

POLI 3531: The UN in World Politics

(3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Carlos Pessoa

Course Delivery Format: Asynchronous

Duration: From July 4 to July 26, 2023

How to contact the instructor:

Email: cr966457@dal.ca

In order to get a faster 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 Dalhousie email account.

Besides email, I am available for virtual meetings on anything from the course structure and content, to discuss questions about assignments; from Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm, using Teams or Zoom. It is strongly recommended to download the Team App to have faster access to the instructor.

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. Discussion turns towards human rights and how UN tries to spread the discourse of human rights, in face of cultural differences. 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 14

Paper II due July 21

Paper III due July 26

You are required to write three analytical papers, which will be based on the theoretical frameworks and videos of the UN operations. Each paper should be of between 5 to 6

pages length and double spaced. Each of the film discusses a particular UN operation (Darfur region, Sudan; The Democratic Republic of Congo and Western Sahara). You need to give a summary of the video for about 2 – 3 pages, then discuss one the four theoretical frameworks discussed in our class notes. You need to pick one theory that you think fits best with the film. You can only pick one theory for each case. The assignment is based ONLY on class notes and the film. You are not expected to bring outside sources about the case or any other theory, except those discussed in this particular course.

Exam: 2 X 20%

Exam I: July 14

Exam II: July 26

There are two multiple-choice exams. They are only and strictly based on class notes. You will have 60 minutes to answer 20 questions. The exam II is not cumulative.

Connectivity or questions during the exams: *In case there is any issue relating to connectivity or any questions regarding the exam, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible.* The fastest way to contact the instructor is on Teams.

Alternative Arrangements: If for reasons of work, health or religious reasons, you're not able to carry out assignments as they are set up now, let the instructor know within the first 2 days of the course. 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 relating to the UN.

Late Policy: Extensions of deadlines will be granted only due to illness, and must be supported by appropriate documents. *Late papers will be penalized 5% per day up to three normal calendar days, after which the assignment will automatically receive an 'F'.*

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**, 8th edition. New York: Routledge, 2018 (Required Textbook)

You can access e-format books though Dalhousie Library.

Thomas G. Weiss & Sam Daws, **The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations**, Second edition. The US: Oxford University Press, 2016.

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

As some students might be taking this course as an elective, the level of difficulty can vary from student to student. If you are having difficulty with any of the terms or concepts discussed in this course or any of the course material, please contact the instructor for extra discussion and clarification. Or, if you need more challenging material, please let the instructor know and additional reading for each topic can be provided and more in-depth discussion can be provided on any relevant topic.

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.

COURSE PROGRAM

The course is divided into four different weekly modules. As an asynchronous course, you have the control of when you want to review the lecture recordings, readings and films required to watch in this course in order to write the papers. Under each module, you will find:

- A *Video Note* for the week that gives you a brief overview of the weekly module.
- *Lecture Recordings* for each topic of the week, which goes over class notes for the week
- *Class Notes* for each topic of the week, allowing you to follow the lecture recordings and gives you the possibility to go back to a particular topic without having to watch the whole lecture recording again. This is your basic class notes in PowerPoints format.
- *Films* required to watch in order to write each of the three papers. Starting from week I, you will find films for each of the UN missions, from which you will write a paper for each film (total of 3).
- *Dropboxes* for papers. Starting on Week II, you will see “Paper: Submit here” for each of the three papers. You will find it in Week II, Week III and Week IV.
- *Exams* are found in Week II and Week IV. You will need to click on the “Exam I”, in order to complete. You have just one attempt.
- *Additional Items*. There are non-academic and not-required readings for each of the weekly topics.

Week I (July 4- 7): Key Terms, UN’s organs & Theoretical frameworks

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

Video note on Week I (13:54 min)

Lecture Recording: On Key Terms and the UN's organs (37:25 min). This recording lecture discusses the class notes for key terms and the UN key's organs. The class notes for this lecture recording are the very next item.

Lecture Recording: On Theoretical Frameworks (36:54 min). This recording lecture discusses the class notes for theoretical frameworks. The class notes for this lecture recording are the very next item in the module.

Film I: On Our Watch (video on the UN response to Darfur region, Sudan). This is the first film you are required to watch in order to write Paper I.

Week II (July 10- 14): On Collective Security

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

Video Note on Week II (3:05 min)

Lecture Recording: On Collective Security (25:00 min). This recording lecture discusses the class notes for Collective Security. The class notes for this lecture recording are the very next item in the module.

Paper I: Due July 14

Film II: Peacekeepers. This is the second film you are required to watch in order to write Paper II.

Exam I: July 14

Week III (July 17- 21): On Human Rights & Human Security

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

Video Note on Week III (2.48 min)

Lecture Recording: On Human Rights (27:11 min). This recording lecture discusses the class notes for Human Rights. The class notes for this lecture recording are the very next item.

Lecture Recording: On Human Security (15:31 min). This recording lecture discusses the class notes for Human Security. The class notes for this lecture recording are the very next item in the module.

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

Paper II: Due July 21

Week IV (July 24-26): The UN & Development

Reading: The United Nations and Changing World Politics, chapter 6, 10 & 11

Video Note on Week IV (3:4 min)

Lecture Recording: On the Contributions to Development and Sustainable Development (48:12 min). This recording lecture discusses the class notes for Contributions to the Idea of Development & Sustainable Development. The class notes for this lecture recording are the very next two items in the module.

Paper III: Due July 26

Exam II: July 26

** Please do the Course evaluation (SLEQ)*