Department of Government and Public Administration  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  

GPAD 2185 International Organizations  
Spring 2014  

Course Outline

Instructor: Sean Wong  
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Tuesday 2:30 - 5:15pm  
UCC C3  
Consultation by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed for undergraduate students who are either interested in social/political studies in general or international affairs in particular. It introduces the main categories of international organizations (IOs) that play an important role in today’s world: 1) the United Nations; 2) issue-specific organizations, e.g. the World Trade Organization; and 3) regional inter-governmental organizations, e.g. the European Union. Attention is paid to the organizational history, structure, decision-making process and political effect of these organizations. Students are also introduced to the main conceptual and theoretical frameworks that International Relations scholars have developed to explain their political relevance.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should understand:

1. The dilemma and prospect of global governance;
2. The complex relationship between states and IOs;
3. The various types, functions, roles, contributions and impacts of IOs, their politics and controversies; and
4. The conceptual and theoretical explanations for the development of IOs.

Course Assessment

20% Participation: Students should actively respond to questions posed by the instructor, put forward their own questions and comments, and participate in discussions during lectures and the presentations of other students (in a respectful manner, of course).

20% Group presentation: In groups, students are responsible for introducing an IO of their choice other than those already covered in the course. These presentations will be held on April 8 and 15. Details will be provided in Lecture 4.

30% Midterm exam: A 2-hour, closed-book examination will be held in class on Mar 25.

30% Final paper: Students will write a paper of no more than 3,000 words due on May 5 (Mon). Details will be provided in Lecture 5.
Course Materials

- The following textbook will be used extensively throughout the course:
  A copy of it has been put on reserve at the University Library.
- With the exception of Karns and Mingst and those provided with an internet link below, all required readings are available for download on eLearning.
- The official websites of several IOs are assigned as readings. Students should familiarize themselves with the history, mission, institutions and functions of these organizations.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance, and lecture PPTs will be posted to eLearning after each class.
- Lectures do not simply regurgitate the assigned readings, but instead supplement it with materials and perspectives from outside sources. Reading is therefore not a substitute for attending lectures, nor is the other way round.
- “Suggested” readings are optional. Students are strongly encouraged to consult those in the relevant lectures in preparation for their final paper.

Course Schedule and Readings

Jan 7 (Lecture 1) – Introduction and overview

- Karns and Mingst. Ch. 1.

**PART I: CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS**

Jan 14 (Lecture 2) – The dilemma of global governance

- Karns and Mingst. Ch. 3 and 7.

*Suggested*


Jan 21 (Lecture 3) – International Relations theory and IOs

- Karns and Mingst. Ch. 2.

*Suggested*


**PART II: THE UNITED NATIONS (UN)**

**Jan 28 (Lecture 4) – The UN System**

• Karns and Mingst. Ch. 4.


*Suggested*


**Feb 4 – Lunar New Year holiday**

**Feb 11 (Lecture 5) – the UN and the global governance of security**

• Karns and Mingst. Ch. 8.

*Suggested*


**PART III: ISSUE-SPECIFIC IOs**

**Feb 18 (Lecture 6) – the International Criminal Court (ICC)**

• Official website of the ICC. [www.icc-cpi.int](http://www.icc-cpi.int)

• Karns and Mingst. 479-481.


**Suggested**


**Feb 25 (Lecture 7) – the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

• Official website of the IMF. [http://www.imf.org/external/about.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/about.htm)


**Suggested**


Mar 4 (Lecture 8) – the World Trade Organization (WTO)

- Karns and Mingst. 413-420.

Suggested


PART IV: REGIONAL IOS

Mar 11 (Lecture 9) – the European Union (EU)

- Karns and Mingst. 145-177.

Suggested

- Articles in journals such as *Journal of Common Market Studies* and *European Union Politics*.

Mar 18 (Lecture 10) – the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Karns and Mingst. 191-201.

Suggested


Mar 25 – Midterm exam

Apr 1 – No class

**PART V: OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Apr 8 – Student presentations #1

Apr 15 – Student presentations #2

**PART VI: THE PROSPECT OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**

Apr 22 (Lecture 11) – Democracy and accountability of IOs in the twenty-first century

• Karns and Mingst. Ch. 12.


**Suggested**


May 5 – Final paper due