
POLI 151
International Organizations

Winter 2010
MWF 9-9.50am

<http://www.polisci.ucsd.edu/~cjschneider/courses/poli151.html>

Peter 104

Professor Christina J. Schneider

Office: SSB 321

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-11am

E-mail: cjschneider@ucsd.edu

Office Phone: 858-246-1009

DESCRIPTION: The international system is often characterized as anarchic and scholars focus on the interactions between nation states. However, since World War II, the number of international organizations has increased considerably and international organizations have become more prominent players in the international arena. Why do international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, or the European Union exist? What role do they play in solving global problems?

In this course we will analyze these questions from a theoretical as well as practical perspective. We shall begin with a broad overview of the characterization of the international system, incentives for cooperation under anarchy, controversies surrounding IOs in the context of international relations theory, the success of international organizations in solving global problems as well as the major challenges IOs face in meeting their mandate. We shall then apply our knowledge to the analysis of different international organizations with a focus of the challenges of United Nations humanitarian intervention.

PREREQUISITES: This is an advanced undergraduate course and correspondingly the reading load is not light. Students should have taken at least the introduction course to international relations and be familiar with the major international relations theories.

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Steven Oliver

Office: SSB 332

Office Hours: Monday 10-12am

E-mail: s1oliver@ucsd.edu

REQUIREMENTS: The course requirements consist of a midterm exam (30%), a final exam (45%), and an essay (25%).

Exams. The exams will consist of identification, short-answer, and essay questions, and will be administered in class. The final will be comprehensive. You must take both exams to receive a passing grade for the course. The format for both exams will be the same.

Written Essay. You are required to write an essay on an international organization that is currently in the news. The essay should briefly describe the international organizations and its goals. You should then make an argument about why the international organization is achieving or not achieving its stated goal. The essay will be **due at the beginning of class on March**

5th. Grading will be based on the clarity of the position taken, concise writing, well reasoned support of the argument, and inclusion of concepts from the relevant literature covered in the course. Late essays will incur a 20% grade penalty for each day after the deadline. The essay should be typed, with at least 1-inched margins all around, typeface of at least 11 point, and 5 pages in length.

Missed Exams. Essay extensions and make-up exams will only be given under valid, documented, and extreme circumstances. If you know you will miss an exam for a legitimate reason, notify me at least a week in advance. E-mail is perfectly acceptable. If you are not able to contact me in advance, you must do so as soon as possible. I am a reasonable person and will work with you to resolve reasonable problems. It is your responsibility to arrange with me to take a make-up exam.

Attendance. Class attendance will be important for your performance on the exams. Much of the material that we shall cover may not be in the readings. Taking notes will help you structure the substance.

Academic Dishonesty. You are expected to do your own work. Students caught cheating on exams or plagiarizing their essays will receive a failing grade for the course and will be turned over to the dean of their college for administrative sanctions.

Grade Appeals. You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. This includes clarity of thought, knowledge of the material, composition, spelling, and grammar. Students who believe to have received an incorrect grade or a grade based on non-academic criteria should formally appeal it to me. The appeal will consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents a reasoned argument that the grade fits the appeal criteria listed above.

READINGS: The course readings will be drawn from a number of books and articles. The following required books are available for purchase at the bookstore:

- Paul Diehl, 2005: Politics of Global Governance, 3rd edition, Rienner.
- Michael Barnett, 2003: Eyewitness to Genocide: The United Nations and Rwanda, Cornell University Press.

Additionally, the bookstore provides a reader with some of the materials from books as indicated on the webpage. Alternatively, I have put these books on reserve at the IR/PS library. All other readings will be available from the course webpage.

SCHEDULE: This is a list of topics we shall try to cover. You find a weekly schedule with required readings on the course webpage.

TOPIC 1: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

TOPIC 2: WHY DO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS EXIST?

TOPIC 3: DESIGN OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

TOPIC 4: THE EFFECTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

TOPIC 5: NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

- TOPIC 6: MANAGING INTERNATIONAL TRADE
- TOPIC 7: MANAGING THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM
- TOPIC 8: PROVIDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- TOPIC 9: REGIONAL INTEGRATION
- TOPIC 10: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- TOPIC 11: PROVIDING COLLECTIVE SECURITY
- TOPIC 12: PEACE-KEEPING AND HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION