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Fall 2015

DIPL 6202 Politics at the United Nations Organization: Relevance and Reform

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Recommended Citation

Dugan, Hugh T. PhD, "DIPL 6202 Politics at the United Nations Organization: Relevance and Reform" (2015). *Diplomacy Syllabi*. 543.
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SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

**“POLITICS AT THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION:
RELEVANCE AND REFORM”**

DIP 6202

Autumn 2015
Hugh T. Dugan

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course's goal is to provide to the student capacity and fluency in gauging indicators of the UN Organization's potential capacity to realize the principles and objectives of the UN Charter within today's increasingly transnational landscape. This approach will suggest measures to increase the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency which the student would take forward from the classroom.

PEDAGOGICAL PURPOSES

The course will promote students' understanding of global issues from a range of perspectives so as to develop viewpoints on how international cooperation might better address those issues. The course will encourage important citizenship skills such as participation, cooperation and collaboration, negotiation, diplomacy, conflict resolution, and stewardship of international machinery.

This course seeks to assist the student in developing the following:

- An understanding and appreciation of the opportunities and constraints posed by inter-governmental conference diplomacy in an era of continued globalization and related developments and trends in global governance.
- A capacity to engage with United Nations stakeholders so as to contribute to the implementation of the UN Charter's purposes.
- Effective and efficient composition of thought in writing and speaking on these matters.
- A grasp of networking within UN-relevant spheres beyond the classroom.

OVERVIEW

Well-intentioned, principles-based institutionalized activities for international cooperation, in particular those of the United Nations Organization, must be stewarded constantly in order to remain relevant to contemporary developments

security, development in the economic and social spheres (including humanitarian matters), and human rights.

- Re-imagine international machinery for international cooperation (specifically, the United Nations Organization) by surveying challenges encountered by it and considering enhanced approaches for international cooperation into the future given trends in globalization and global governance matters.

To describe and explain causes and nature of major questions in the international system (e.g., economic development, conflict, the environment, human rights).

To encourage students to develop critical analysis on the future of global governance given high uncertainties on the international scene.

To debate future perspectives for international cooperation.

To examine related questions from the perspectives of other nations.

To develop an understanding of the United Nations' historical and current role in the international political system.

To explore the challenges faced by the United Nations, both political and structural.

To examine the United Nations Organization structure in detail, and to understand the roles of the various United Nations entities.

To study the policies of other nations and groups of nations at the United Nations Organization to better understand the process of deliberations and agreements by United Nations membership and their translation into programs and activities by the United Nations entities' secretariats.

COURSE MODALITIES

The class meeting will begin with a discussion of current events relevant to the United Nations Organization, and then proceed to a lecture /discussion of that week's topic. The first few meetings will consist largely of lectures and class discussion. At this stage (by late September), the goal will be to ensure that all students have a basic grasp of the subject matter, after which the class will shift to a more seminar-like format emphasizing student participation and presentations of memos on select topics (to be formulated and assigned). *Class time will fly by or it will drag by, depending upon students' level of preparation and participation.*

In addition to the assigned readings, the class will discuss topics from current events vis-à-vis the United Nations Organization. Every student is expected to contribute to this discussion by researching and presenting one such topic to the class (20 minutes) in a

speakers, but much learning occurs through active engagement rather than through passive listening. For this reason, your presence and active participation will be expected at all sessions.

Writing clearly and succinctly is an important skill for those who progress in careers in international public service. Therefore, it will be a key component of the course work for this class. In addition to writing the final examination (which will be in essay format), each student will write and present a concise memo on a topic to be decided.

Grading will be based on

- Class attendance: 10%
- Participation: 20%
- Memo and presentation: 25%
- Final Exam: 45%

READING MATERIALS

FIRST WEEK MATERIALS FOR DISCUSSION ON SEPTEMBER 14:

Basic Facts about the United Nations, United Nations, 2014.

ISBN: 978-92-1-101279-8

<http://issuu.com/unpublications/docs/basicfacts>

United Nations Handbook 2014-15 ("The New Zealand Handbook"), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand

www.mfat.govt.nz/UNHB2014/index.php

Become familiar with the UN by reading

<http://www.un.org/en/about-un/index.html>

The United Nations at a Glance

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2012/pi2046.doc.htm>

History of the United Nations Charter

http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/charter_history.shtml

The United Nations Charter

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml/>

Ensuring a Well-Managed United Nations

The Stanley Foundation, Conference Report, February 2006

Claude, Inis L., Jr., **Swords into Plowshares**, 4th ed., chapters 1-4, 7-9, 11-12, 14, 18-19.

Russett, Bruce and Sutterlin, James S., "The UN in a New World Order," **Foreign Affairs** 70 (Spring 1991).

Roberts, Adam and Kingsbury, Benedict, eds., **United Nations, Divided World** (Oxford University Press), chapters 1-3, 12-13.

United States Commission on Improving the Effectiveness of the United Nations, **Defining Purpose: The U.N. and the Health of Nations** (Washington, DC: 1993).

Urquhart, Brian, **Towards a More Effective United Nations: Two Studies** (Uppsala: Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, 1992).

Moore, John Allphin and Pubantz, Jerry, **The New United Nations: International Organization in the Twenty-First Century**, (Prentice Hall 2006).

The United Nations and the Twenty-First Century: The Imperative for Change, The Stanley Foundation, 31st United Nations of the Next Decade Conference Report, June 1996
<http://www.stanleyfoundation.org/resources.cfm?ID=142>

Luck, Edward, "The Secretary-General in a Unipolar World" (in **The United Nations Secretary-General in World Politics**, edited by Simon Chesterman)
<http://graduateinstitute.ch/webdav/site/iheid/shared/Winter/protected/Luck%20Chesterman.pdf>

Caron, David, "The Legitimacy of the Collective Authority of the United Nations," **American Journal of International Law** 87, no. 3., pp.552-588.

United Nations Association of the USA, **Partners for Peace: Strengthening Collective Security for the 21st Century**, A Report of the Global Policy Project (1992).

Reforming the Security Council, Special Report (International Peace Academy and the Stanley Foundation, April 1994).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:

<http://www.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/community-standards.cfm>

<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>

ACCOMMODATIONS

******* Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, students at Seton Hall University who have a disability may be eligible for accommodations in this course. Should a student require such accommodation, he or she must self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 67, Duffy Hall, provide documentation of said disability, and work with DSS to develop a plan for accommodations. The contact person is Ms. Diane Delorenzo at [\(973\) 313-6003](tel:9733136003).
