

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE:

IRL 4015 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

SEMESTER

CLASSROOM:

COVENOR:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the student to a rigorous analysis of the role of international organizations as the pillar to the study of world politics since the conclusion of World War II. It takes stock of past work on international national organizations, trace the evolution of major themes in scholarship overtime, and highlight areas of productive research. The central argument is that research should increasingly turn to the question of how institutions matter in shaping the behavior of important actors in world politics. It therefore approaches international organizations as both the object of strategic choice and a constraint on actors' behavior, an idea that is familiar to scholars of domestic institutions but has been neglected in much of the debate between realist and institutionalist scholars of international relations.

Nevertheless, the idea of international organization is gradually becoming more complex and influential as shown by both the words and actions of government spokespeople. Before the advent of IOs, nation-states already had diplomatic, economic, legal and even war relationships. Although governments may not go as far as surrendering sovereign powers to international organizations, they do find them indispensable for a myriad of other purposes. New nations demonstrate this in their eagerness to be admitted in the U.N. despite major differences, the big powers in U.N do not seem anxious to withdraw and all nations find the organization useful for sounding out ideas and for contact with other nations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

International organization course as a field of study has had its ups and downs, throughout the poor World War II era, and throughout the last century for that matter. This course is aimed at equipping the students with tools of analysis for the efficacy of international organizations. it sets out by looking at its historical antecedents, role and ideological roots. Ultimately, the paradoxes that have been noted within the galaxy of IR actors are elicited. Finally it puts international organizations in retrospect and prospect into the 21st century. It is envisaged that the student of IR, whether major or minor will begin to appreciate the distinctive role and purpose of these organization.

COURSE CONTENT

Week one

Origin of international organizations; a historical view

Week two

Approaches to the modern study of international organizations
Ideological roots

Week three

The role of international organizations in today's world
Paradoxes

Week four

The League of Nations
Success and failures of the League of Nations
General assessment of League of Nations

Week five

The genesis of the United Nations
Dumbarton Oaks conversations

Week six

Basic principles and organizations of the U.N
Objectives
Basic principles of the Charter
Principal organs of the U.N

Week seven

Some basic issues of the U.N
Membership
Representation
Voting rules and practices
Formal and informal / charter amendment

Week eight

MID-SEMESTER EXAM

Week nine

Peaceful settlement of disputes
Collective security alternatives

Week ten

Search of justice under law
Controlling instruments of war

Week eleven

Promoting economic welfare
Promoting social congress

Week twelve

World conference technique
Varieties of regionalism

Week thirteen

Transnational relations and international organizations

Week fourteen

Liking theories, empirical studies, compliance debate and current critiques of international organization

FINAL EXAM

READING LIST

Gerard: A short history of international organizations

Beetham: Max Weber and theory of modern politics

Nicholas: The U.N as a political institution

Boutros-Ghali: Agenda for peace (2nd edition)

Claude: The changing United Nations

Cecil: A great experience

Walters: A history of the League of Nations

Eagleton: The charter adopted at San Francisco

UN: Facts about the United Nations

UN: Everyone's United Nations

Kay: the impact of African States on the United Nations

Mitchell: Peacemaking and consultants' role

Goodrich: The United Nations and maintenance on international peace and security

Burrell and Morgan: Sociological paradigms and organizational analysis

An addition reading list will be issued in due course

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The general mode of the course will be in form of classroom lectures. Students are encouraged to interact actively by interventions, observations, queries and active listening. However reading assignments will be given where applicable. It is generally worthwhile at University level to read beyond what is prescribed by the convenor.

GRADING

A	90-100
A-	87-89
B+	84-86
B	80-83
B-	77-79
C+	74-76
C	70-73
C-	67-69
D+	64-66
D	62-63
D-	60-61
F	0-5

