UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
U85 IA 510
Fall 2017
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course description
The aim of this course is to gain a deeper understanding of the United Nations (UN) and its role in world politics. Beginning with an examination of the history of the UN and its precursors, we will discuss the UN’s structure and its three-part mission as outlined in the UN Preamble: international peace and security; human rights; and development. We will assess the strengths and weaknesses of the UN and its agencies in these three substantive areas, within the context of a rapidly shifting geopolitical climate. Attention will be paid to the ongoing debate among proponents and detractors of the UN, and the unique role played by the US in this debate.

Course objectives
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the history, structure, and functions of the UN as well as the challenges it faces in the contemporary world politics. Moreover, students are expected to be familiar with central theories of international relations regarding the UN; determine the positions of the United States, People’s Republic of China, Russian Federation, France, Great Britain and other world powers towards the role of the United Nations; and, understand the unique position of the UN system in the world politics.

Readings

Grading
Late assignments will lose 5 percentage points per day.

The following assignments are accompanied by their relative weight as a portion of your final grade.

Two Reflection papers 30% (15% each)
Weekly Forum Participation 40%
Final Research Paper exam 30%
Total 100%
Reflection papers

During the course of the semester, students will submit two 3-5 page papers that will outline the structure and functions of the UN, its missions around the globe, as well as the challenges and opportunities that this international organization faces in the 21st century. These papers are intended to familiarize students with the activities of the UN and develop an in-depth understanding of a particular subject. During the first part of the course, students will choose one UN agency, body or program and prepare an overview of its main functions. Following the second part of the course, students will analyze a particular topic (e.g. peacekeeping, human rights, etc.) that is addressed by the UN agency, body or program that they have chosen. Finally, after the last section of the course, in the final paper students will be asked to reflect on the prospects of the specific issue area that we discussed in class, analyze and suggest their vision for reforming the UN.

Final Exam research paper

The final exam will consist of one longer essay question of approximately 5-8 pages.

EXPLANATION OF GRADES:

Grade Points
A 90-100
B 80-89
B 70-79
C 60-69
D 50-59
F 58 and below

Course schedule

WEEK 1: International Relation Theory
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Chapter1: pp 1-19

WEEK 2: The Evolution of United Nations
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, pp. 21-25, UN Charter
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/wilson/por
trait/wp_election.html

**WEEK 3: The Organization of the United Nations**
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, pp. 24.

**WEEK 4: UN Financing**
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reflection paper 1 due
Reading: Mingst and Karns, PP. 59-67.

**WEEK 5: UN system: International Court of Justice**
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, pp. 46-47.

**WEEK 6: UN Security Council**
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, pp. 34-39.

**WEEK 7: UN General Assembly and Secretary General**
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, pp. 27-31; 94-99.

**WEEK 8: UN in Action**
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reflection Paper 2 due
Reading: An overview of UN issue areas UN Global Issues
“The United Nations: It’s your world” (video)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHmXZXsABm0

WEEK 9: Peace and Security/UN
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, pp. 111-159

WEEK 10: Economic and Social Development
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, ch. 5.

WEEK 11: Millennium Development Goals
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, pp.217-222.
MDG
“Let’s Step Up” (video)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfjdUcJla6s&list=PL8DEED622522E65D3

WEEK 12: Human Rights
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, ch. 6
WEEK 13: Human Security and Environment
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, ch. 7.

WEEK 14: International Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, pp.167-183.
Fasulo, An Insider’s Guide to the UN, ch.10.
UN Action to Counter Terrorism

WEEK 15: Prospects and criticism, and reforming the UN
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, ch. 8.& pp 289-290
Weiss, Thomas G. What’s Wrong with the United Nations and How to Fix It:

WEEK 16: UN in the 21st C: Challenges and Opportunities
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, ch. 8
pp.342-347

WEEK 17: REFLECTIONS
Discussion Post Due Wednesday 11:59PM
Responses Due Sunday 11:59PM
Reading: Mingst and Karns, ch. 8
Course overview-No class dates

Oct. 14th-17th Fall Break

Nov 22nd-26th Thanksgiving

Online research/information resources:

- UN Member States views: http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/unms/
- Foreign Affairs: http://www.foreignaffairs.com/
- Foreign Policy Association: http://www.fpa.org
- BBC News Country Profiles: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm (just select your country for a list of pertinent news items and a brief profile)

http://www.lib.odu.edu/resources/databases/PSandL/index.htm


Notice on Java Updates and Supported Browsers

- You can visit https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720 for detailed information on which browser works best for Canvas, based upon your computer’s operating system.
- Be sure you have downloaded the most recent version Java. This free software program helps you to be able to access Canvas. You can check which version of Java you currently have and update it (if necessary) by visiting www.java.com. Keep Java updated for best results.

Technical Support

This is a fully online, technology-based course. Because computers are not perfect, plan on having technical issues at least once during the term. While this can cause some incredibly frustrating moments, the overall benefits of the technology do outweigh any issues that may arise. Just be ready to contact technical support in the event of difficulties. Send an email to student.technology@wustl.edu or call 935-8200 with any questions/problems concerning Canvas. (This is technical support for any problems you experience within the Canvas classroom only, not other external software). For additional Canvas resources, visit https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701

“Netiquette” Statement on Internet Communication.
- Remember your audience. If you would not say it in a face-to-face classroom, do not include it in the online discussions either. Consider what you write, as it is a permanent record and can be retrieved easily. Use courtesy and common sense in all your electronic communications.
- Write in complete sentences and check spelling before you post anything in class.
- DON’T TYPE IN ALL CAPS. This is hard to read and is considered "shouting."
- Respect the opinions of others and be sensitive to the diverse nature of people in the class. Keep in mind that although you cannot "see" your classmates, you can show respect for individual differences. Diversity issues may include the following and others: race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, gender, sexual orientation, age, social class, marital status, urban vs. rural dwellers, etc.
- No profanity will be allowed. This includes writing in punctuation. For example, ##%$#! is considered profanity and is not permitted. Also, language expressed in inappropriate acronyms is not acceptable.

**Statement Regarding Academic Honesty:**

Students are bound by the University College policy on academic integrity in all aspects of this course. All references to ideas and texts other than the students' own must be so indicated through appropriate footnotes, whether the source is a book, an online site, the professor, etc. All students are responsible for following the rules outlined in the document regarding the university academic integrity policy: http://ucollege.wustl.edu/faculty/academic_integrity

All students are expected to abide by the citation and attribution techniques explained here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/

**Academic Support:** All University College students are encouraged to take advantage of the following Academic Support services:

- **Cornerstone:** Cornerstone provides access to academic peer mentoring, assists students with essential study and test-taking skills, and offers disability resources to students in need. In addition, Cornerstone connects first-generation college students to leadership programs and offers academic, research and career opportunities. Visit http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/ for more information.
- **Writing Center:** The Writing Center staff members are writers helping writers through the process of revision. They are undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty members who love to write and to help others clarify their thoughts and ideas. The Writing Center and The Speaking Studio at Washington University in St. Louis provide free, one-on-one tutoring to all WUSTL students for any writing or public speaking project. Students interested in using the Writing Center should call in advance to make an appointment. Visit http://writingcenter.wustl.edu/ for more information.
• **Arts & Sciences Computing:** Arts & Sciences Computing operates two labs that are open to students, faculty, and staff. Visit http://computing.artsci.wustl.edu/labs for more information.

• **Library:** Washington University Libraries boast an impressive array of services, including course reserves, interlibrary loan, reserved study spaces, the Arc Computing Lab, and so much more. Visit http://library.wustl.edu/ for more information.

**Student Accommodations:** Washington University is committed to providing equal opportunity for students with disabilities. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) assists students with disabilities by providing services and arranging for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access and equal academic opportunities. Students wishing to request services or accommodations must register and provide appropriate documentation to the DRC at cornerstone.wustl.edu. The DRC serves as a resource and advisor to students with disabilities and welcomes opportunities to consult with students, families, faculty, and staff. This online course has been designed with accessibility in mind. Be sure to visit the Canvas accessibility statement at: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2061-accessibility-within-canvas.

**General Tips for Success in the Online Classroom:**

Welcome to our online course! The following is a list of helpful information that represents habits of students who have succeeded in online courses. These tips should help each of you to have a positive experience as well.

1. **GET STARTED:** Remember that this online course begins on day one of the semester. Log in early during the first week to print the syllabus, become oriented to the online classroom, and get to know your professor and classmates. Waiting until the end of the first week to get started may derail your efforts to succeed.

2. **STAY ORGANIZED.** Bookmark our course websites (Canvas and other websites indicated by professor etc.) Create a special binder or folder to organize any printed materials. Study time will be easier and more fruitful if you are organized and up to date.

3. **INTERACT WITH YOUR CLASSMATES.** Students who study in small groups or pairs tend to be more successful. You can help each other to understand difficult points in simply by participating regularly in the Discussion Forums.
4. **SHOW UP & ASK QUESTIONS.** Visit me in office hours occasionally for extra discussion as needed. Make an appointment and we can talk in real time via Skype or phone. You can also email me any questions that arise or post them in the “Questions?” discussion forum.

5. **DO THE READING.** The assigned reading is a valuable part of the course. Students who consistently stay up to date on the reading tend to receive higher grades than those who do not. In this class, the reading will consist of.... which will prepare you to participate in the classroom discussion forums.

6. **STUDY “OFFLINE” SOMETIMES.** Although this is an online course, you need not do all of your studying online. Spend time studying away from the computer by taking notes on the readings.

7. **DON’T PROCRASTINATE.** Procrastination will ruin your experience in the class in several ways. Not only does it prevent you from learning what you are here to learn, but it will also cause you to lose a lot of points. Refer to the list of assignment due dates in this syllabus and follow the steps outlined in the study guide in order to better understand how to pace yourself appropriately.

8. **HANG IN THERE!!** If this is your first online class, the experience may challenge you at first, but as long as you keep up with the reading and follow your professor’s instructions, you will develop an understanding of the rhythm of the course after the first unit. See me for help as needed, I am your resource and I want to see you succeed and enjoy this course!

**Guidelines for Discussion Forum Participation**

1. Be sure to write in the **subject** line to whom your message is addressed. Changing the subject line is the number one way to make sure your post is noticed by the intended recipient.
2. Be sure to **sign your name** at the bottom of your messages. Writing your name at the end of each message helps to clarify the author and helps your classmates remember who you are.
3. Before responding to a particular discussion topic, be sure to **complete the reading assignment** of the corresponding unit. Remember that the discussion topics are specifically tied to the readings. Be sure to take your time and write meaningful discussion forum postings. Your ideas and content are important, and issues such as grammar, spelling, accents, vocabulary, and sentence structure count as well. Be sure your posts are well edited before you submit them, since unedited posts do not receive full points.

4. Participate in each discussion over **several days** within the lesson and avoid waiting until the due date to get started. Each discussion requires several posts from you, including replies to classmates. Waiting until the last day to participate minimizes the opportunity to interact with your classmates and me and makes discussion participation much less meaningful for you. It will also result in a loss of points.

5. Finally, the discussion forums are meant to be **fun!** Check in often to communicate with your classmates and me.