

POLI 3531: The UN in World Politics

(3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Carlos Pessoa

Classroom Location: LSC-Common Area, C338

Office Hours: I can meet every day right after class or by appointment

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DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course aims to generate a great level of knowledge of one of the most important international organizations since World War II. The United Nation plays a fundamental role to bring long lasting peace and development to a diverse set of countries and nations. We start the course with discussions on the perspectives and historical factors that led to the foundation of the UN. We discuss the UN during and after the Cold War, to demonstrate how strategic interests by powerful States often halt the UN's course of actions. Our discussions then focus on the role the UN has played in promoting development. This is an important objective for the UN, and we examine it in light of key theoretical approaches to development. We finish the course with a discussion on the contemporary issues related to the UN.

ASSIGNMENTS

Exam I: 30% (July 18)

Exam II: 30% (July 26)

There will be two exams, each representing 30% of the final mark. The exams will be based on the class lectures and readings from the main textbook only, up to the day before the exam date. The exam should be written in pen.

Presentation: 30%

The presentation should broadly show that students not only has done the basic reading, but have also thought critically the topic. More specifically, the presentation should demonstrate deeper reading and research about the chosen topic. Basically, the presentation shall represent an application of the theoretical approaches to a particular case study. The presentation should last about 20 minutes.

Along with the presentation, students are required to submit a presentation outline. The presentation outline should have name and student number of all students, an outline of the main points discussed and list of extra sources used for the presentation.

Analytical Paper I: 10% (July 25)

You are expected to write one paper on the videos presented in class throughout the course. You need to summarize the video's key themes, highlighting its main thesis and discuss which theoretical approach the video seems to be based on throughout its discussion.

The length of the paper should be between four to five fully written pages. A paper with less than the required length *automatically leads to an 'F' for the assignment.*

The student is responsible to keep an extra copy of the paper. Failure to provide an extra copy of the paper on request will lead to an 'F' for the assignment.

Plagiarism is both morally and legally a form of fraud. Essays must be solely a product of the student's own work. Quoting or paraphrasing the work or ideas of others without proper acknowledgment is a serious offence in academia, and it can lead to drastic consequences.

Late papers will be penalized 10% per day up to three business days.

Summer Time Arrangements: As people can be working and have traveling and religious commitments, replacements of assignments with essays can be established with the professor. However, such arrangement must be established during the first week of class.

TEXTBOOK

Thomas G. Weiss et al, **The United Nations and Changing World Politics**, sixth edition. Philadelphia: Westview Press, 2010. (Required Textbook, available online)

Thomas G. Weiss & Sam Daws, **The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations**. The US: Oxford University Press, 2007.(Reserve Room)

IN-CLASS ETIQUETTE RULES

The following are *prohibited* in the classroom:

- Speaking or text messaging on the phone (*you are required to turn off your cell phone while in class*)
- The use laptop is restricted during the time of lecture
- Listening to music
- Reading unless requested by the professor
- Eating food and drinking hot beverages
- Frequent entering and exiting the classroom
- Chatting with friends and other distracting behaviour

Please be sure to follow these rules. You will be asked to leave otherwise and may receive 'F' as final letter grade for the course.

Accommodation Statement:

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

Academic Integrity Statement:

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which

facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to be checked electronically for originality. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand.

PROGRAM

July 4: Introduction

We start with an exposition and thorough explanation and expectations of the course and its assignments.

Students are required to sign in for presentation on a specific weekly topic, applied to a case study.

July 5: The UN and its Institutional Frameworks

Reading:

**The United Nations and Changing World Politics, Introduction.*

The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics, chapter 1

The Oxford Handbook, part III.

July 6: Perspectives on Collective Security

Reading:

**The United Nations and Changing World Politics, chapter I*

The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics, chapter 5

The Oxford Handbook, part II

July 7: The UN during the Cold War

Reading:

**The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, chapter 2

The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics, chapter 7.

July 11: The UN after the Cold War

Reading:

*Thomas G. Weiss et al, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, chapter 3

The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics, chapter 8.

July 12: Security Operations

Reading:

*Thomas G. Weiss et al, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, chapter 4.

The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics, chapter 6

The Oxford Handbook, chapter 18 & 19.

July 13: The UN & Human Rights

Reading:

*Thomas G. Weiss et al, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, chapter 6

The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics. Chapter 9.

The Oxford Handbook, chapter 25

July 14: The UN and the Application of Human Rights Standards

Reading:

*Thomas G. Weiss et al, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, chapter 7 & 8.

The Oxford Handbook, chapter 26, 28, 29 and 30.

July 18: Exam I

July 19: The UN and Theories of Development

Reading:

*Thomas G. Weiss et al, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, chapter 9

The Oxford Handbook, chapter 32 & 36.

July 20: The UN and Sustainable Development

Reading:

*Thomas G. Weiss et al, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, chapter 10

The Oxford Handbook, chapter 34

July 21: Promoting Development and challenges in the Twenty-First Century

Reading:

*Thomas G. Weiss et al, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, chapter 11 & 5

The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics, chapter 10

The Oxford Handbook, chapter 37

July 25: Conclusion: Course Evaluation and Revision for Exam I

July 26: Exam II