



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION (IO) AND LAW

POLS/HRTS 3418, Spring 2010

Syllabus is available on Husky CT



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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS: What are IOs, and what do they do in global politics? Why was the United Nations (UN) created and what does it do? What is the European Union (EU)? What is international law and what is its purpose? What role do IOs and International Law (IL) play in transnational problems such as peacekeeping, the global economy, sustainable development, human rights, the environment, corporate malfeasance, illicit trafficking, terrorism, global health, and population control? This course explores these questions, acquaints you with some of the most important IOs in the international system, and examines some of the transnational problems that IOs and IL have been developed to address.

Within this substantive context, the course has 3 main goals. The first goal is to sensitize you to the vast array of organizations and activities that grapple with transnational problems on a daily basis. The second goal is to encourage you to develop a more sophisticated, critical understanding of the joys and frustrations of trying to solve transnational problems. And the third goal is to provide you with the foundation (both in knowledge and interest) to pursue additional study, career opportunities, and/or volunteer experiences in international organization and law. We will work together this semester to achieve these goals, and I hope you are as excited about accomplishing them as I am about teaching you. If you have any questions at all, or anything you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to ask.

COURSE TEXTS: 3 books are required for the course and should be available at the Coop:

- ✚ Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns. The United Nations in the 21st Century, 3rd ed. (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2007)
- ✚ Valerie Epps. International Law for Undergraduates, 4th ed. (Carolina Academic Press, 2009)*
- ✚ John Pinder and Simon Usherwood, The European Union: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford 2007, 2nd ed).

*Note: When reading Epps, you may skim the specific cases embedded within each chapter, concentrating primarily on her explanatory text which surrounds and contextualizes the cases.

EXAMS (60% of final grade): There is a midterm and a final in this course, and exam format is multiple choice. You will be tested on lectures, assigned readings, and assignments. The final exam is not cumulative. Please be in class to take each exam when it is scheduled. Make-up exams are more difficult to pass, must be completed at times convenient for the TA and taken within 2 weeks of the regularly scheduled exam (after which time, the missed exam cannot be made up). The midterm and final are worth 30% each.

ASSIGNMENTS & IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES (30% of final grade): There will be two short research and writing assignments; each will be worth 15%. One of these assignments will be related to preparation for a Model UN we will conduct in class during the week of April 5-9. Assignment

instructions will be posted on HuskyCT and each assignment requires you to web research a designated topic and then write a 1-2 page (but no more than 2), single-spaced, typed paper (which includes your sources).

Due dates are clearly marked on the syllabus. All assignments are due at the beginning of the designated class. If you are absent on a day that assignments are due, you may pass the assignment in late, but your grade for that assignment will automatically be **dropped a full letter grade**. It is particularly important that you be in class to pass in the second assignment since it is preparation for the in-class model UN that week.

Extra Credit is NOT available for this course. The numerical scale used for final letter grades is as follows: F below 60, D- 60-63, D 64-66, D+ 67-69, C- 70-73, C 74-76, C+ 77-79, B- 80-83, B 84-86, B+ 87-89, A- 90-93, A 94-100.

HONORS CREDIT: Honors credit is available for this course and must be discussed with me by the second week of the semester. It will involve the development of a multi-media presentation to the class on a course-related subject, along with an additional, related writing assignment.

ABSENCES & MISSED NOTES: Please attend all regularly scheduled class sessions. Lecture and discussion notes are not provided for any missed classes (regardless of the reason for your absence), nor will they be posted or made available electronically.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: In order to do well in this course, you need to attend all class sessions, do all assigned readings, actively listen to and focus on lecture material, take copious notes, and don't be afraid to ask questions or participate in discussions.

As a courtesy to your fellow students and myself, please do not carry on lengthy conversations with one another (or on your cell phone) when I am lecturing. Texting and sleeping in class are also inappropriate, even if you do not mean either of these as a personal slight.

Please use the restrooms BEFORE class, and do not leave class in the middle of a lecture unless it is an emergency. If you arrive late to class or must leave early, please sit near the exits so that you will not disturb others.

If you intend to use a laptop during class time, please sit in the ***upper left section*** of the lecture hall which is reserved for computer users (non-users please only sit there if no other seats are available). Laptops should be used only for class purposes (notes, directed or relevant web research), not for emails, web-surfing and other non-course related activities during lectures.

Do not attempt to cheat on the exams or pass in plagiarized written work. Cheating will be confronted, much to your embarrassment, and will involve academic sanction. An academic misconduct fact sheet and the Student Conduct Code may be found at:

http://www.community.uconn.edu/academic_misconduct_faq.html

READING SCHEDULE:

Jan. 20, 22 -- Introduction to Course; What is IO and IL?

Jan. 25, 27, 29 – International Law Sources, Legal Personality, & History of IOs

Read Epps, Introduction (p. 3-4), ch 1 & 7 (Sources; Legal personality)

Read Mingst & Karns, pp. 17-24, 263-77 (Evolution; UN Charter)

Feb 1, 3, 5 – The U.N. System****Assignment #1 Instructions Posted On Feb 1st****

Read Mingst & Karns, pp. 24-51 & pp. 72-80 (Evolution; Actors in UN)

Feb. 8, 10, 12 – Dispute Settlement & Peacekeeping****Assignment #1 Due On Feb 12th****

Read Mingst & Karns, ch. 4 (Peace and Security)

Feb. 15, 17, 19 – Peacekeeping & Use of Force Continued

Read Epps pp. 363-381 (International Courts) & pp. 385-454 (Use of Force)

Feb. 22, 24, 26 – Jurisdiction

Read Epps, ch 4 (Jurisdiction)

March 1, 3, 5 – Human Rights****MIDTERM ON MARCH 5th****

Read Mingst & Karns, pp. 167-88 (Human Rights)

Read Epps pp. 293-312 (Human Rights)

March 8, 10, 12 -- SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)**March 15, 17, 19 – Human Rights Continued**

Read Mingst & Karns, pp. 188-206 (Human Rights)

Read Epps pp. 312-58 (Human Rights) & 381-84 (Other major courts)

March 22, 24, 26– Trade, Finance, & Sustainable Development**Assignment #2 Instructions Posted On 26th****

Read Epps pp. 361-62 (Arbitration)

Read Mingst & Karns ch. 5 (Economic Development)

March 29, 31, April 2 -- Human Security & International Environmental Law****NO CLASS ON APRIL 2nd****

Read Mingst & Karns ch. 7 (Human Security)

Read Epps, ch. 5 (Environmental Law) & pp. 454-76 (Nuclear Weapons)

April 5, 7, 9 – In-Class Model UN****Assignment #2 Due On April 5th******April 12, 14, 16 – Law of the Seas**

Read Epps, ch. 6 (Law of the Sea)

April 19, 21, 23 -- European Union: History, Members & Institutions

Read Pinder & Usherwood chs 1, 2, 3, 4

April 26, 28, 30 – European Union: External Relations

Read Pinder & Usherwood chs 8, 9, 10

****FINAL EXAM – Tentatively Scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 10:30AM-12:30PM****