

## **UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

### **IRL 4015 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **SEMESTER**

### **CLASSROOM:**

### **COVENOR:**

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### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

