POS 375: International Organization
Stephen Pampinella
TTh 10:15 – 11:35, HU 024
Office Hours: 12:00 – 2:00 on Tuesday, HU 016
Email: POS375Pampinella@gmail.com

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of international organizations. Although we presume that states are the most important actors in world politics, international organizations have emerged as important factors which shape state behavior, regulate economies, and even wage war. The course is divided into two parts. First, we begin by exploring theories of international organizations provided by realists, liberals, constructivists, and marxists. Second, we examine specific institutions such as the United Nations and the European Union as well as current controversies surrounding these organizations. Students are expected to understand different theoretical perspectives and apply them to contemporary debates regarding international organizations. Students are also expected to regularly follow and understand current events regarding the United Nations and the European Union.

Disclaimer

As a former undergraduate and a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Political Science, I am aware that many SUNY Albany students don’t care about their classes or what they learn in them, particularly if a class is challenging. Students who adopt that attitude in this class will fail. So:

DO NOT TAKE THIS CLASS IF YOU ARE UNWILLING TO DO THE REQUIRED WORK AND READING.

How to Take This Course

Over the semester, a series of theories and concepts about international organizations will be presented to you. It is your job to understand these ideas, compare them to each other, and think intelligently about them. This will require that you pay close attention in class and carefully complete the assigned readings. **You should absolutely take notes every class and while reading, either in the actual text or separately.** Don’t do it to feel less guilty about not taking notes, do it to learn about international organizations.

International organizations are in the news constantly. The United Nations recently sanctioned two military actions in Libya and Cote d'Ivoire while the European Union currently faces a debt crisis that threatens to destroy the Euro. Think about how to apply
concepts discussed in class to actions and debates involving international organizations you observe in the news. I will refer to recent developments in international relations throughout the semester, and I expect that we will have thorough discussions about these issues throughout the semester.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined in the Undergraduate Bulletin as “presenting as one’s own work the work of another person (for example, the words, ideas, information, data, evidence, organizing principles, or style of presentation of someone else). Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment, submission of another student’s work as one’s own, the purchase of prepared research or completed papers or projects, and the unacknowledged use of research sources gathered by someone else. Failure to indicate accurately the extent and precise nature of one’s reliance on other sources is also a form of plagiarism. The student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of sources, the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic, scholarly, or creative indebtedness, and the consequences for violating University regulations.

Examples of plagiarism include: failure to acknowledge the source(s) of even a few phrases, sentences, or paragraphs; failure to acknowledge a quotation or paraphrase of paragraph-length sections of a paper; failure to acknowledge the source(s) of a major idea or the source(s) for an ordering principle central to the paper’s or project’s structure; failure to acknowledge the source (quoted, paraphrased, or summarized) of major sections or passages in the paper or project; the unacknowledged use of several major ideas or extensive reliance on another person’s data, evidence, or critical method; submitting as one’s own work, work borrowed, stolen, or purchased from someone else.”

It goes without saying. Don’t plagiarize. Students doing so will be referred to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Grades and Assignments

Grading for this course will be based on a mid-term, a final, a 6-page research paper, in-class pop quizzes and participation. The breakdown is as follows:

25%: Midterm
25%: 5-page analytic paper
30%: Final
10%: Pop quizzes
10%: Participation

Both the midterm and final will be given in-class and will consist of short answer questions and one essay. Multiple questions and essays will be offered, students will choose which questions to answer. The 5-page analytic paper requires that students compare

1 http://www.albany.edu/writing/writers_info/plagiarism.html
theories of international relations to explain the creation of international organizations after World War II. We will discuss the paper assignment in greater depth during the semester. Pop quizzes are given to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading. If you do the reading, you will easily pass the quizzes. Lastly, participation is to ensure class discussion. Regular attendance will be taken and will factor it into the participation grade. While I will explain the material we are discussing, I don’t want to lecture for 120 minutes. So I will constantly pose questions to the class to think critically about certain theories or cases under discussion.

Reading Assignments

Books


All articles listed below are on E-Res. The password is 'POS360Pampinella'.

Course Schedule

**Thursday, January 19.**

Introduction.

**Tuesday, January 24.**


**Thursday, January 26.**


**Tuesday, January 31.**


**Thursday, February 2.**


**Tuesday, February 7.**


**Thursday, February 9.**


**Tuesday, February 14.**

Ikenberry, pp. 51-117.

**Thursday, February 16.**

Ikenberry, pp. 117-163.

**Tuesday, February 21.**

Ikenberry, pp,163-215.

**Thursday, February 23.**


**Tuesday, February 28.**

**Thursday, March 1.**


**Tuesday, March 6.**


**Thursday, March 8.**


**CLASSES SUSPENDED FROM MARCH 12 TO MARCH 18.**

**Tuesday, March 20.**

**MIDTERM**

**Thursday, March 22.**


**Tuesday, March 27.**


**Thursday, March 29.**


**Tuesday, April 3.**

**Thursday, April 5.**


**Tuesday, April 10.**


**Thursday, April 12.**


**Tuesday, April 17.**


**Thursday, April 19.**


**Tuesday, April 24.**


**Thursday, April 26.**


**Tuesday, May 1.**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttuXQWV_dtQ

**Thursday, May 3.**


**Tuesday, May 8.**

FINAL REVIEW