

INTL 4240: International Organizations / SP 05

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Prerequisite: INTL 3200 or 3300.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the role of international organizations in overcoming obstacles to international cooperation. The first segment of the course provides a general overview of international organizations. Topics addressed include theoretical approaches, historical development, and decision-making processes. The second part of the course focuses on the roles of international organizations in the key issue areas of security, economy, the environment, and social welfare. The final segment of the course is future-oriented and seeks to outline alternative visions for the roles of international organizations in an increasingly interdependent world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Materials

1. Pease, Kelly-Kate. 2003. *International Organizations: Perspectives on Governance in the Twenty-First Century*. 2nd ed. Prentice-Hall.
2. UGA Library Electronic Reserves. Link: <http://gil.uga.edu>
3. Students are asked to subscribe (for free) to the daily e-mail editions of the Christian Science Monitor at http://www.csmonitor.com/aboutus/e_subscribe.html (see “Headline News Service”). Please read news concerning international organizations from the “Page One,” “World,” and “News in Brief” sections of the paper.

Student Initiative

Students should be alerted to the obvious fact that it will not be easy to summarize the complexity of the international organizations in terms of a few concepts and theories. Students should acquire the habit of regularly reading national newspapers. It is important that students **read assigned materials thoughtfully and thoroughly** and that they **attend classes regularly**, since class time will be primarily devoted to the exploration and integration of assigned readings.

Examinations

There will be two exams based on lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions. The exams will require students to demonstrate a detailed grasp of the material covered. A description of the exam format will be given prior to the exam dates.

Term Project

Guidelines, assignments, deadlines, and criteria of evaluation are outlined at the end of the syllabus.

Participation and Quizzes

Participation in class is essential to success in this course. Two aspects of participation are key. (1) Students must read the assigned class readings in advance critically and in depth, so that they are able to identify the key points of the argument as well as find within them weaknesses and controversies. During a typical class session, students will be expected to clarify the readings and answer questions about them. To help ensure that students are reading the assigned materials, there will be a series of short quizzes, some of which will be unannounced. (2) At the beginning of each class session, students should bring up current events relating to international organizations. Be prepared to summarize and explain the relevance of news stories to class materials. Frequent and thoughtful participation will be rewarded when determining the final grade at the instructor's discretion.

Attendance

Each student starts out with 100 attendance points. Unexcused absences beyond the third one will decrease the point total by 15 points. Use the three "freebees" wisely, for family affairs, job interviews, minor health problems, religious observances, etc. but not on the days when assignments are due; an absence on the due date does not mean that you can make the assignment up. Absences will be excused only in cases of serious health or family emergencies and appropriate documentation will be required. Please note that excessive excused or unexcused absences will also hurt your participation grade, because one cannot participate in class discussions if one is not present in class.

Extra Credit

Students may attend lectures that the instructor determines to be pertinent to the course. To receive the extra credit, please turn in a one page, single-spaced, typewritten summary of the lecture. The instructor will announce the lectures and due dates in advance. Late assignments (up to one week) will count for ½ credit. Only three extra credit assignments will count. A perfect extra credit score will boost the student's overall course grade by 3%; partial scores will be prorated.

COURSE RULES

Grading Policy

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Term Project	30%
Participation / Quizzes	5%
Attendance	10%

Class Policies

1. Students are expected to turn in assignments at the beginning of class and take exams on the dates specified. Failure to meet a paper deadline does not exempt a student from fulfilling this requirement. Every assignment must be turned in within one week of the due date in order to pass the course. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the instructor has received the assignment.
2. Exceptions to the above rules are granted at the instructor's discretion, only under circumstances of extreme personal emergency or serious illness. In all instances, appropriate evidentiary documentation will be requested. The excuses must be submitted within one week of the original absence.
3. All academic work must meet the standards contained in UGA's "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves of these standards before conducting any academic work. My academic dishonesty policy is very simple: you will receive a failing grade for the class if you are found cheating on examinations, plagiarizing the work of others or attempting to turn in assignments used in previous classes, along with all other possible infractions noted in the University's policy on academic

dishonesty. Moreover, disciplinary proceedings to dismiss you from the University may be initiated against you. I **will not** tolerate academic dishonesty and assure you that you **will** face the harshest punishment possible if you attempt it.

4. Students may request that the instructor re-read exam answers or papers that they feel have been unfairly evaluated. Requests for re-evaluation must be submitted to the instructor in typewritten form, along with the assignment, within a week after it has been returned to the class. The written statement must provide the specific reasons for reconsidering the grade and the student's assessment of the particular grade the assignment deserves. The assignment will be re-graded and a new grade assigned. Please be aware that the new grade may be higher, the same, or lower than the original grade.

5. The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class may be necessary.

6. All students are expected to complete assigned readings before coming to class and they are expected to discuss and respond to random questioning by the instructor.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. The Origin and Development of International Organizations

- Pease: Chapter 1
- Reserve: Abbott and Snidal, "Why States Act Through Formal ..."

B. Theoretical Approaches to the Study of International Organizations

- Pease: Chapter 2 and pp. 70-84
- Reserve: Moravcsik, "Taking Preference Seriously" (pp. 513-524)

C. Decision-Making in International Organizations

- Reserve: Hoge, "UN Report Urges ..."
- Examples of modern international organizations
 - United Nations www.un.org
 - European Union www.europa.eu.int
 - NATO www.nato.int

II. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MAJOR ISSUE AREAS

A. Security: Collective Security and Arms Control

- Pease: Chapters 5-6
- Reserve: Ziegler, "Collective Security"
- Examples of relevant organizations
 - OAS www.oas.org
 - IAEA www.iaea.org

B. Economy: International Trade and Development

- Pease: Chapters 7-8
- Reserve: Rivera, “After NAFTA”
- Reserve: Bird, “International Monetary Fund...”
- Examples of relevant organizations
 - WTO www.wto.org
 - APEC www.apecsec.org.sg
 - IMF www.imf.org
 - World Bank www.worldbank.org

C. Environmental Issues

- Pease: Chapter 9
- An example of a relevant organization
 - Greenpeace www.greenpeace.org

D. Social Issues: Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance

- Pease: Chapter 10
- Examples of relevant organizations
 - Amnesty International www.amnesty.org
 - UNHCR www.unhcr.ch
 - ICRC (Red Cross) www.icrc.org

III. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE FUTURE

- Pease: Chapter 11

Midterm Exam: first week of March, exact date TBA

Final Exam (tentative date): Tuesday, May 10 at 3:30pm

TERM PROJECT

Overview

You are asked to investigate the involvement of one of the key international organizations in a contemporary problem. The organization’s involvement **must not** deal with North American countries. You will need to get the instructor’s approval before proceeding with your analysis; only approved topics will be graded. The project consists of two parts. In the first part, the students will conduct an oral presentation to the class informing them about the organization. The second part of the project is a written analysis of the organization’s attempts to resolve the issue of interest. Work on both parts of the project will take place within a group consisting of about four students. Individual grades will be determined based on the quality of the group effort and on the group-members’ confidential assessment of each other’s work within the group. Students should note all other relevant rules noted on the syllabus.

International Organization and Problem Selection

Toward the end of January, the instructor will pass around a sign-up sheet so that you can select which international organization you will work on. The deadline for signing up is **Tuesday, February 1**. Once the groups are formed, you will need to decide collectively which contemporary problem you want to tackle. The deadline for approving the topics is **Tuesday, February 22**. Failure to meet either deadline will result in a 10% a day penalty against the class project grade.

Presentation (40% of the project grade)

You are asked to conduct a 25-30 minute presentation in which you will inform the rest of the class about the specific international organization you have signed up for. In your presentation, you should cover the following points:

- (1) purpose of the organization
- (2) brief history
- (3) membership: who belongs?
- (4) decision-making: how does the organization decide which course of action to pursue?
- (5) financing: where do the funds for the organization's operations come from?

Your primary source for information is the organization's web site (listed above). Immediately before the presentation, you will need to turn in a detailed outline of your presentation, which will include the sources the information came from. The presentation dates will be chosen in conjunction with the instructor.

Written Analysis (60% of the project grade)

Length: 6-8 double-spaced pages

Due: **Thursday, April 28**; 10% a day penalty for late assignments

- (1) Describe the problem you have chosen. What key actors are involved (countries, individuals, corporations, groups, etc.)? (1-2 pp.)
- (2) Provide a critical evaluation of the organization's effectiveness in addressing the problem. What is done well? What is done poorly? (2-3 pp.)
- (3) Using the schools of thought discussed in class (liberalism, realism, Marxism), explain why (a) some actions are taken but (b) others – which would arguably help with the problem – are not. (3-5 pp.)
- (4) Include a bibliography (not counted in the page length requirement) with at least three academic sources (other than the assigned readings). Make sure that all facts/ideas reported in the text are properly referenced (please use a parenthetical referencing style such as MLA).

Grading criteria for the assignment:

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|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. objectivity | 4. organization |
| 2. quality of research | 5. writing style and clarity |
| 3. quality of analysis | 6. mechanics and grammar |

Students who have difficulties with rhetoric are encouraged to use the University's resources to help them improve their writing and purchase a writer's manual such as Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*.