International Organizations

Contact hours: 4x45 minutes
Instructor: Eszter Simon
Time: Wednesdays 13:00-14:30, Wednesdays 14:45-16:15
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Office hours: Wednesdays

Course aim:
International organizations play an increasingly important role in resolving a wide range of global problems. This course introduces students to the history, decision-making, and dilemmas of institutional organizations. The course is composed of three sections. The first section introduces students to the topic; the second discusses global and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations with particular attention to the UN system. While the EU is an important regional organization, we will not deal with it during the term, since you have had plenty of opportunities in other courses to learn about it. The third part of the course focuses on traditional and non-traditional issue areas of global politics in which IGOs and non governmental IOs play an important role: peace and security, human rights, development, and environmental protection. The class concludes with pondering the future of international organizations. Besides imparting factual knowledge the course also aims at helping students improve the following skills: presentation, basic research and analytical skills.

Requirements:

• Regular class attendance:
Students may only miss two weeks during the semester (you may miss fewer than that, but you cannot miss 4 classes on 4 different weeks).
If a student misses more classes, s/he must present a valid proof of the reason (doctor’s note in case of illness, obituary in case of death of a family member, etc.). If a valid proof is presented, the student must write a 2-3-page summary of the readings for the weeks missed. These summaries will, on the one hand, ensure that the students will be able to pass the course and, on the other hand, they will be substitutes for the missed quizzes.

• Participation
This class puts a heavy burden on students inasmuch as there are substantial reading assignments. It is absolutely essential that students read the required readings for each occasion. First, this will help you efficiently prepare for the mid-term and final exams. Second, learning cannot take place without your active involvement.
The instructor reserves the right to use sanctions against students who do not read. If a student's response to two or more questions at a seminar shows that he/she has not read the texts, this will be treated as if the student was absent at that particular lesson.
To somewhat ease the burden on you, guest lectures and film screenings will be introduced. You will not have to prepare for these lectures/film screening, but exam questions may be based on their content, so it is worth paying attention.

• Research note and presentation exercise:
Students will be required to present once during the term. Depending on the number of students in the class, presentations will be made individually, in pairs, or small groups. Regardless of whether students present individually, in pairs, or in small groups, each student is required to research their topic and hand in a 5-page research note (double spaced, margin: 2cm, Times New Roman, Font# 12) on the presentation topic a week prior to their presentation. Research notes must be based on individual work and contain information on the birth, aims, decision-making process of the researched
N(IGO) or IGO and highlight either its present work or a crucial past event in its history. References must be provided. Students should sign up for the presentation on week 1 and 2. Presentations should be informative but interesting and no longer than 10 minutes. Please, note that information presented in class by your peers on various international organizations may be part of the exams.

- **Mid-term and Final Exams**
  There will be a mid-term exam on week 7 and a final exam in the exam period. They will be similar in structure and consist of multiple choice questions, short questions and possibly one longer essay question.

**Final grade:**
Research note on IO: 15%
Presentation of IO: 10%
In-class activity: 20%
Mid-term exam: 25%
Final Exam: 30%

!!!Plagiarism is considered unacceptable academic practice!!! Therefore, the instructor will make every effort to screen out cases of plagiarism. Plagiarism has been understood as any usage of text of other author(s) without proper referencing both at the end of the paper and in the paper itself (at the end of specific paragraph/s). Plagiarism will automatically result in zero points for a given task.

**Textbook:**

**Required readings:**

1. **INTRODUCTION**
   **Week 1. Course Requirements (presented by Lucia Mokrá)**

   **Week 2. Introduction: definition, types and functions of international organizations**
   Wednesday (February 18):
   Karns and Mingst, chapter 1, pp 3-34.

   Wednesday (February 18):

   **Week 3. The historical perspective: the Development of IGOs (The roots of global governance: Concert of Europe, League of Nations)**
   Wednesday (February 25):
   Karns and Mingst, chapter 3, pp. 63-97

   Wednesday (February 25):

   **Week 4: Theoretical Approaches to IOs**
   Wednesday (March 4):
   Karns and Mingst, ch 2, pp. 35-62
Wednesday (March 4):

**II. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Week 5. IGO 1: The UN system**

**Wednesday (March 11):**
Karns and Mingst, ch 4, pp. 97-145.

**Wednesday (March 11):**
Student presentations on the UN system 1: IMF, WTO, World Bank.

**Week 6: UN organizations and Regional Intergovernmental Organizations (presentations only)**

**Wednesday (March 18):**
Student presentations on the UN system 2: WHO, International Court of Justice.
Student presentations on regional international organizations: Council of Europe, CIS, NATO, NAFTA, OAS, Arab League

**Wednesday (March 18):** Non-state actors and Non-governmental international organizations
Karns and Mingst, ch 211-249 (on non-state actors in general)
Student presentations on Non-governmental IGOs: Amnesty International, Red Cross, OPEC.

**Week 7**

**Wednesday (March 25):** Film screening
Broken Promises: The United Nations at 60.

**Wednesday (March 25):** Midterm exam

**Week 8: Non-state actors and Non-governmental international organizations (cont.)**

**Wednesday (April 1):**
Student presentations on Non-governmental IGOs: Greenpeace, WWF.

**Wednesday (April 1):**
Guest lecture TBA

**Week 9: No class**

**Wednesday (April 8):**
no class

**Wednesday (April 8):**
no class

**III. SELECTED ISSUE AREAS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Week 10: Peace and Security**
Wednesday (April 15):

Wednesday (April 15):

Week 11: Peace and Security 2
Wednesday (April 22):
Guest lecture on NATO by Petr Zlatohlavek.

Wednesday (April 22): Terrorism.
Karns and Mingst, ch 8, pp. 346-353.

Week 12: Human Rights
Wednesday (April 29):
Karns and Mingst, ch.10, pp. 413-458

Wednesday (April 29):
Guest lecture on human rights TBA

Week 13. Problems of Globalization: Globalization, Helping the Poor
Wednesday (May 6):
Reading on the current economic crisis TBA

Wednesday (May 6):

Week 14. Climate Change; The Future of IOS:
Wednesday (May 13): The Future of IOs
Karns and Mingst, ch 11, pp. 459-493

Wednesday (May 13): Film screening.
Al Gore: an Inconvenient Truth.