

Department.: Political Science

Course number : POLS 225W

Title : International Organization and Law

Credits : 3

Contact Person : Jennifer Sterling-Folker

Catalog Copy : 225. International Organizations and Law

Either semester. Three credits

The role of intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and international law in world affairs, with special attention to contemporary issues.

225W. International Organizations and Law

Prerequisite: ENGL 110 or 111 or 250

Course Information:

Goals and objectives: The course seeks to acquaint students with the multitude of international organizations and non-governmental organizations that populate world politics. It examines the various roles such organizations fulfill in global affairs. It also acquaints students with the fundamental concepts of international law and pertinent legal cases. Finally, it explores the transnational problems that international organizations and laws address.

Course requirements: The course is a combination of lecture, discussion, and in-class group exercises. Students have weekly readings, two exams, and an in-class presentation. When taught as a W, students must also write an annotated bibliography and a 15-25 page paper on a research topic related to international organization or international law. The process for writing this research paper involves individual feedback from the instructor and extensive revision in order to produce a final draft (as specified below).

The course reviews the basic terms and issues of international organization, the history and structure of the United Nations (UN), UN peacekeeping, terrorism, trade and finance in the Bretton Woods Institutions, sustainable development, human rights, environmental access and degradation, global health care, population growth and refugees, corporate malfeasance, and illicit trafficking. Under international law we review the concepts of legal personalities, jurisdiction, law of the seas, international environmental law, arbitration, and legal use of force.

W Criteria:

- a. When the course will be taught as a W, the major research paper required in the course will enhance learning the content of the course by actively engaging students with a specific transnational problem that is addressed by international organizations and law. This compliments the exams, which focus on reviewing and remembering facts and basic concepts, because it personalizes the student's knowledge of and experience with the subject matter. The research paper must be 15-25 pages in length and is written in two drafts, with substantial revision undertaken between the first and second drafts. The writing component of the course constitutes 60% of the final grade for the course.
- b. The primary modes of instruction when taught as a W will include extensive written commentary on the annotated bibliography and the first drafts of the research paper, in-class instruction and discussions of common writing problems and issues, and individual meetings with each student shortly after the first draft is handed back in order to answer questions and discuss comments.
- c. An annotated bibliography and a first draft of this research paper will be due by mid-semester. Extensive written comments and suggestions on both the bibliography and the first draft are provided. Students must meet individually with the instructor shortly after the first draft is handed back in order to answer questions, discuss suggestions, and ensure that comments are incorporated into a revised final draft. Students are required to submit both drafts at the end of the course so that the instructor can evaluate how well students have incorporated comments and suggestion.

d. The final grade is calculated so that the non-writing components of the course are worth 40%, while the writing components of the course constitute 60% of the final course grade. The syllabus clearly states this and reiterates that failure to pass the W component of the course, which involves writing quality, will result in failure of the course.

Role of Grad Students: The department has not relied on graduate students to teach W courses or sections in the past, nor does it intend to do so in the future.

Supplementary Information: - Syllabus :

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION (IO) AND LAW

Political Science 225W

Professor Jennifer Sterling-Folker Monteith 206, 486-2535

Jennifer.sterling-folker@uconn.edu Office Hours: T&Th 12:30-2:00

This is a writing intensive course which explores the following questions: What are IOs and NGOs? What do they do in global politics? What is international law? What is its purpose? This course explores such questions and acquaints you with the most important IOs and NGOs in the international system. It will also explore the transnational problems that IOs have been developed to address. The format is a combination of lectures, discussion, and in-class group activities. There will be weekly readings, two exams, and an in-class presentation. You will be expected to write an annotated bibliography and two drafts of a 15-25 page paper on a research topic related to international organization or international law. You will also be expected to attend at least one individual meeting with me so that we can discuss the first draft of your research paper. Please be aware that, as a writing intensive course, the writing component is worth more than 50% of your final grade, and failure to pass the course's writing components means you will fail the course.

READINGS : There are 3 books for the course available at the Coop:

Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns. *The United Nations in the Post-Cold War Era* , 2 nd ed. (Boulder , CO : Westview Press, 2000)

Valerie Epps. *International Law for Undergraduates* , (Carolina Academic Press, 2001)

Joan Powell, ed . *Alternatives to the Peace Corps: A Directory of Third World and US Volunteer Opportunities* , 9 th ed . (Oakland , CA : Food First Books).

The books are also on reserve at the library. Once early in the semester I will also ask you to buy individual copies of the New York Times for use in class (can be purchased at the Coop's library newsstand).

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS : By mid-semester you must write an annotated bibliography and a first draft of your research paper, both of which will receive extensive comments and suggestions. You will be expected to meet with me the week after I have handed back your research paper's first draft, so that I can answer questions and we may discuss my comments. The final draft of your research paper must incorporate my comments and be a revision of your first draft. We will discuss how to revise papers, along with other writing issues, during class discussion. Both drafts must be handed in at the time of your presentation which will be during the last week of class.

Regarding your research topic, there are 10 transnational issues that international organizations and international law most frequently address: UN peacekeeping, terrorism, trade and finance in the Bretton Woods Institutions, sustainable development, human rights, environmental access and degradation, global health care, population growth and refugees, corporate malfeasance, and illicit trafficking. Your topic should be related on one of these general topics, and I will provide a handout with ideas for more specific topics.

PRESENTATIONS : Class sessions during the last week of class will be devoted to in-class presentations based on your research paper. Individual presentations are limited to 5-7 minutes each in order to leave time for questions and discussion, and your paper is due at the time of your presentation.

EXAMS : There are two exams in this course – a midterm and a final – and you will be tested on lecture material and reading assignments.

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION : The components of your final grade are calculated so that the nonwriting components of the course are worth 40% (each exam 15%, in-class presentation 10%), while the writing components of the course constitute 60% of the final course grade (annotated bibliography 10%, first draft 15%, final draft 35%). Failure to pass the W component of the course, which involves writing quality, will result in failure of the course.

READINGS AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE:

Week 1 -- Introduction to Course / Basic Terms and Issues in IO

Read Mingst and Karns, chs 2

Week 2 – U.N. Overview

Read Mingst and Karns, chs 3; Look through Powell

Week 3 – U.N. Peacekeeping / Military-Security Issues

Read Mingst and Karns, ch. 4

Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 4 – The UN and Capitalist Economics / Trade and Finance Issues

Read Mingst and Karns ch. 5

Week 5 – Sustainable Development

Read Mingst and Karns, ch. 6

Week 6 – Human Rights

Read Epps ch. 8

First Draft of Research Paper due

Week 7 -- Introduction to International Law / MIDTERM

Read Mingst and Karns, ch 1 and Epps, Intro and ch. 1 (sources)

Midterm

Week 8 – Legal Personalities / Population and Refugee Issues

Read Epps, ch. 7 (legal personalities)

Individual Meetings with me During Office Hours

Week 9 – Jurisdiction / Terrorist Acts and International Law

Read Epps, ch. 4 (jurisdiction)

Individual Meetings with me During Office Hours

Week 10 – Law of the Seas / Illicit Trafficking

Read Epps, ch. 5 (law of seas)

Week 11 -- Int . Environmental Law / Environmental Access and Pollution

Read Epps, ch. 6 (environment)

Week 12 – Arbitration / Corporate Malfeasance and Labor Exploitation

Read Epps, ch. 9 (Arbitration/int. court)

Week 13 -- Legalities of Use of Force / Global Health Care

Read Epps, ch. 10 (use of force)

Week 14 – In-Class Presentations

Final Drafts due on the day of your presentation

Final Exam TBA