

## **POL 301 - International Organizations (45 contact hours, 3 credits)**

### **Course Overview**

The emphasis of this course will be conflict resolution and international political processes focusing upon interactions within the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and principal regional organizations, such as the European Union.

More specifically, the focus is on the philosophy and principles of International Organizations/IO. The first section tries to examine the rationale of IO by dealing with the origins, the nature, theory, history (the League of Nations) and methods of them. The second one is about global organizations and especially the United Nations (UN) system.

The third section will explore the regionalism and regional organizations with their specific institutions.

The last section of the course will be centered on the Model United Nations or European Union project. The goal is support students in improving their public speaking and argumentation skills while researching and formulating political positions based on the current events and the actual policies of the member country they represent.

### **Learning Outcomes**

On completion of the course the students will be able to:

- ✓ Examine the role of international organizations in the global arena and at regional level
- ✓ Be familiar with the major events that shape international organizations and the global arena
- ✓ Discuss the major theoretical principles and concepts used to study international organizations
- ✓ Understand the various reasons why international organizations are formed and die or endure
- ✓ Develop critical thinking skills while analyzing global problems from various perspectives and the limits of the main international organizations
- ✓ Analyze issues from the selected member country's perspective, and articulate the foreign policy of the selected country (MUN/MEU)

### **Assignments and Grading**

Further details on the assignments will be distributed during lectures and discussed. Opportunities for questions about the assignments will be given during the course. The grade for the course will be based on student's work as follows:



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- ✓ Attendance & Participation (including assignments if any): 15%
- ✓ Mid-term exam: 20%
- ✓ MUN/MEU Project: 40%  
(International Issue Oral Presentation 15% + Assigned Country Position Oral Presentation 10% + MUN Position Paper 15%)
- ✓ Final exam: 25%

For the exams students are required to answer 8-10 multiple choice questions and comprehensively answer a max. of three open questions.

### **Grading Scale**

A 95%-100%

A- 90%-94%

B+ 87%-89%

B 83%-86%

B- 80%-82%

C+ 77%-79%

C 73%-76%

C- 70%-72%

D+ 67%-69%

D 63%-66%

D- 60%-62%

F under 60

### **Topics**

#### Section 1

- ✓ Introduction to international organizations
- ✓ Theory, methods, history of the international organizations

#### Section 2

- ✓ The United Nations I: law and administration
- ✓ The United Nations II: international peace and security
- ✓ The World Trade Organization
- ✓ The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank
- ✓ The International Labor Organization
- ✓ The International Court of Justice

#### Section 3

- ✓ The European Union and the regional organizations



## Section 4

✓ MUN/MEU

### **Textbook**

Ian Hurd, *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

### **Course Policy**

#### Attendance

You are allowed **two** unexcused absences (**one** in the summer terms). Documentation for any other absence **MUST** be produced and **APPROVED** by the professor or the Academic Director. For absences due to illness, please provide the professor with a doctor's note upon returning to class as well as inform him and/or the school the first day of illness. Each unexcused absence after the second will reduce your grade by 3 percentage points.

#### Late submissions

Assignments not submitted by the due date will receive a penalty of 10% for the first 24 hours, 20% for a 48-hour delay. No submissions will be accepted more than 3 days after the deadline, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor (for extensions under exceptional circumstances, apply to the course instructor).

#### Personal Technology

Please turn cell phones off during class. Laptops may be to take notes, however social networking, e-mailing, surfing the Internet, playing games, etc. are absolutely forbidden during class. Any student caught doing the activities during class will be asked to turn off their cell phones and/or computers.

Repeated violations of this rule after the first warning will result in the student being marked absent for the day and permanently losing their laptop privileges. Be respectful; the use of personal electronic devices during class is limited to academic purposes.

#### Contesting a grade

If students wish to contest a grade, they must make an appointment to do so in person. The student should contact the instructor with any concerns within **ONE** week of receiving the grade. The student must also demonstrate that they have read the comments accompanying the grade by presenting a brief written statement specifying why the grade does not reflect the quality of the work.

It is at the discretion of the instructor to decide whether the work and the student's request warrant any increase or decrease in the grade. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and feedback (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments.



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