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Spring 2003

DIPL 2712 International Organizations

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Spring 2003
Monday and Wednesday 2:30-3:45 pm
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Course Description and Objectives

This course will examine the processes through which international organizations work to design and implement effective policies to address pressing transnational problems. Much of the attention will be focused on the bodies and agencies of the United Nations System, but a wide variety of regional organizations and nongovernmental organizations will also be discussed.

The course will begin with an overview of the historical development and basic features of international organizations. Special attention will be devoted to the various actors involved in the political processes of these multilateral bodies, as well as to issues of coordination and compliance. Next students will explore the past and current activities of international organizations in addressing three different sets of global problems: international peace and security, social and humanitarian cooperation, and sustainable development.

This background information will set the stage for the most unique feature of the course: students will participate in a Model United Nations simulation of the UN General Assembly. Each student will represent a member state and seek to work with their classmates to draft consensus-based resolutions regarding three global problems selected by the class. During the simulation students will learn the skills necessary for effective group interaction such as working together as a team, conveying your ideas through written and verbal proposals, understanding the perspectives of other participants, and problem solving through negotiation, bargaining, and compromise.

In order to successfully complete this course, it is essential that students attend every class session, complete all of the required readings, and participate effectively in the simulation. The unique nature of the course means that the benefits students will gain from taking it (such as a better understanding of the conflicting perspectives and complex political dynamics that are a key part of global policymaking) depend entirely on the amount of effort they are willing to put into it.

Course Materials

Three books have been ordered for this class at the Seton Hall bookstore. The first provides conceptual information on international organizations, the second provides a more detailed examination of the United Nations, and the third provides an introduction to Model UN simulations.

International Organizations: A comparative Approach to the Management of Cooperation by Robert S. Jordan, Clive Archer, Gregory P. Granger, and Kerry Ordes. Praeger, 2001.

The United Nations in the Post-Cold War Era by Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns. Westview, 2000.

A Guide to Delegate Preparation by the United Nations Association of the USA, 2002.

In addition, students should plan on closely following current events throughout the semester. The best way to accomplish this is to spend 30 minutes every day reading a paper that provides thorough coverage of international news (such as *The New York Times*). Students may obtain access to many high quality papers on the internet or read them in Walsh Library.

Student Responsibilities

Class Participation (20% of course grade):

Students are required to do the assigned reading before class and to participate in class discussion on a regular basis. The quality of class sessions is greatly enhanced when students are prepared to engage the course material in a constructive fashion.

An important part of class participation for this course is the Model UN exercise. All students will be required to represent a specific member state during the simulation. Country selections will be made on Wednesday, January 15th and the issues for debate will be selected on Wednesday, January 22nd. Participation will be evaluated based on how well each student is able to represent their country's interests in the simulation. Specifically, students must attend each Assembly session, engage in caucusing both during and outside of class, give speeches at the conference, circulate working papers, evaluate the proposals of other delegations, and demonstrate that they understand the rules of procedure.

Journals (eight entries, 20% of course grade in all):

Each student will do eight journal entries across the first eight weeks of the semester. Students will post their entries in the eight forums created under the "discussion board" tab in the Blackboard site for this course. You are all automatically enrolled in the blackboard site upon registration for the class, and students should make sure they are comfortable with reading and posting entries on the discussion board on the first day of class.

Each journal entry should be about one page long (several paragraphs in the text posting window on blackboard). Journals will not be graded on a letter scale like the papers; instead, journals will receive either a "check," "check plus," or "check minus" depending on how well they address the required topic. An entry is due by 5:00 pm each Tuesday for the first eight weeks of the semester. This will provide time for both the professor and your fellow students to look through the entries before class on Wednesday. Your overall journal grade will be influenced by the quality of your own postings as well as by your willingness to respond to postings by other students.

The eight journal topics are as follows (these are also provided in the Blackboard discussion forums):

- Due 1/14: Identify three countries you want to represent in the simulation. Tell why you selected each one.
- Due 1/21: Identify three issues you want included in the simulation. Tell why each would make a good choice.
- Due 1/28: Discuss how the course readings for this week relate to your current events reading about IOs.
- Due 2/4: Give an overview of your country's past and current role in the UN. Include relevant citations.
- Due 2/11: Discuss how the course readings for this week relate to your current events reading about IOs.
- Due 2/18: Provide an annotated bibliography of ten sources for your paper. Give 4-5 sentences on each source.
- Due 2/25: Discuss how the course readings for this week relate to your current events reading about IOs.
- Due 3/4: Give an overview of your country's position on the three issues for the simulation (1 paragraph each).

Position Paper (30% of course grade):

Each student will write a 10-12 page paper that provides the necessary background for them to represent their country in the simulation. They are due on Wednesday, March 19th. These papers should be sure to address all of the following points:

- brief description of your country's position and interests in the world
- background on your country's past role in the United Nations
- information on your country's specific position on each issue
- discussion on how your positions relate to those of your region on each issue
- preliminary ideas about the strategy your country will use to achieve its goals
- statements regarding areas where your country would or would not be willing to negotiate

The course readings will provide some assistance on these papers but students must engage in serious library research in order to do an adequate job. Students should consult a wide variety of sources (at least ten) including

UN documents, government publications, periodicals, scholarly journals, reference books, and organization web pages. You need to provide in-text citations (either in parentheses or footnotes) for the information you use. In addition, every paper must include a complete bibliography that consistently uses some standard citation format such as those included in the *Bedford Handbook* used for freshman English (APA, MLA, or Chicago). Be especially careful when using and citing web based resources since you must provide complete citations and thoughtfully judge the quality of the information provided by the site.

Working Papers (10% of course grade in all):

Every delegation will also complete three working papers during the course of the conference. Each of these will focus on one of the issues on the conference agenda and be 1-2 pages in length. These working papers give each delegate a chance (working alone or as part of a group) to propose a draft resolution that best represents the interests of their country. The draft resolutions should follow standard UN practices regarding format and several examples are provided in the Delegate Prep Guide. Since the papers are designed to stimulate discussion, each delegation must share each of their draft resolutions with the rest of the class by posting them under the appropriate discussion forum on the Blackboard site for the course by 5:00 pm the day before they will be discussed in class.

The exact date each working paper is due depends on the agenda drafted on the conference preparation day (Monday, March 24th); however it is expected that the first will be due before conference session two (Monday, March 31st), the second before conference session four (Monday, April 7th), and the third before conference session six (Monday, April 14th). Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and posted to the corresponding discussion forums in the Blackboard site.

Evaluation Paper (20% of course grade):

There is no final exam for this course. Instead, each student will write a 6-8 page paper that evaluates the conference, especially in terms of the role played by the country they represented. These papers are due on Monday, May 5th at 2:00 pm. The following questions should be addressed:

- did you achieve the goals of the country you represented? why or why not?
- which countries did you work best with? why? worst with? why?
- when did you feel your country had the most influence? why?
- when did the procedures help or hinder the negotiating process? why?
- what was your personal experience at the conference?
- how would you recommend reforming the UN in light of what you learned?

The evaluation paper is different from the position paper in that little (if any) additional research will be required. Instead, the focus of the evaluation paper is on your personal experiences, opinions, and reactions to the conference. Feel free to refer to class readings or your earlier research where appropriate, but you are not expected to include extensive citations. However, you must be careful to provide specific examples from the conference to support each of the points you make.

Course Policies

Please note the following course policies:

- 1) The penalty for late work in this class is one-half letter grade per day.
- 2) Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade.
- 3) Students with disabilities should contact the Disabilities Support Services Office for special accommodations.

If you have any questions on these policies, please ask the instructor.

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

Jan 13 Introduction

Handout syllabus, country list, and issues list.

Journal one is due Jan 14th at 5:00 pm. Topic is to identify three countries you want to represent in the simulation. Tell why you selected each one.

Jan 15 Country Selection Day

Read Delegate Prep Guide, Chapter 3, pages 21-25 for information on researching your country.

Skim Delegate Prep Guide, Part II, pages 43-169 for information on countries that you might want to represent in the simulation.

Jan 20 No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday

Journal two is due Jan 21st at 5:00 pm. Topic is to identify three issues you want included in the simulation. Tell why each would make a good choice.

Jan 22 Issue Selection Day

Skim Delegate Prep Guide, Part II, pages 43-169 for information on issues that you might want to discuss in the simulation. Be sure to include one peace and security issue, one social and humanitarian issue, and one economic or environmental issue.

Jan 27 The Opportunities and Limitations of IOs

Read Jordan et al, Chapter 1, pages 1-13.

Read Mingst and Karns, Chapter 1, pages 1-15.

Journal three is due Jan 28th at 5:00 pm. Topic is to discuss how the course readings for this week relate to your current events reading about IOs.

Jan 29 Characteristics of IOs and How to Study Them

Read Jordan et al, Chapter 2, pages 17-43.

Feb 3 Evolution of the Purposes and Structures of IOs

Read Mingst and Karns, Chapter 2, pages 16-45.

Journal four is due Feb 4th at 5:00 pm. Topic is to give an overview of your country's past and current role in the UN. Include relevant citations.

Feb 5 Why are IOs Created? Why do They Persist?

Read Jordan et al, Chapter 3, pages 45-72.

Feb 10 Universal Versus Regional IOs

Read Jordan et al, Chapter 5 and 8, pages 97-124 and 181-207.

Journal five is due Feb 11th at 5:00 pm. Topic is to discuss how the course readings for this week relate to your current events reading about IOs.

Feb 12 Coordination Across IOs

Read Jordan et al, Chapter 6, pages 125-154.

Feb 17 The Political Processes of IOs

Read Jordan et al, Chapter 9, pages 209-231.

Read Mingst and Karns, Chapter 3, pages 46-73.

Journal six is due on Feb 18th at 5:00 pm. Topic is to provide an annotated bibliography of ten sources for your paper. Give 4-5 sentences on each source.

Feb 19 IO Implementation and Compliance

Read Jordan et al, Chapter 4, pages 73-96

Feb 24 IO Issues: Peace and Security

Read Mingst and Karns, Chapter 4, pages 74-116.

Read Jordan, Chapter 7, pages 157-207.

Journal seven is due on Feb 25th at 5:00 pm. Topic is to discuss how the course readings for this week relate to your current events reading about IOs.

Feb 26 No Class – Professor at the International Studies Association Annual Convention

No new reading. Work on your position paper.

March 3 IO Issues: Social and Humanitarian Cooperation

Read Mingst and Karns, Chapter 6, pages 158-198.

Journal eight is due on March 4th at 5:00 pm. Topic is to give an overview of your country's position on the three issues for the simulation (1 paragraph each).

March 5 IO Issues: Sustainable Development

Read Mingst and Karns, Chapter 5, pages 117-157.

March 10 No Class – Spring Break

March 12 No Class – Spring Break

March 17 Evaluating IOs

Read Jordan et al, Chapter 10, pages 233-250.

March 19 Rules of Procedure and POSITION PAPERS DUE

Read the Rules of Procedure packet distributed in class. A copy is also posted under “course documents” on the Blackboard site.

March 24 Conference Preparation Day

No new reading. Focus on your opening statements. In class we will set the agenda and engage in preliminary caucusing.

March 26 Opening Session: General Debate

No new reading. Be ready to present your two-minute opening statements.

Expected due date for the first working paper is Sunday, March 30th at 5:00 pm.

March 31 Conference Session 2

April 2 Conference Session 3

Expected due date for the second working paper is Sunday, April 6th at 5:00 pm.

April 7 Conference Session 4

April 9 Conference Session 5

Expected due date for the third working paper is Sunday, April 13th at 5:00 pm.

April 14 Conference Session 6

April 16 Conference Session 7

April 21 No Class – Easter Holiday

April 23 Conference Session 8

April 28 Closing Session: Voting Day

Conference wrap-up including voting on all resolutions introduced into debate.

April 30 Conference Debriefing and IO Reform

Read Mingst and Karns, Chapter 7, pages 199-222.

Be ready to discuss ideas for your evaluation papers in class.

Final Evaluation Paper is due at 2:00 pm on Monday, May 5th.