



School of Humanities & Social Sciences (SHSS)

Course: IRL 2010A: International Organizations
Credit Units : 3

Course Description

a. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the evolution, growth and development of the International Organizations (IOs), from its earliest history but especially from nineteenth century to the present; within the context and domain of the International Relations. The course will provide students with a clear understanding of the definition, nature, structure, purpose, functions and characteristics of some selected international organizations; from which, knowledge acquired should enable students to quickly grasp the trend/pattern or events which necessitates formation of IOs. Further, the course is designed to equip students with the analytical tools necessary to critically assess their role: nationally, regionally and globally.

b. Of importance is the need for the student to clearly understand how they are formed (necessity and mechanics of their formation); understand the dynamics and politics surrounding them (IOs) in the international system. In addition, the students will have an opportunity to examine the theories which dominate their formation and how in practice they operate; and also have a critical look at their impact on the global systems. It will also be necessary to ponder on their necessity (are they really necessary) vis a vis nation-state' supremacy and whether there could be conflict, considering that they are part of a complex web of relations which could be subnational, national, regional and international ties.

Link to University Mission and Program Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to develop their critical thinking, analytical and writing skills, ability to work independently and as a group, and will gain important experience for future careers in IR. International Organisations are increasingly playing critical roles in the global system, sometimes overtaking the role of the traditional state-centric systems. In both developing and developed countries, they affect every sphere of life including politics, economic policy, trade, humanitarian work, conflict resolution amongst others. Why for example is IMF, WB, WTO etc so influential? This is an area of study that IR students cannot afford to miss and should work hard to reap the full benefits of this course in understanding IOs dynamics.

Expected Course Learning Outcomes

With reference to International Relations the student should be able to:

- a) Critically explain the development and evolution of international organizations
- b) Demonstrate a clear understanding of the nature, structure and functions of the League of Nations and later the United Nations (the grand International Organization)
- c) Identify international organizations' related issue areas and analyse them from conceptual perspectives
- d) Employ International Relations-oriented methodological skills/tools to analyse international organizations
- e) Review empirical literature applicable to the course
- f) Gain insight into the limitations and complexities inherent in the nature of international organizations and international relations in general

Content & Class Schedule

As indicated in the learning outcome sections, class discussions/interactions are highly encouraged.

a. Week One: Introduction to the Course

Discussion Topics:

- i. Basic Concepts of IOs considerations and formation
- ii. Historical background of IOs

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- i. Understanding of critical issues that lead to the formulation and formation of IOs
- ii. Gain commensurate knowledge on the evolution of the IOs

Reading Assignments:

Please read– 'International Organisations: Clive, Archer (2001). Chapter 1 (London: Routledge) or all of Chapter 2 in Kelly-Kate S. P. (2012) International Organisations, (New York: Longman)

b. Week Two: Introduction to International Organisations (IOs)

Discussion Topics:

- i. Define and explain the conceptual meanings of: International Organization, Intergovernmental and International Nongovernmental Organizations (IGOs and INGOs)
- ii. Types and key features of IOs
- iii. Theory and international organizations, including the need for international institutions

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- i. Enhancement of critical thinking through understanding of the task at hand

- ii. Demonstrate understanding of research methodologies in IR

Assignments:

i. Group Work (15% of Final Grade)

- Students will be divided into groups and assigned one of the IOs (SADC, ILO, CANA, EAC, IATA, ITU, ASEAN, NAFTA, ECLAC, EU, ECOWAS, BRICS ...) to research on. The groups will be dependent on the number of students in the course, but in any case, Not more than 5 students per group. The groups will be expected to research on their allocated organization respectively: The history of the IO, its membership, the programs that the organization is involved in-in its day today activities, or has instituted where ever it has operated or is currently operating, its relationship; especially with the developing countries, and evaluate their effectiveness. Consider what the organization is currently doing, their economic muscle, and how they are coping with the global challenges such as Hunger, poverty, level of education in poor countries, diseases, efforts in curbing illegal proliferation of small arms, terrorism, climate change (emissions reduction policies e.g. Kyoto Protocol), World economic crisis, debt and its global economic/political impact.

Part 1: Written submission

- A final detailed paper is to be submitted during the presentations, consisting of introduction, main body, conclusion and bibliography. The same is to be submitted thro' Blackboard turn-it in. Your report may include pictures, maps, and graphs (if need be). The report to be widely and well researched work, be clearly cited both in-text and final list of references preferably using APA. Any other reputable style of referencing is allowed. The report content should clearly come out during the presentation. The final paper should not exceed 2,500 words.
- **Note:** Plagiarism (cut and paste or literary copying someone else's work) will attract a heavy penalty and students are urged to shun un-academic practices and learn at the earliest, proper research skills and get well founded on approved academic norms.

Part 2: Presentations

Presentations will start on Week 8 **with Group 1** starting. You are free to use any source of technology in your presentation. If you use PowerPoint, your presentation should not exceed 30 slides. Use Fonts that are easily legible on the screen by everybody. Video clips, demonstrations and other aids are encouraged to enhance understanding.

ii. Individual Research Assignment (20% of Final Grade)

As an individual, students are to research on an IO of their choice respectively, through library or field (if interested) and look for recent journals/newspapers and or magazine articles from reputable publications. Such publications include but not limited to Foreign Policy Magazine, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, BBC, The NY Times, any Peer Reviewed journal etc. The student is free to research from other sources available which discuss international organizations, potential challenge/s the particular IO of your choice may be facing and how it's poised to resolve them (if at all). The challenge/s might be explicitly called out in the article or something that you may uncover for yourself. Students should prepare a paper (not more than 5 pages, 1 inch

margins, Times New Roman-size 12 point font, double-spaced). Due date is **Week 5**. The paper should highlight in good details the following:

- Historical background and overview of the IO (factors necessitating its formation...) how it has performed up to its current status.
- Challenge/s facing the IO.
- Potential solutions for the IO (i.e. how would you purport to “fix” the IO?)
- Reasons why the potential solution may/ may not be feasible.
- What do you think the future of the IO looks like?

c. Week Three: IO Theories

Discussion Topics:

- i. Realism
- ii. Liberalism
- iii. Others (Constructivism, Cooperation, Marxism and the PA theory)

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Understanding of IO dynamics and their influences through the IR theories.

d. Week Four: Development of IOs

Discussion Topics:

- i. Evolution of IGOs and the League of Nations: circumstances and salient issues that played important role in the establishment of the League of Nations
- ii. Aims, Objectives, Strategies, Performance and Challenges, Successes and Failures
- iii. Failure of collective security and World War II

Video: The League of Nations

Video: The Success and Failure of the League of Nations

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- i. Good understanding of the League of Nations as a Key feature in IO studies
- ii. Demonstration of Realism in global contest of supremacy and domination

Reading Assignments:

- Archer (2001). Pages: 14-25.
- Peace, Kelly-Kate S, (2011). Pages: 15-25.
- Bennet, A. LeRoy, International Organizations: Principles and Issues (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 2002). Short Loan Section.

e. Week Five & Six: Post WW1 and WW2 IOs (Part 1)

Discussion Topics:

- i. Structure and functions of the United Nations
- ii. Origins of the United Nations organization, Law and Administration
- iii. Nature and objectives of the United Nations system; Role as an instrument and development of International Law
- iv. Critically assess the relevance of the concept of collective security under the United Nations system in relation to intervention

Video: United Nations.

Video: The Challenges Facing the United Nations.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- i. Broad understanding of the UN background and Concepts thro' IO lenses
- ii. Broad Critical thinking on Collective Security and other global issues through UN

Reading Assignments:

- Ian Hurd (2014) Chapter 6: 101-119.
- Archer (2015).
- Peace, Kelly-Kate S (2011) Pages 112-124.
- Bennet, A. LeRoy, International Organizations: Principles and Issues (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 2002). Short Loan Section.
- Archer, C. (1992).
- Jacobson, H, (1984).
- United Nations: The United Nations Today (New York: United Nations DGACM, 2008). Course Text Section.

f. Week Seven: Mid-Semester Exams**g. Week Eight: Post WW2 IOs (Part 2)****Discussion Topics:**

- i. Historical development, aims, goals and strategies, performance, challenges of UN, WB/IMF or WTO – Guest speaker on opportunity basis.
- ii. Commencement of Presentations by Group No 1

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- i. Identify and understand supranational influences on domestic issues through IOs
- ii. Gain insights into the complexities global labour and trade through ILO & WTO
- iii. Understanding of national interests entrenched in labour and trade issues globally

Reading Assignments:

- Ian Hurd (2014) Chapter 6: 101-119.
- Peace, Kelly-Kate S, (2012) Short Loan Section
- Bennet, A. LeRoy, (2002) Short Loan Section
- Archer, C, (2001) or (1992) Course Text Section: Relevant areas.
- Jacobson, H, Networks of Interdependence: International Organizations and the Global Political System, 2nd ed. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984).

h. Week Nine & Ten: Regional Organisations**Discussion Topics:**

- i. Historical development, aims, objects and strategies, performance, challenges of some Regional Organisations
- ii. European Union (EU), the Organization of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and BRICS if not covered by any group

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- i. Make an analysis of the Regional Organizations and their mandates and operations

- ii. Critical assessment of their performance against their mandated objectives

Reading Assignment

- Ian Hurd (2014) Chapters 9 and 10.

i. Week Eleven & Twelve: Bretton Woods Institutions

Discussion Topics:

- a. Basis and purpose of World financial institutions
- b. Negative and positive impact of these institutions on the development of Third World countries
- c. IMF and World Bank: Key facts, obligations, compliance, enforcement
- d. Case Study: Argentina
- e. Video on IMF and Challenges

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- i. Acquisition of Knowledge and Intellect on the initial objectives and the current operation of the Bretton wood institutions
- ii. Understanding of the Institutions with regard to the third world economies
- iii. Evaluate their usefulness as renders especially to the third world countries

Reading Assignments:

- Ian Hurd (2014) chapter 4.
- Raymond, J. (2007). The IMF: Politics of Conditional Lending: Routledge. Chap 1.
- Wall Street Journal, IMF: Argentina refusal to allow IMF surveillance 'Odd.' October 4, 2009: <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO.20091004-701798.html>.

j. Week Thirteen: Future of IOs and Global governance

Discussion Topics:

- i. A critical self-check on the acquired knowledge and review. Are international organizations /institutions still relevant in the current international system?
- ii. Revision: Students to revisit any issue/s that may not have been clear in the course

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Critical evaluation and analysis of the IOs and their operations in general
- Acquisition of knowledge and understanding through the course interaction

Reading Assignments:

- Course Notes and any other relevant material to IOs and own revision.

k. Week Fourteen: Final Examinations Week

Teaching Methodology

The class will utilise power-point presentations, interactive class discussions, independent study, group work, video clips, guest speakers (on opportunity basis) and group presentations. The said approaches are meant to inject realism and help students understand the subject with ease.

Students are free to raise any issue/s which to the best of their imaginations is not helping them understand the subject with ease. They could suggest on any material which would improve on the content or improve on any of the methodologies being utilized. This will be highly appreciated as an appropriate feedback path to continuously improve on the course.

Course Texts & Other Readings

The list provided is not exhaustive, and students are advised to do much more on their own:

Archer, C. (2015) *International Organizations*. New York: Routledge

Barnett, M. N. & Martha, F. (1999). The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations. *International Organization* 53:699-732.

Bohara, A. K., Kishore, G. & Pablo S. (2004). Trade Diversion and Declining Tariffs: Evidence from Mercosur. *Journal of International Economics* 64(1): 65-88.

Chase, K. A. (2003). Economic Interests and Regional Trading Arrangements: The Case of NAFTA. *International Organization* 57(1): 137-174.

*Check out the 5 short rejoinders to Mearsheimer (1994) in *International Security* 20 (1, Summer 1995) by Keohane & Martin, Kupchan & Kupchan, Ruggie, Wendt, and Mearsheimer.

Downs, G. W., David, M. R., & Peter, N. B. (1996). Is the good news about compliance good news about cooperation? *International Organization* 50 (3):379–406.

Grant, R. W. & Robert O. K. (2005). Accountability and Abuses of Power in World Politics. *American Political Science Review* 99(1):29-43.

Goldstein, J., Doug, R., & Michael, T. (2007) “Institutions in International Relations: Understanding the Effects of the GATT and the WTO on World Trade.” *International Organization*. 61: 37-67. --- Read pages 37-47 and 63-64 only.

Ian H. (2014). *International Organizations: Politics, Law and Practice*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Johns, L. (2007). A Servant of Two Masters: Communication and the Selection of International Bureaucrats. *International Organization* 61:245-275.

Kagan, R. (2004). America's Crisis of Legitimacy. *Foreign Affairs* 83 (2 March/April):65-87.

Margaret P. K. & Karen M. (2010) *International Organisations, the Politics and Processes of Global Governance* (Boulder: Lynne Reiner).

Mearsheimer, J. (1994). The False Promise of International Institutions. *International Security* Winter 1994/95: 5-49.

Nye, J. Jr. (2004). The Decline of America's Soft Power. *Foreign Affairs* 83 (3, May/June):16-20.

Pape, R. (2005). Soft Balancing against the United States. *International Security* 30 (1):7-45.

Peace, Kelly-Kate S, (2011). *International Organizations (5th Ed)*. New York: Pearson.

Wohlforth, William and Stephen G. Brooks. International Relations Theory and the Case against Unilateralism. *Perspectives on Politics* 3(3):509-24.

Course Evaluation

<i>Attendance and participation</i>	5%
<i>Individual Assignment</i>	20%
<i>Group presentation & Report</i>	15%
<i>Article Review</i>	10%
<i>Mid-Semester Exam</i>	20%
<i>Final Exam</i>	30%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

Other Requirements (Vital for smooth Learning)

- i. Lateness will not be entertained.
- ii. Late submission of Assignments will attract a loss of **ONE MARK** per DAY
- iii. **No Make Ups**. From the onset get serious, work for the grade you want to have

Key Institutional Academic Policies

Students should note the following key policies as outlined in the University Catalogue and Students Handbook and their respective sanctions:

a. Academic dishonesty:

- i. Any intentional giving or use of external assistance during an examination without the express permission of the faculty member giving the examination
- ii. *Fabrication*; Any falsification or invention of data, citation or other authority in an academic exercise
- iii. (3) *Plagiarism*; Any passing of another person's ideas, words, or work as one's own
- iv. (4) *Previously Submitted Work*; Presenting work prepared for and submitted to another course etc.

b. Class Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Upon being absent for **seven** classes in a 3 unit course, will result to an automatic “**F**” grade to the said student/s registered and meant to attend the course. This is a University Policy and **is Not Negotiable**.

USIU 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 - 59