

FYSM 1602F

Selected Topics in Political Science: United Nations and Peace and Security

Monday 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM; Residence Commons 213

Instructors:

Fall term

Instructor: Dr. Brian C. Schmidt
Office: D698 Loeb
Phone: 520-2600 ext. 1062

E-mail: schmidt@connect.carleton.ca
Office Hours: Tues. 10-12, Wens. 2:30-4:30

Winter term

Instructor: Judy Meltzer
Office: D681 Loeb

E-mail: jmeltzer@connect.carleton.ca
Office Hours: Fri. 9:30-11:30

I. Course Description

Today the United Nations faces a number of daunting challenges. Created in the aftermath of World War Two, the UN has been expected to deal with a wide array of issues that its founders could have hardly foreseen. Yet despite the widely different political environment that exists today and the complex issues facing the international community, the basic structure of the UN remains very similar to when it was founded. This course examines the structure and function of the United Nations system. The overall focus is on how the UN attempts to maintain peace and security in a globalized world. We will be studying a wide array of topics including international security, peacekeeping, human rights, development, and environmental sustainability. In the fall term, students will be introduced to the United Nations system and explore a number of peace and security issues that have been placed on the UN agenda.

The focus of the winter term is on the United Nations and sustainable human development. Ideas about development have changed significantly over time; how to define development and how to best promote it continue to be the subject of great debate. Earlier emphasis on national economic growth as the primary means of development has given way to people-centered approaches that prioritize sustainability. During the winter term students will explore the evolving ideas about development, focusing on contemporary themes and key debates including human security, poverty reduction, governance, transnational health and gender, as well as the impacts of globalization.

II. Aims and Objectives

There are two sets of aims and objectives. The first set is related to the substantive focus of the seminar -- the United Nations and sustainable human development. For the fall term, the underlying objective is for students to develop an appropriate level of understanding and sophistication about contemporary world politics and the United Nations so that you are in a position to make informed judgments about a range of difficult issues. As you will learn, there are a wide range of opinions concerning the desirability and efficacy of the UN. Thus in addition to learning a requisite number of facts about the UN, there is the need to develop a theoretical and analytical framework for interpreting what all these facts actually mean. By the end of the fall term, you should be able to

- demonstrate a knowledge of the major concepts associated with the UN
- describe the structure and function of the main organs of the UN
- identify the main provisions of the UN charter
- understand how the UN attempts to maintain peace and security
- discuss the changing historical context of the UN.

In the winter term, the objective is for students to gain an equally appropriate level of understanding and sophistication about the history and practice of human development within the United Nations. The concept and promotion of development have changed significantly over time; ideas about the best way to improve the quality of life for people in developing countries continue to be the subject of great debate. By the end of the winter term, students should have an understanding of:

- development as a changing concept and practice within the United Nations;
- key issues and contemporary debates on sustainable human development;
- regional and country measures of development.

The second set of objectives is related to the goals of the first-year seminar. The first-year seminar is geared toward helping students feel comfortable, intellectually stimulated, and productive within the university environment. The goals include engaging students with ideas through interactive learning, analysis of texts, concepts, and ideas, working in groups in and out of class, and helping students integrate their learning via a culminating research assignment. By the end of the course, students should develop their essay-writing, critical thinking and information literacy; improve oral and written communication skills; and foster the skills and discipline needed for continued academic success.

III. Required Course Materials (available at the University bookstore)

Thomas G. Weiss, David P. Forsyth, Kelly-Kate Pease and Roger A. Coate, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 5th ed. (Westview Press, 2007).

Karen A. Mingst and Margaret Karns, *The United Nations in the Twenty-First Century*, 3rd ed. (Westview Press, 2007).

Course Pack of Readings (for Winter term, available Jan. 2008 in Carleton U Bookstore)

IV. Course Requirements

Fall Term:

Class Participation.....	5%
Newspaper Clipping Assignment.....	5%
Essay Assignment.....	15%
Mid-term Exam.....	15%

Total: 40%

Winter Term:

Class Participation.....	5%
Paper Proposal and Bibliography.....	5%
Oral Presentation.....	10%
Research Paper.....	20%
Final Exam.....	20%

Total: 60%

V. Explanations

Class Participation: Your presence and active participation in class is an integral part of this course. Since the course is a seminar you are required to participate actively in class discussions. The reason for this is simple; seminars do not work if there is no student participation. It is necessary that you complete all reading assignments prior to coming to class so that you are fully prepared to engage the assigned material. Failure to participate in class discussions will be taken as a sign of inadequate preparation and result in a grade reduction. In general, you will receive full credit if you attend class regularly and participate frequently in class discussions; a grade of B if you attend class regularly and participate sporadically in class discussions; a grade of C if you attend class regularly and almost never participate, or if you attend class and participate sporadically; a grade of D or less if you attend class sporadically and never participate.

Newspaper Clipping Assignment: Your task is to find and read a recent newspaper article dealing with some aspect of the United Nations. After reading the article, you are required to write a 2 page, typed reaction to the article. This means that you have to go beyond merely summarizing the contents of the article. Try and emphasize the main point of the article and determine the importance and significance of the point that is being made. Do you agree or disagree with the article? How does the article relate to the course material? You should include the newspaper article with the paper that you turn in. **This assignment is due in class on October 1.**

Essay Assignment: Approximately two weeks before the assignment is due, you will receive a set of essay questions. You are to select any one of the questions and construct a 5-7 page, typed essay. You are not required to undertake additional research, but you may if you wish. The material from the course texts is sufficient to help you answer the question that you have selected. Your task is to demonstrate your understanding of the course material. The questions provide you with a framework to engage the material that we are covering in the course. **This assignment is due in class on November 19.**

Mid-term Exam: The exam will cover the material from the fall term. The exam will consist of short-answer and essay questions. More information about the exam will be provided at the end of the fall term. The exam will take place during the university-scheduled exam period **(December 6-22).**

Research Paper Proposal & Bibliography Assignment

You are required to turn in a 2-3 page typed-paper that identifies and explains the topic that you will be researching – topics will be discussed early in the Winter term. The proposal should clearly identify the specific topic and the focus of your investigating. You are also required to provide an initial bibliography of the resources that you will use to complete the final assignment. The bibliography must include a minimum of:

- 4 paper sources (including books, journal articles, UN & government documents etc.)
- 1 online source (from the UN or other relevant electronic sites/publications).

Make sure that you use a proper citation style for this assignment. Information on bibliographic citation styles are available at: www.library.carleton.ca/howdol/citing.html

This assignment is due in class on February 4, 2008.

Oral Presentation: During the winter term, students will present key themes relating to their research paper to the class. The oral presentations will take place during the last month of the winter term. Presentations will be approximately 10-15 minutes in length, and will be graded on both the content and form of the presentation. (There will be a workshop on oral presentations during the first week of the winter term). Although the presentation will be based upon the paper that you have written, it should *not* consist of reading the paper. More information on the presentations will be provided early in the Winter term. Students are responsible to arrange for any audio/visual equipment they require from Carleton IMS (www.carleton.ca/ims) in D283 Loeb, Tel.520-3815

Presentations to be scheduled between March 24th – April 7th 2008.

Research Paper

The assignment will be 10 - 12 pages, double-spaced; tables can be included but as additional appendices. The paper topic and format will be discussed early in the Winter term. A resource sheet will be provided to students with tips on how to access the resources that will be necessary for this assignment. **This assignment is due in class on April 7, 2008.**

Final Exam: The exam will focus heavily on the material from the winter term, but the exam will also include material from the fall term. The exam will consist of short-answer and essay questions. More information about the exam will be provided at the end of the winter term. The exam will take place during the university-scheduled exam period (**April 9-28**).

VI. Other Guidelines

- Assignments sent by fax to the Department of Political Science will not be accepted. Papers emailed to the instructors will not be accepted.
- It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.
- To obtain credit in this course, students must meet all of the course requirements. Failure to complete all of the assignments will result in a failing grade for the course.
- Late assignments will be downgraded one letter-grade category per day. For example, a B+ paper, one day late, will receive a B.

**VII. Course Schedule
Fall Term**

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	Sept. 10	Course Intro. – Intro. to the UN	M+K: ch. 1 Weiss: Intro.
2	Sept. 17	The Charter of the UN	M+K: ch.1 and 2 Weiss: ch. 1 Charter of the UN
3	Sept. 24	Peace and Security	M+K: ch. 4 Weiss: ch. 2
4	October 1	Peace and Security	M+K: ch. 4 Weiss: ch. 2
5	October 8	Thanksgiving – no class	
6	October 15	Peacekeeping Library Skills (from 6-7 meet in library, room 102)	Weiss: ch. 2 *Bellamy et al., Understanding Peacekeeping, chs. 7-9 (R)
7	October 22	Peacekeeping	Weiss: ch. 2 *Bellamy et al., Understanding Peacekeeping, chs. 7-9 (R)
8	October 29	Peace and Security After the Cold War	Weiss: chs. 3 and 4
9	November 5	Peace and Security After the Cold War	Weiss: chs. 3,4
10	Nov. 12	Human Rights	M and K: ch. 6 Weiss: ch. 5
11	Nov. 19	Human Rights	Weiss: chs. 6,7
12	Nov. 26	Humanitarian Intervention	*Holzgreffe and Keohane eds., Humanitarian Intervention chs. 2,9 http://www.iciss.ca/ menu-en.asp
13	Dec. 3	UN Reform/Future of the UN	M and K: ch. 7 Weiss: Conclusion

***material on reserve at the library**

OUTLINE: WINTER TERM (Please note that the winter term readings will be specified and students will receive an updated outline in the fall term)

Readings are from: course texts, Course Pack, online resources and Library Reserves.

1	Jan. 7	Outline of winter term objectives, Introduction of key concepts of development.	
2	Jan. 14	Changing ideas and practice of development (I). Workshop on oral presentations in an academic setting	Weiss Ch. 8 & 9
3	Jan. 21	Changing ideas and practice of development (II): Globalization & Sustainable Human Development	Weiss Ch. 10
4	Jan. 28	UN Data & the Millennium Development Goals	In class lab assignment
5	Feb. 4	Poverty & Development	Course Pack & Online material
6	Feb. 11	Human Security	Course Pack & Online material
7	Feb. 18-22	READING WEEK	
8	Feb. 25	Trade, Debt & Development Workshop on academic writing and research paper preparation.	Course Pack & Online material
9	March 3	Environment & Sustainable Development	Course Pack & Online material
10	March 10	Gender & Development	Course Pack & Online material
11	March 17	Transnational Health & Development	Course Pack & Online material
12	March 24	Governance, Democracy & Development / Oral Presentations	Course Pack & Online material
13	March 31	Oral presentations	
14	April 7	Oral presentations & Conclusion	

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **November 9th, 2007** for December examinations, and **March 14th, 2008** for April examinations.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not

be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.