a clear endorsement of the precautionary principle as it pertains to international trade in genetically modified organisms (GMOs)?”).
- Sources used in developing the topic should be properly referenced.
- Students are strongly encouraged to begin their research by consulting the textbook and the International Studies Compendium for academic sources.
(<http://www.isacompendium.com/subscriber/uid=3977/online?authstatuscode=20>)

2)

Section 3: Reference list: minimum of 7 separate and credible scholarly sources for the proposal.

- Bibliographical information must be complete and presented in an appropriate format.
- The Department of Political Science has recently adopted a new Style Guide. This Style Guide must be used for this assignment. It is available electronically at the Writing Center under the section ‘Handouts’:
(http://www.smu.ca/academic/writingcentre/documents/PoliticalScienceHandbook_Mar07.pdf)
- Internet sources are essential for current information but **must be** supplemented with other academic sources (books, academic journal articles, government documents and reports). General reference sources (Wikipedia, Oxford English Dictionary, Political Science Dictionaries, Encyclopedia Britannica) can be used to gain general knowledge on the topic **but cannot be listed among the minimum 7 sources** in your bibliography.

NOTE: We will have an in-class discussion on possible research topics on **Monday, September 12th**. Please come to class prepared to discuss possible topics. For ideas, first consult the textbook and then review the Global Policy Forum, International Crisis Group and Security Council Report websites listed above.

5) **Research paper (35%): DUE DATE: Wednesday, November 17th.**

The research paper will build and elaborate on the topic selected for the proposal with appropriate consideration for any changes recommended by the professor.

- The paper should be approximately 10 pages in length, double-spaced, and typed (12 pt. Font, 1 inch margins), and must include an introduction, body, conclusion, and list of references.
- **The ultimate objective of the paper is to provide an answer to the research question found in your research proposal.** This answer will be based on your assessment of all the information and literature on your topic that you have gathered and read. This answer should be clearly formulated in the introduction of your final paper as an argument or thesis statement (e.g. “this paper will show[...]” or “this paper argues that while the precautionary principle informs the Biosafety Protocol’s

overall approach, according to the analyses gathered for this research paper its use is limited by the narrowness of the Protocol itself”).

- **A version of the original question** in your research proposal (e.g. “Is the Biosafety Protocol a clear endorsement of the precautionary principle as it pertains to international trade in genetically modified organisms (GMOs)?”) should precede the thesis statement. Note that the question can be amended in the final research paper.
- Ensure that all quotations are properly referenced with the necessary bibliographical information.
- Clearly demarcate the introduction, sections of the body, and conclusion by using **headings**. The introduction should be approximately 1 to 1 ¼ pages, and the conclusion should be approximately 1 page.
- A paper of 8 to 10 pages should contain **no more than 4 main sections** separated by headings within the body of the paper.
- The conclusion should **summarize the overall findings** of your research paper rather than propose new areas of analysis or provide musings or prescriptions for future action.
- The Department of Political Science has recently adopted a new Style Guide. **This Style Guide must be used for this assignment**. It is available electronically at the Writing Center under the section ‘Handouts’:
(http://www.smu.ca/academic/writingcentre/documents/PoliticalScienceHandbook_Mar07.pdf)
- A minimum of **10 separate and credible scholarly sources** should be used for your written report.
- Papers will be evaluated based on **form** (20%) (grammar, syntax, and presentation), **content** (40%) (use of relevant, original, and current material drawn from academic sources), and **analysis** (40%) (nuance, balance, and critical assessment).
- **PLEASE NOTE:** the original graded research proposal with the professor’s comments must be annexed to the final research paper.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

Before submitting your research proposal and final research paper use the following guidelines in order to verify your written work:

1. Reread the assignment in order to check for **clarity** (do I need to explain this part in more detail?) and **continuity** (does one paragraph/ section lead to the next?).
2. Use sources to **support key elements** in your analysis. Your analysis must be supported by sources in order to show evidence of strong research.
3. **Do not let quotations do the work for you.** Always follow textual quotes with one or two sentences explaining in your own words what is being said in the quotation.
4. Quotations that are longer than 4 lines must be presented with the margins indented.
5. There must be continuity between quotations and your text. In other words, the quotation must flow with and be tied to the discussion presented in your text.
6. Avoid colloquialisms and informal writing styles, e.g. ‘Ban Ki-moon is awesome’
7. **CLOSELY**, proofread your paper to eliminate all typographical or grammatical errors and then proofread it again.
8. Provide a title page with your name, student number, and title of your paper (See p. 24 of the Political Science Style guide noted above).
9. **Attach the original graded proposal with the professor’s comments to your research paper.**
10. Quotations and paraphrasing **must** be properly cited with the necessary references.
11. Verify that the reference list contains all bibliographical information. **See page 17-23 of the Style Guide.**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

- 1) All non-justified lateness for written work will be penalized by 5% per working day. A justified lateness includes, among others, sickness, death in the family or an exceptional schedule conflict. The student must inform the professor of the lateness before the due date and will have to provide an official written justification with the late work.
- 2) Electronic copies of written work will not be accepted.
- 3) Students are expected to read the assigned readings and attend class on a regular basis.

ACADEMIC FRAUD AND PLAGIARISM

Students found to have committed an act of fraud or plagiarism will automatically, and without consultation, receive an ‘F’ on the assignment. A copy of an Incident Report Form will be sent to the student, the chairperson of the department, the Dean and the Registrar as per University regulations. Each student must be aware of what constitutes academic offenses under the University’s regulations. The 2011-2012 Academic Calendar provides the following definitions of plagiarism, cheating, falsification and tampering under ‘Academic Integrity and Student Responsibility’ on pages 21 and 22.

| Plagiarism | Cheating | Falsification | Tampering |
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| <p>“The presentation of words, ideas or techniques of another as one’s own. Plagiarism is not restricted to literary works and applies to all forms of information or ideas that belong to another (e.g., computer programs, mathematical solutions, scientific experiments, graphical images, or data)”.</p> <p>Examples of plagiarism include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing text without proper acknowledgment; • paraphrasing too closely (e.g., changing only a few words or simply rearranging the text); • downloading all or part of a paper, journal article, or book from the Internet or a library database and presenting it as one’s own work; • purchasing documentation and presenting it as one’s own work; • sharing papers including the selling of essays, tests, or other assignments. | <p>“The attempt to secure a grade by unethical means. Knowingly assisting someone to cheat is itself cheating”.</p> <p>Examples of cheating include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impersonating someone during a test or exam; • copying or sharing information during a test or exam; • using or possessing unauthorized materials (e.g., notes, books, calculators) during a test or exam; • obtaining or looking at a copy of a test or exam before it is administered; • improper use of technology (e.g., Personal Digital Assistants to store and retrieve information during an exam); • unauthorized use of communication technology (eg: cell phones, pagers, Blackberries, etc); • unauthorized collaboration between students when individual work is required. • submitting the same work for credit in more than one course without | <p>“It is an offence to falsify any academic record or to use a falsified record”.</p> <p>Examples of falsification include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • submitting a false excuse for missing a class, exam, etc. (e.g., forging a medical or death certificate); • falsifying course work (e.g., altering or making up data, using fake citations in a bibliography); • changing the answers on a returned assignment and resubmitting it to be reevaluated; • submitting false information on a university admission form or other documentation; • misrepresentation of knowledge of a language by providing inaccurate or incomplete information about one’s linguistic educational history; • non-disclosure of previous post-secondary enrolment; presentation of another’s credentials as one’s own. | <p>“It is an offence to tamper with University library materials or computer system resources in any way which would deprive others of their use”.</p> <p>Examples of tampering include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • destroying, hiding, or stealing library materials; • altering or destroying university computer programs or files without authorization; • accessing and altering official records without authorization. |

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| | the permission of the instructors involved; | | |
| <p>“Assisting someone in the commission of dishonest behavior is an offence subject to penalty”, <i>Academic Calendar, 2011-2012, p.22.</i></p> | | | |

COURSE PROGRAM AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

TB indicates a textbook reading.

BB indicates an electronic reading posted on Blackboard.

PLEASE NOTE: The dates indicated for each sub-section are approximate. They should be used to help organize your reading schedule. The actual progression of the course may not coincide with the dates provided.

| DATES | THEMES AND READINGS |
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| Sept. 8 | Classes begin. Distribution of course outlines, description of the course evaluation, expectations and schedules. |
| Sept. 12 | In class discussion on possible research paper topics. Please come prepared to discuss possible topics. Refer to section 4 and 5 of the course evaluation above for information regarding the research proposal and research paper. |
| 1.0) Introduction: Theories of International Organizations | |
| Sept. 14-19 | <p>1.1) Contending approaches in the study of IOs</p> <p>TB ‘Charter of the United Nations’, Preamble, Chap I, II, V, VI, and VII. NOTE: The UN Charter is reproduced as appendix 3 in the textbook, pp. 736-755.</p> <p>TB Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, ‘Political Approaches’, Chap. 2.</p> <p>TB José E. Alvarez, ‘Legal Perspectives’, Chap. 3.</p> |
| 2.0) The Evolution of International Peace and Security | |
| Sept. 21-28 | <p>2.1) From ‘Peacekeeping’ to ‘Peacebuilding’ to ‘Peacemaking’: the UN and conflict</p> <p>TB David M. Malone, ‘Security Council’, Chap. 6</p> <p>TB Ramesh Thakur, ‘Humanitarian Intervention’, Chap. 22</p> <p>TB Roland Paris, ‘Post-Conflict Peacebuilding’, Chap. 23</p> <p>NOTE: Section V of the textbook also contains other relevant additional readings for this section.</p> |

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| <p>Oct.3-5 NOTE: no classes on Monday, Oct. 10.</p> | <p>2.2) Documentary: “The Peacekeepers” Paul Cowen Director (83 minutes)</p> |
| <p>3.0) Human Rights and Humanitarianism</p> | |
| <p>Oct. 12-19</p> | <p>3.1) From the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) to the new Human Rights Council and the ICC</p> <p>TB Bertrand G. Ramcharan, ‘Norms and Machinery’, Chap. 25.</p> <p>TB Richard Goldstone, ‘International Criminal Court and Ad Hoc Tribunals’, Chap. 26.</p> <p>BB Smith, Adam M. "International Organizations and Criminal Justice." <i>The International Studies Encyclopedia</i>. 2010.</p> <p>NOTE: Section VI of the textbook also contains other relevant additional readings for this section.</p> |
| <p>Oct. 24</p> | <p>3.2) Documentary: ‘On our Watch: The World said “Never Again!” Then Came Darfur’, CBC and PBS Frontline (60 minutes).</p> |
| <p>4.0) The UN and ‘Development’</p> | |
| <p>Oct.26-Nov. 9</p> | <p>4.1) From economic development to sustainable development and human development</p> <p>TB Ngaire Woods, ‘Bretton Woods Institutions’, Chap. 13</p> <p>TB Richard Jolly, ‘Human Development’, Chap. 37</p> <p>BB Nelson, Paul. "The Millennium Development Goals and the Politics of Global Poverty." <i>The International Studies Encyclopedia</i>. 2010.</p> <p>NOTE: Section VII of the textbook also contains other relevant additional readings for this section.</p> |
| <p>5.0) The UN and ‘non-state actors’: global governance as a network of political actors</p> | |
| <p>Nov.14-21</p> | <p>5.1) Civil society and the private sector</p> <p>TB Paul Wapner, ‘Civil Society’, Chap. 14</p> <p>TB Craig N. Murphy, ‘Private Sector’, Chap. 15</p> |

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| | <p>BB Chadwick Alger, 'The Emerging Roles of NGOs in the UN System: From Article 71 to a People's Millennium Assembly', <i>Global Governance</i>, Vol. 8 (2002), pp.93-117.</p> |
| <p>6.0) The UN and the Environment</p> | |
| <p>Nov. 23-28</p> | <p>6.1) The crashing 'waves' of environmental protection?</p> <p>TB Nico Schrijver, 'Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development', Chap. 34.</p> <p>BB Elizabeth R. DeSombres, <i>Global Environmental Institutions</i> (New York : Routledge, 2006), pp.97-128.</p> <p>BB Pamela S. Chasek, David L. Downie and Janet Welsh Brown, <i>Global Environmental Politics, 5th edition</i> (Boulder CO.: Westview Press, 2010), pp.163-202.</p> |
| <p>Nov. 30</p> | <p>Review for the final take-home exam and distribution of exam questions.</p> |