Course description:

This seminar examines the roles and functions of international organizations, with particular attention being paid to the United Nations. We shall begin with a definitional, historical and theoretical review, before moving on to major areas of United Nations activity: international peace and security, human rights and justice. We will then examine regional organizations and non-governmental organization/ transnational civil society networks. Before the end of term, time will be devoted to international finance and trade. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, G7 and the World Bank and shall figure in those discussions.

Who should take this course and why?

Those interested in the roles and functions of international organizations in the state system and the limited effectiveness of these non-state actors in the performance of those roles will find this seminar particularly useful. The seminar gives participants opportunity to stretch in many directions. Students of the United Nations will find the classes on conflict, justice and human rights to be most useful. Participants interested in non-governmental, transnational and regional international organizations will have much on which to gnaw, and theoreticians will appreciate our third meeting and are free to write theory-only papers.

Students who will profit most from this course include those:

- interested the management of world order by international organizations;
- concerned about the history, development and roles of international organizations, especially since 1945;
- interested in multilateralism, and questions of power and legitimacy;
- working on idealism/liberalism, realism, and other international relations theory; and
- who want to broaden their understanding of international relations though a shift of focus away from the nation state.

Learning objectives for the course:

Participants in this course will be expected to achieve a number of objectives:
• Fully comprehend readings that discuss the theory, development, roles and functions that international organizations play in the world;
• Participate regularly in seminar discussions, where quality participation is more highly valued than quantity participation;
• Demonstrate mastery of specific area of international organizations by serving (as part of a syndicate) as lead-off discussant for one seminar meeting; and
• Demonstrate very strong critical thinking and writing abilities through preparation of a seminar paper that analyses a topic of your choice.

Seminar format:

We will meet on Tuesdays for in-depth discussions of the day's topic and readings.

Each seminar meeting will be lead by a student 'syndicate' working in groups of three or four. Course readings will be summarized in-class and syndicates will be responsible for leading the discussion for that class day. There will not be a syndicate for the first two seminar meetings.

Syndicates can organise and present the readings as they see fit (for example, by identifying the central theme, competing interpretations, pointing out flaws in an argument, or juxtaposing theory and evidence). Syndicates can recommend an additional reading. Syndicate summaries should discuss the readings in light of their substantive content, assumptions and implications for policy makers and future research.

The last three classes are devoted to seminar paper presentations and critiques. Each student will present a draft of their paper to the class, and on a different day will critique the draft paper of another student. Each paper presentation will be about 10-15 minutes and each critique will be about 5-10 minutes. After the discussant speaks, the floor will be opened to the entire class. Depending on the number of students, the time limits above may be adjusted or there may be one or two critiques per paper.

Course text:

There is no course textbook. The required readings are listed below. All are available through the Carleton Library databases or the Internet. You are responsible for getting a copy of the readings on your own.

Class evaluation:

Seminar Research Paper: 50% of total grade
Draft Paper Presentation and Critique of Colleague’s Work: 15% of total grade
Syndicate Work: 15% of total grade
Seminar Participation: 20% of total grade
(general participation, expect for as above)

There is no final exam.
Seminar Research Paper:

The paper should include an abstract of 100-200 words and should be no more than 20 pages long (excluding the bibliography). The draft paper is due one week before your presentation; the final version is due one week after our last meeting. Choose your own topic but discuss it with the Instructor before you begin. Papers will be marked and returned a few weeks later the same way. Late assignments will be deducted 1 letter-grade category/day [ex., a B+ paper 2 days late will be reduced to a B-]. The weekend counts as two days. The departmental drop box cut off time is 4pm. Any assignments submitted after 4pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

Draft Paper Presentation and Critique of Colleague’s Work:

The presentation should be about 10-15 minutes. You can read your paper or read from notes. By the time of the presentation, you should have enough of your paper complete to be able to give the class a clear sense of what the final, completed work will be like. Papers should be e-mailed to the discussant, instructor and the class a week before class. Critiques of colleagues’ work should be typed, double-spaced, about 750 words, written in normal essay style and can have a bibliography. When presenting their comments, critiquers should limit themselves to 5-10 minutes. Critiquers should e-mail their comments to everyone the Sunday before.

Syndicate Work and Seminar Participation:

This includes class discussions of readings and colleague papers and syndicate work (you are graded individually). All students (not just the members of that day’s syndicate) should come to class with readings completed, ready to discuss them.

Other considerations:

The seminar paper may use Internet sources released by an institution, scholar, or academic network. Examples are works on the personal websites of scholars, documents from NATO / the UN, and Columbia International Affairs Online. Everything from the Carleton University Library databases is acceptable. Use common-sense, but be wary of other Internet sources. When citing from the Internet, reflect the applicable paper format and provide the Internet address and date of last access in the note.

To obtain a passing grade in this course, students must complete the seminar paper. It is not acceptable to submit the same paper for evaluation in two or more courses. Your attention is directed to the Carleton University statement prohibiting plagiarism at the back of this outline.

Course readings: [The Instructor reserves the right to add or subtract from the list.]

Week 1 (January 6): Introductions

No readings. The professor and seminar members will introduce themselves and will discuss the course outline and expectations. An e-mail list will be created, and the syndicates will be formed. Students will choose the day they will present their draft paper and the day they will serve as paper critiquer.

Week 2 (January 13): Realist and Liberal Institutionalist Theory and IOs

Week 3 (January 20): Social Constructivist Theory and IOs


Week 4 (January 27): International Peace and Security


Week 5 (February 3): Politics of Human Rights


Week 6 (February 10): Regionalism: Focus on Europe and Transnational Networks


**Week 7 (February 17): **Reading Week. Classes cancelled. **

**Week 8 (February 24): Regionalism: Focus on Asia and Shanghai Cooperation Organization**


**Week 9 (March 3): International Finance and IOs**


**Week 10 (March 10): International Trade and IOs**


**Week 11 (March 17): Seminar paper presentations and critiques**

Presenter #1: Discussant #1: Discussant #2: Discussant #3: Discussant #4: Discussant #2:
Presenter #2: Discussant #1: Discussant #2: Discussant #3: Discussant #2: Discussant #2:
Presenter #3: Discussant #1: Discussant #2: Discussant #3: Discussant #2: Discussant #2:
Presenter #4: Discussant #1: Discussant #2: Discussant #3: Discussant #2: Discussant #2:

**Week 12 (March 24): Seminar paper presentations and critiques**
Week 13 (March 31): Seminar paper presentations and critiques

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. 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 assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2008 for December examinations, and March 6, 2009 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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of “F” for the course. 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 only communicates with students via Connect accounts. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.