

POL 321, International Organizations
Department of Political Science and International Relations, Fall 2018

Professor Roberto Cordón

Office Hours: LAC (North Campus) Office 7
Wednesdays 14:30-15:30; Thursdays 14:30-16:30; or by appointment

E-Mail: rcordon@fus.edu

Class meeting: Tuesday/Friday 1 p.m.- 2:15 p.m. LAC Classroom 2

Course Description (from the course catalogue)

The focus of this course is the development of supra-national and international agencies and entities. The United Nations, the European Union, the IMF, the World Bank, trading blocs, and other specialized agencies are studied as examples in light of increasing economic interdependence in the international system.

Course Objectives

As a branch of international relations and international political economy, the field of International Organization has grown in importance since WWII and –in particular—since the end of the Cold War. Many authors have marked 1648, the end of the Thirty Years War, as the birth of the modern state system and –thus—inter-governmental fora or organizations (IGOs). By the time of the Congress of Vienna (1814) the need for governments to come together and organize in an international arena had become clear. In the early 20th Century, the League of Nations became one of the earliest, formal, broadly international organizations. Its successor, the United Nations, is now the foremost global organization and will be discussed extensively.

The *primary goal* of this course will be to look at the evolution of cooperation and conflict resolution mechanisms in the international system, whether economic, political, social, environmental or otherwise. Furthermore, students will apply the background acquired in previous social science courses in order to discuss and analyze other topics, such as:

- the role of international organizations in the international arena;
- the theoretical concepts used to study international organizations;
- the specifics of the most important international organizations;
- why international organizations are formed, succeed or fail;
- global problems requiring international cooperation.

Finally, students will be encouraged to develop their own opinions, in order to discuss and debate the issues at-hand. ***Thus, active and constructive participation in class discussions will be rewarded.***

Textbooks (main)

- Margaret Karns, Karen Mingst and Kendall Stiles, International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance, 3rd Ed., Lynne Rienner Pub., 2015 (K&M)
- Stephen Browne, The UN Development Programme and System, Routledge, 2011 (SB)

Additional Readings and Reference Books

- *On reserve:* Roland Vaubel and Thomas Willett (editors), The Political Economy of International Organizations, Westview Press, 1991
- *On reserve:* Kelly-Kate S. Pease, International Organizations, 5th Ed., Pearson, 2012 (Pea)

- *On reserve:* Paul Diehl and Brian Frederking (editors), The Politics of Global Governance: International Organizations in an Interdependent World, 4th Ed., Lynne Rienner Pub., 2010 (*D&F*)
- *On reserve:* Mark Mazower, No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations, Princeton University Press, 2009 (*Maz*)
- *On reserve:* Paul Kennedy, The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present and Future of the United Nations, New York 2006.
- Robert Jordan with Clive Archer, Gregory Granger and Kerry Ordes, International Organizations: A Comparative Approach to the Management of Cooperation, 4th Edition, Praeger, 2001
- Students should follow international events regularly by reading the coverage in media such as the *NY Times*, *The Economist*, or other publications/news websites.
- Reading local press in other languages is also encouraged.

Course Requirements (*tentative*)

- Weekly readings from textbooks or reference material, as assigned by instructor.
- Midterm and Final Exams (Possible quiz to become familiar with major IOs and INGOs)
- A short case study (~5 pages) of one international organization or economic/political bloc
- An analytical research paper (~12 pages) looking at the role of international organization(s) in addressing a current event or issue. (*Topics to be discussed/agreed with the instructor.*) Those students who are selected and choose to present their case study in class will be allowed to submit a shorter analytical research paper.

Grading (*indicative, may vary slightly*)

• Midterm Exam	15%	
• Final Exam	30%	
• Quiz	5%	
• Case Study	10%	
• Analytical Paper	20%	
• Class Participation	20%	=100%

All elements will be graded on a scale from 0 to 100. Grades are generally distributed along a normal curve. However, I am perfectly willing to bend the curve one way or another if many students perform well or poorly. (I always prefer to give more A's than D's!) Students need to pass either the midterm or the final exam, regardless of performance on other course elements. *Indicatively:*

A: > 93.3 A-: 90 - 93.3 B+: 86.7 - 90 B: 83.3 - 86.7 B-: 80 - 83.3 C+: 76.7 - 80
C: 73.3 - 76.7 C-: 70 - 73.3 D+: 66.7 - 70 D: 63.3 - 66.7 D-: 60 - 63.3 F: < 60

Attendance and Class Participation Policy

Class attendance will be essential to perform well, not least because course-related announcements will be made at the beginning or end of class. We will discuss how IO theories apply in real IOs; **thus, student engagement in class will be rewarded.** The class participation grade will be determined as follows:

- Up to 20 points for overall involvement and quality of interventions in class discussions.
- Two absences are allowed "for free"; after that 1 point will be deducted for each absence.
- Arriving late to class counts as a half absence.

Late Assignments Policy

Students needing extensions for their written assignments should discuss them in advance with the instructor. The standard penalty is 5% (half a letter grade) per day.

Laptops and Cellphones

As they are very disruptive to the instructor and other students, laptops are not allowed in class or exams and cell phones should be turned off. If your phone rings during class, you will leave the classroom to answer the call and will not be allowed back in.

Indicative Course Schedule

Week of:	Topic	Reading
August 28	Introduction to the field of International Organization and some IOs The World's Hunger for Public Goods	in class M. Wolf (handout in class)
September 04	The "Playing Field" – theoretical foundations	K&M 1+2
September 11	Theoretical foundations of IOs (cont.) The Political Economy of IOs: A Public Choice View	K&M 2 Vaubel & Willett 1-3 (handout)
September 18	The Foundations of Global Governance Why States Act through Formal IOs	K&M 3 D&F 3 (on res.)
September 25	Types of International Organizations Regional Organizations	Pease 2 (on res.) highlights of K&M 5
October 02	Emergent types of IOs Nonstate Actors: NGOs and Social Movements Possible guest lecture by a UN official or ambassador	Pease 2 (on res.) K&M 6
October 09	Review and Integration of Concepts	

Midterm on Friday 12 October (tentative)

October 16	The United Nations Operations of the UN (Secretary General, Membership)	K&M 4 D&F 4, 5 (on res.)
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Case study due on 19 October (in class)

Oct 20 – Nov 04	Academic Travel (enjoy!)	
November 06	The United Nations Development Programme and System (cont.) Reforming the UN Possible guest lecture by Stephen Browne	SB (all) D&F 18

Specialized IOs

(the order and topics may vary depending on guest speakers or student presentations)

November 13	Trade and Monetary Issues The Bretton Woods Organizations (IMF/WB/WTO/ITC)	Pease pp. 185-197 (on res.) D&F 12
November 20	Peace and Security Issues The World Bank and the IMF	K&M 8
November 27	International Public Health: WHO and Global Fund	D&F 15 + handout
December 04	Environmental issues Alternative: Student presentations of own case studies	K&M 11

Analytical paper due on 04 December (in class)

Final Exam on Friday 14 December, 11:00-13:00

Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

Consequently, the University has adopted the following code:

- When an examination is in progress, all unauthorized books, notes, papers, notebooks, and phones must be left outside the classroom, or, where this is not feasible, left beneath the student's seat unopened.
- Students will be asked to distribute themselves around the room during an exam so as to leave the widest possible space between them.
- During the examination only the blank paper required for the examination and a pencil, pen or other tools as permitted by individual instructors may be on the desk.
- Should an instructor see written crib notes in evidence or see a student consult a cell phone during an exam, the presumption will be that the student has cheated on that exam.
- If a student must leave the classroom during an examination due to physical duress, the student must turn in the exam and will not be allowed to return during the examination period. No make-up examination will be administered.
- It is within the prerogative of the instructor to take a student's paper during an exam and to ask that student to take an oral exam, or another exam, at the instructor's choice.
- A student found cheating will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.
- A student found cheating on an exam will be given an "F" for that examination. If it is a final examination, the student may be given an "F" for the course.
- A student whose paper or assignment has clearly been plagiarized will receive an "F" for that paper. Notification will be sent to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.

Cases of academic dishonesty may be handled by the instructor in whose course the violation occurred if the matter is a result of student ignorance or is a first offense. The instructor will assess the severity of the violation and impose an appropriate penalty. In the event of a repetition of dishonesty, the matter will be referred to the Dean of Academic Affairs, and the student will risk dismissal from the University.

Please note that I hold the above statement very seriously. In my courses, any case of cheating will result in an automatic "F" for the whole course.