

POLI 3531: The UN in World Politics

(3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Carlos Pessoa

Course Delivery Format: Synchronous

Day / Time: Mondays to Thursdays, July 4- 25, 9:05am

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In order to get a response from your instructor, you need to include the following in your email: full name, student number and the course number. It is very important that you use the official Dalhousie email account.

Description and 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

Analytical Video Paper: 3 X 20%

Paper I due July 8

Paper II due July 12

Paper III due July 15

You are expected to write three analytical paper which will be based on theoretical frameworks and videos of the UN operations. Each paper should be of about 4 pages length, double space/ Each of film discuss a particular UN operation. You need to give a summary of the video for about 2 pages, then pick which of the four theoretical frameworks discussed in our class notes does the film fits best. You can only pick one theory for each case. If this is not clear, please email or come to Virtual meetings.

Exam: 2 X 20%

Exam I is on July 9 & Exam II is due July 16

There are two multiple-choice quizzes. They are based on class notes. You will have 45 minutes to answer 20 questions. Exam II is not cumulative.

Alternative Arrangements: If for reasons of work, health or religious reasons, you are not able to carry out assignments as they are set up now, let me know. We can arrange a paper replacement for any of the assignments. The paper would be of 6-8 pages, using APA citation style, on any topic related to the UN.

Late Policy: Extensions of deadlines are granted only due to illness, and must be followed by appropriate documents. *Late papers will be penalized 5% per day up to three normal calendar days.*

Grade Scale

Grade Scale and definitions can be found in the following link:

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/grade-scale-and-definitions.html

Textbook

Thomas G. Weiss et al, **The United Nations and Changing World Politics**, 7th edition. New York: Routledge (Required Textbook)

You can access e-format book through Dalhousie Library.

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

Lawrence Ziring, Robert E. Riggs and Jack C. Plano, **The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics**, fourth edition. Canada: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2005.

Additional reading for each topic can be provided. Please let the professor know you are interested in getting more readings for a particular week.

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 to the course, going over the course, recordings, assignments, etc.

July 5: On State, Sovereignty and UN's key organs.

Reading: The United Nations and Changing World Politics, Introduction

July 6: Theoretical frameworks In International Relations

Reading: The United Nations and Changing World Politics, chapter 5

Movie I: On Our Watch (video on the UN response to Darfur region, Sudan)

July 7: Theoretical Approaches to the UN

July 8: On Collective Security

Paper I due today.

Reading: The United Nations and Changing World Politics, chapter 1

July 9: Exam I

Movie II: The Peacekeepers (On the UN operation in the Congo)

July 12: On Human Security

Paper II due today

Reading: The United Nations and Changing World Politics, chapter 3 & 4

July 13: On Human Rights

Movie III: Sons of the Clouds (on the UN response to Western Sahara)

Reading: The United Nations and Changing World Politics, chapter 6 & 7

July 14: UN Contributions to Development

Reading: The United Nations and Changing World Politics, chapter 10 & 11

July 15: Conclusion & Revision for Exam II

Paper III due today

** Please do the Course evaluation*

July 16: Exam II