

INTL 4240

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Dr. Anne Herbert
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T/Th 11 - 12:15
Poultry Science 240

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Office Hours: Wed., 10:30 - 12:30

Course Description

The focus of this course will be the United Nations system, which encompasses both formal international organizations (such as the UN, the WTO, the WHO, the World Bank and the like) and international treaty regimes created through UN General Assembly initiatives on human rights, development, and the environment. During an introductory overview of the field, we will briefly compare and contrast regional organizations with international organizations; however, the general focus of the course will be on international organizations that are not region specific.

We will study the United Nations system in order to examine the developing phenomenon of “international governance” in international relations. We will ask questions such as: If the UN is not a “world government”, then what functions does the organization serve in international relations? Does the UN Charter function as some type of “constitution” for the world? What did the founders of the UN have in mind for the organization? Were their plans realized? If so, how? If not, why not? In what ways has the UN system developed that no one could have foreseen? Can you imagine international relations in 2008 without the United Nations System?

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

Materials

These are the required texts available for purchase at the campus bookstores:

Paul Kennedy, The Parliament of Man (Random House, 2006)

K. Mingst and M. Karn, The United Nations in the 21st Century (Westview Press, 3rd ed., 2007)

Jeffrey D. Sachs, The End of Poverty (Penguin 2005)

Thomas D. Zweifel, International Organizations and Democracy (Lynne Rienner 2006)

Barnett and Finnemore, Rules for the World (Cornell Univ. Press, 2004)

Selections from the following texts are recommended and will be available for purchase:

A. D’Amato & J. Abbassi, International Law Today: A Handbook (Thomson/West, 2006)

D. J. Bederman, International Law Frameworks (Foundation Press, 2nd ed. 2005)

V. Epps, International Law (Carolina Academic Press, 3rd ed. 2005)

Course Requirements

The class will involve both lecture and discussion. Students who do not volunteer to participate in class discussion can expect to be prompted to do so. Class participation will factor directly into your grade. **You should come to class having already read the assigned reading material for that session.** The exams and participation grade are designed to reward regular attendance and thoughtful participation. My expectations for a student taking this course are that: you regularly attend class prepared for class discussion, stay current with the reading assignments, prepare your organization study over the course of the semester, and regularly read news coverage pertaining to international law and organization.

Things that drive me crazy in class (and, therefore, will not be tolerated):

- 1. Habitual Tardiness.**
- 2. Surfing the web, online chatting etc. during lecture or class discussion.**
- 3. Coming unprepared to class.**

P.S. # 2 REALLY bugs me. I may “unplug” the class if this becomes a problem.

Assignments and Evaluation

The Course Grade will be determined using a point system, with a possible of 400 points. There will be two Exams each worth 20%. You will receive an assignment to prepare a 20 - 25 page research study that will be worth 30%. Class participation will be worth 30%, and will be evaluated in terms of attendance, verbal participation during the report debriefing sessions, and in the completion of one randomly assigned “response essay” on the readings.

The Course Grade will be based on:

1. An Exam scheduled Week 9 (3/4), 80 points or 20% of the course grade.
2. A 20-25 page IO research study due Week 14 (4/10) 120 points or 30% of the course grade.
2. A Final Exam, May 1 (12-2pm), 80 points or 20% of the course grade.
3. Class participation, 120 points or 30% of the grade.

Course Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

A- to A	360 - 400 points
B- to B+	320 - 359 points
C- to C+	280 - 319 points
D- to D+	240 - 279 points
F	below 240

To receive International Affairs major credit for this Course you must receive a “C” grade or higher. A “C-“ grade will not be sufficient to receive International Affairs major credit. There is no possibility of extra credit in the Course to bring up your point total. In case of illness, Make-up Exams will require a doctor’s note from the UGA student medical center. If you have a legitimate conflict (documented school obligation, family/personal crisis) with a test date, you should speak with me at your earliest opportunity

Please Note: All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Plagiarism on essays and cheating on exams will not be tolerated, and will be considered grounds for failing the class.

Office Hours

My office hours are Wednesday, 10:30 - 12:30 by appointment, and other mutually agreeable times if you are not available during these times. Please come see me if you have any questions, comments about the course, or problems with the reading material or assignments. Everyone is required to see me at least once during the semester BEFORE SPRING BREAK to discuss their IO research study.

Email Policies

The best way to contact me is via email at herbert@uga.edu. If you have a general question about the course or the readings, I will address the question in class at the earliest opportunity. If you have specific questions about the lectures and/or readings or any matter concerning the course, you should come to my office hours or schedule an appointment. I will not provide substantive individual replies to emails concerning the course generally, nor will I provide substantive individual replies to emails concerning specific issues you may have regarding the class (i.e. your grade on a particular exam).

Schedule of Assignments

***** Please Note*** Assigned readings should be completed, or well on their way to being completed, at the start of each week.**

WEEK 1

1/8 Welcome Back

1/10 Course Themes and Goals; Briefing of IO research study assignment

Reading for 1/10: M&K, ch.1; begin Kennedy

WEEK 2: The field of International Governance: Regimes, Institutions, and Organizations

1/15 Lecture 1: Overview of field

1/17 Lecture 2: From the League of Nations to the United Nations System

Reading: M&K, ch. 2; Kennedy, ch.1; Zweifel, ch.2

WEEK 3: The United Nations

1/22 Lecture 3: Structure and Philosophy(ies) of the Organization

1/24 Lecture 4: Introduction to the actors in the UN System

Reading: M&K, chs. 2-3; Barnett/Finnemore, ch. 1; Zweifel, chs. 1,3; continue Kennedy

WEEK 4: The United Nations

1/29 Lecture 5: State alliances – Politics & the legitimacy of International Governance

1/31 Lecture 6: NGOs

Reading: M&K, ch. 3, 7; Kennedy, chs. 4-8

WEEK 5: The United Nations

2/5 Lecture 7: UN Bureaucracies and Secretariat Staff

2/7 Lecture 8: UN Secretary General

Reading: M&K, ch. 3; Barnett, ch. 2

WEEK 6: The United Nations and Security Affairs

2/14 Lecture 9: Security Council – Composition, Functions, Enforcement Actions

2/15 Lecture 10: Security Council – Peacekeeping

Reading: M&K, ch. 4; Kennedy, chs. 2-3; Barnett/Finnemore, ch. 5

WEEK 7: The United Nations as the “World Parliament”

2/19 Lecture 11: The General Assembly, Decolonization, and “sovereign equality”

2/21 Lecture 12: The General Assembly: Initiatives and International Governance

Reading: M&K, 3, 7; finish Kennedy; Zweifel, ch. 10

WEEK 8: The United Nations – Reform Issues

2/26 Lecture 13

2/28 Lecture 14

Reading: M&K, ch. 8; finish Kennedy; Barnett/Finnemore, ch.6; Zweifel, ch. 10

WEEK 9

3/4 EXAM

3/6 Research Study – Question and Answer Session

Reading: Begin reading Sachs

WEEK 10

3/11 SPRING BREAK

3/13 SPRING BREAK

Reading (!): continue Sachs

WEEK 11: International Environmental Issues

3/18 TOPIC: IO Charters as “International Constitutions” and the real world of International Conferences; Guest Lecture - Prof. Dan Bodansky

Research Study Progress Reports Due

3/20 TOPIC: International Governance and International Environmental Issues

Reading: M&K, ch. 7

WEEK 12: The Global Economy

3/25 TOPIC: International Governance Structures: WTO, World Bank, IMF, GEF

3/27 TOPIC: Cont'd.

Reading: M&K, ch. 5; continue Sachs; Zweifel, chs. 5-7; Barnett/Finnemore, ch. 3

WEEK 13: Human Suffering and International Governance

4/1 TOPIC: Human Rights, Humanitarian Activities, and UN institutions

4/3 TOPIC: Refugees and the UNHCR

Reading: M&K, ch. 6; continue Sachs; Zweifel, ch. 10; Barnett/Finnemore, chs. 4-5

WEEKS 14: The Millennium Development Goals

***** Research Study due April 10 in class *****

4/8 TOPIC: The MDGs origins.

4/10 TOPIC: The MDGs cross sectoral approach to economics and human rights.

Reading: M&K, ch. 5, 8; finish Sachs

WEEK 15

4/15 PRESENTATION 1: Security

4/17 PRESENTATION 2: Economic Affairs

WEEK 16

4/22 PRESENTATION 3: Human Rights

4/24 PRESENTATION 4: Environmental Issues

FINAL EXAM * MAY 1 *** 12-2 pm**