Course Information

Term: Spring 2021

Course Number & Section: INR4502

Course Name: International Organizations

Credit Hours: 3

Course Modality: 0W60 (Online)

Enrollment Requirements

Course Prerequisites: ENC 1102 or POS 2041

Instructor Information

Instructor: Davide Dell'Isola

Office Hours: Virtual Zoom office hours: Tuesday 11am-Noon, Thursdays 2pm-3pm. If these days and times do not work for you, send me an email through the inbox tool in Webcourses so that we can schedule a virtual appointment. I will not be holding in-person appointments for the Spring 2021 semester

Phone: The number of the School of Politics, Security and International Affairs (SPSIA) is (407) 823-2608, M-F from 9am to 5pm

Digital Contact: For all communications with me please use the Inbox tool in Canvas

Note: This syllabus might be subject to change throughout the semester, the instructor reserves the right to make changes at any moment during the semester if needed. Changes will always be promptly communicated, and a version of the new syllabus will posted online.

Course Description

During this course students will study of the structure and workings of international organizations of cooperation, including the UN, its affiliates, and various regional organizations. In particular, the course is divided in three main sections 1) structure and tasks of International and regional organizations 2) study of the debate regarding theories

in the field addressing the effectiveness of IOs 3) Application and analysis of current events based on points 1 and 2.

Course Materials and Resources

Required Materials

Kelly Kate-S.Pease *International Organizations: Perspective on Global Governance (6th edition)*, Routledge, New York, 2019. ISBN-13: 978-0815380467.

Use this edition of the textbook as previous ones are outdated

Optional Materials/Resources

You can access all the articles for free through the UCF Library, you can also find them under the tab "files" in Webcourses

Articles used in this class in addition to the textbook (further articles TBA):

- John J. Mearsheimer "The False Promise of International Institutions" *International Security,* Vol. 19, No. 3 (Winter, 1994-1995), pp. 5-49

- Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, "The Promise of Institutionalist Theory", *International Security,* Vol. 20, No. 1 (Summer, 1995), pp. 39-51

- Robert D. Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization*, vol. 42, no. 3, 1988, pp. 427–460

- Nicholas L. Miller, "The Secret Success of Nonproliferation Sanctions", *International Organizations*, vol.68, n.4 (Fall 2014)

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Have a good knowledge of the main International Organizations in World politics and their inner workings (United Nations, NATO, African Union, Organization of Islamic cooperation, European Union, World Trade Organization etc.)
- Understand and identify how the main theories of International Relations (feminism, realism, constructivism, liberalism) apply to the International Organizations in the contemporary International arena

- Compare and contrast the different theories of how International Organizations work and evaluate how these apply to current and historical events
- Analyze how International Organizations work in the current International political arena and evaluate the level of the effectiveness of their interventions in the political world scene (for instance in avoiding conflicts, defending human rights, responding to natural disasters etc.)
- Have an In-depth understanding of the specifics of the main International Organizations and their structures

Course Activities

The assignments in this course will consist of one quiz and a discussion post for each week/module. Some topics will cover two modules, in these cases there is only one quiz at the end of the module. There are two midterm exams consisting of a multiple-choice quiz plus three open-ended questions. The final assessment for this class is a short research paper.

In each module you can find the readings you must do in order to take the quizzes and the discussion. I also put a short page summary in Canvas for each of the topics treated in the module, as well as a short video lecture (10-15 minutes). The summary and lectures focus on the main points, **but you must do the reading to succeed in the assignments**.

There are **5 discussions** in total, as they will cover generally two modules (one discussion every two weeks). During the first week the discussion is open everyone should submit a first post answering the prompt question. During the second week, students should submit a reply to a posting of a class peer. Each discussion will count for 5% of the final grade. The lowest discussion grade is dropped. Therefore, discussions will account for 20% of your final grade. Discussions are graded out of 100. The first post is worth 80 points, the reply is worth 20.

There are **8 multiple choice quizzes**. There is no quiz during the last two weeks of the class so that you can focus on the final research paper. Each quiz consists of 10 multiple choice questions, each question is worth 1 point. Each quiz accounts for 5% of your final class grade. Quizzes will account for 30% of the final grade. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped from calculations. Quizzes are graded out of 10. Quizzes will remain open for 48 hours, they open on Thursdays at 00:01am and they close on Fridays at 11:59pm. (All times are Eastern Standard Time). You have 20 minutes to complete a quiz.

There are **two midterm exams**, consisting of 10 multiple choice questions and three open-ended questions. The midterms are cumulative only up until to the material covered in the module of the week of the exam: Midterm 1 will cover material from module 1 to module 5. The second midterm will cover material from module 6 to module 10. Midterms are graded on a scale from 0 to 100: Each multiple-choice question accounts for 2.5 points of the final grade (25 points total), each open-ended question accounts for 25 points (75 points total). The midterm remains open for two days (48 hours). They open on Mondays at 00:01 am and they close on Tuesdays at 11:59pm. You have an hour and a half to complete them

The week before the paper is due there is an **extra-credit activity** worth 5 points (half letter grade). It consists of a short essay, you should upload a 500 words short answer to the question. The extra credit is graded on a scale from 0 to 5.

The **final assignment is a research paper** that should answer a relevant question regarding the role of International Organizations in the current political arena and addressing a debate regarding the role of IOs. You can choose between 3 questions I will provide. You can also decide to take on another questions that is of interest to you. In order to do so, however, you must consult with me beforehand to see if your research question is feasible and relevant before the week of the first midterm exam. This second option is encouraged for students who plan to pursue a Master's degree after their undergraduate studies (it can be a good idea to lay some bases for a topic you might want to research later). The deadline to submit the paper is April 30th at 11:59pm

The paper should be between 2,000 and 2,500 words long not including citations and references. Detailed instructions for the paper can be found in the assignment tab. I will also hold live zoom Q&A sessions for further details regarding the paper. The recordings will be uploaded in Webcourses.

Activity Submissions

Here is how the different types of assignments should be submitted: 1) discussions should be submitted under the "discussion" tab in Webcourses 2) quizzes will remain open for 48 hours in Webcourses 3) The midterm exams will remain open for 48 hours in Webcourses 3) The extra credit short essay must be uploaded in a .doc or .docx format in Webcourses 4) The final research paper must be uploaded as a .doc or .docx file in Webcourses.

Make-up Exams and Assignments

The generous dropping policy of this class is in place to prevent last minute issues and other situations where you are not able for any reason to do the assignment. That is also the reason why quizzes and exams are open for multiple days. Because of the dropping policy, for quizzes and discussions I do not require documentation if you skip one discussion and two quizzes. Because these are dropped, you can skip one without having to worry about not doing it if you have an emergency. I encourage you to do all the assignments early to further reduce the chance of unforeseen circumstances affecting your grade. However, you must tell me if you are not able to do the midterm exams or are unable to submit the final paper in time or if you are not able to submit at least 4 discussions and 6 quizzes.

Per university policy, you are allowed to submit make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for authorized university-sponsored activities, religious observances, or legal obligations (such as jury duty). If this participation conflicts with your course assignments, I will offer a reasonable opportunity for you to complete missed assignments and/or

exams. The make-up assignment and grading scale will be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale. In the case of an authorized university activity, it is your responsibility to show me a signed copy of the Program Verification Form for which you will be absent, prior to the class in which the absence occurs. In any of these cases, please contact me ahead of time to notify me of upcoming needs.

Assessment and Grading Procedures

The table shows the weight distribution for each assignment.

Assignment	**Percentage of Grade**
Quizzes	30%
Discussions	20%
Midterms	30% (15% each)
Final	20%
Extra Credit	5 extra points (half letter grade)
Total	100%+extra credit points

The table shows the range for each letter grade and uses a plus/minus system.

Letter Grade	**Points**
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points

C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Rounding policy for final grade: Grades are rounded up after the half point, as in the following example:

89.50 to 89.99→90

89.01 to 89.49→89

Consult the latest Undergraduate or Graduate catalog. for regulations and procedures regarding grading such as Incomplete grades, grade changes, and grade forgiveness.

Course Schedule

Week/Dates	**Topic**	**Assignments**	**Due Dates**

Week 1 01/11-01/17	Orientation Introduction to International Organizations (what are IOs? What are the main IOs in the contemporary world? What are their general goals?)	Personal intro for academic engagement activity Practice Quiz **University deadline: drop/swap deadline is January 15th**	01/15 at 5:00pm Due 01/15 at 11:59pm
Week 2 01/18-01/24	Module 1.1 Mainstream Theories: Realism and Liberal Institutionalism and their influence on IOs	Discussion 1 first post Quiz 1	Due 01/24 at 11:59pm Opens at 00:01am on 01/21. Closes at 11:59pm on 01/22
Week 3 01/25-01/31	Module 1.2 Realism vs Institutionalism: Mearsheimer-Keohane debate on the role of International Institutions (are IOs effective?)	Reply to discussion 1	Due 01/31 at 11:59pm
Week 4 02/01-02/07	Module 2.1 Critical Theories and Approaches: Marxism, Feminism, Constructivism influence on IOs	Discussion 2 first post Quiz 2	Due 02/07 at 11:59pm Quiz 2 opens at 00:01 am on 02/04, closes at 11:59pm on 02/05
Week 5 02/08-02/14	Module 2.2 The United Nations	Discussion 2 reply	Due 02/14 at 11:59pm

		Quiz 3	Quiz 3 opens at 00:01am on 02/11, closes at 11:59pm on 02/12
Week 6 02/15-02/21	Midterm	Midterm 1	Opens 02/22 at 00:01am, closes on 02/23 at 11:59pm
Week 7 02/22-02/28	Module 3.1 Nuclear Proliferation and the role of AIEA and UN sanctions	Discussion 3 first post	Due 02/28 at 11:59pm
Week 8 03/01-03/07	Module 3.2 Regional Security Organization: NATO and ECOWAS	Discussion 3 reply Quiz 4	Due 03/07 at 11:59pm Quiz 4 opens at 00:01am on 03/04, closes on 03/05 at 11:59pm
Week 9 03/08-03/14	Module 4.1 Role of the Regional Security IOs in current events (readings TBA)	Discussion 4 first post Quiz 5	Due 03/14 at 11:59pm Quiz 5 opens at 00:01am on 03/11, closes at 11:59pm on 03/12

Week 10 03/15-03/21	Module 4.2 International Trade and Trade Organizations (WTO)	Discussion 4 reply	Due 03/21 at 11:59pm
Week 11 03/22-03/28	Module 5.1 IMF, World Bank and other development-oriented IOs	Discussion 5 first post Quiz 6 **University deadline: Friday March 26th is the withdrawal deadline**	Due 03/28 at 11:59pm Quiz 6 opens at 00:01am on 03/25, closes at 11:59pm on 03/26
Week 12 03/29-04/04	Module 5.2 Environmental agreements	Discussion 5 reply Quiz 7	Due 04/04 at 11:59pm Quiz 7 opens at 00:01am on 04/01, closes at 11:59pm on 04/02
Week 13 04/05-04/10	Midterm	Midterm 2	Opens on 04/05 at 00:01 am, closes on 04/07 at 11:59pm

Week 14 04/11-04/18	**Spring Break**		
Week 15 04/19-04/25	Module 6 Human Rights and IOs	Quiz 8	Quiz 8 opens at 00:01 am on 04/22, closes at 11:59pm on 04/23
Week 16 04/26-05/02	Module 7 The future of IOs (Global Governance in 2050)	Extra Credit Assignment Final paper	Opens on 04/26 at 00:01am, Closes on 04/28 at 1 Paper is due on 05/02 at 11:59pm 1:59pm

Grades are due on May 7th, 2021. They will be available on MyUcf on the 9th of May, 2021, at the latest

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University Services and Resources

Academic Services and Resources

A list of available academic support and learning services is available at UCF Student Services.. Click on "Academic Support and Learning Services" on the right-hand side to filter.

Non-Academic Services and Resources

A list of non-academic support and services is also available at UCF Student Services.. Click on "Support" on the right-hand side to filter.
If you are a UCF Online student, please consult the UCF Online Student Guidelines. for more information about your access to non-academic services.

Policy Statements

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct.. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

- *Unauthorized assistance*: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
- *Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means*: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
- *Commercial Use of Academic Material*: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
- *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
- *Plagiarism*: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
- *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
- *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.).
For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices (Links to an external site.)".

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, The Golden RuleLinks to an external site.. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to

academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgradeLinks to an external site..

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility ServicesLinks to an external site. (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

Campus Safety Statement

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to https://my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third Party Software and Ferpa

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.