

POE 324 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Course Objectives

This course will cover the development of international organizations during the 20th century. The thinking associated with international organizations as a phenomenon of state-to-state cooperation will be examined. Primary emphasis will be given to the United Nations, along with other international organizations such as the international financial institutions.

Students who complete the course will finish with an understanding of the theory and role of international organizations in international relations, a strong background in how the United Nations and associated international financial institutions have evolved and operated since World War II, as well as an awareness of the major issues facing international organizations generally in the current political environment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

A violation of academic integrity, including plagiarism, cheating, and other violations of academic ethics, is a serious academic infraction for which penalties may range from a recorded caution to expulsion from the College. The RMCC Academic Regulations Section 23 defines plagiarism as: “Using the work of others and attempting to present it as original thought, prose or work. This includes failure to appropriately acknowledge a source, misrepresentation of cited work, and misuse of quotation marks or attribution.” It also includes “the failure to acknowledge that work has been submitted for credit elsewhere.” All students should consult the published statements on Academic Misconduct contained in the *Royal Military College of Canada Undergraduate Calendar*, Section 23.

<https://www.rmc-cmr.ca/en/registrars-office/academic-regulations#ai>

Turnitin.com

Assignments in this course are subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the Royal Military College of Canada. All assignments submitted will be retained as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of ascertaining the originality of current and future assignments submitted to the system.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Podcast Review	2 October	10%
Presentation on your International Organization	To be determined	10%
Research Paper Proposal	23 October	10%
Research Paper	20 November	30%
Final Exam (Take home)	6-7 December	30%
Participation	Throughout course	10%
Mini Assignments as indicated	Throughout course	Part of participation

Podcast Review

Students are required to write a book review of one of the following discussions/podcasts. Treat this as a book review. Provide a critical response to the material that demonstrates you understand the material, and provides an analysis of the discussion or argument outlined in the podcast. Be sure to centre your discussion and analysis on the theme of the course – international organization.

The review should be 6-8 double-spaced pages in length (1500-2000 words). Footnotes should be used anytime you provide a statement of fact, when you cite the recording,

Due Date: 2 October by midnight – submission through the course website on Moodle

The choices are:

Global Summitry Podcast. Stewart Patrick on “The New ‘New Multilateralism’”. A discussion of minilateral arrangements amongst states (as distinct from multilateral arrangements) and the impact on international affairs and organizations.
<https://academic.oup.com/globalsummitry/pages/podcasts> (scroll down or search for Stewart Patrick)

Global summitry Podcast. Mark Beeson on ASEAN.
<https://academic.oup.com/globalsummitry/pages/podcasts>

Global Summitry Podcast. Thomas Hale on Climate Change Policy after the Paris Accord. (Episode 11)
<https://academic.oup.com/globalsummitry/pages/podcasts>

BBC – The Compass – The Great Unravelling – Human Rights
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w27vq2cx/episodes/player>

BBC – The Compass – The Great Unravelling – Trade and China
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w27vq2cx/episodes/player>

Pick an International Organization and get to know it

Pick an international organization from the list below. You will use this IO as an area of focus in various ways throughout the term.

Only one organization per student, so chose early!

International Monetary Fund (IMF)
World Bank
International Labor Organization (ILO)
The African Union
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
The Arab League
Organization of American States (OAS)
The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
Southern African Development Community (SADC)
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
World Health Organization (WHO)

Class presentation – You will provide the class with the origins of the IO, what it is intended to do, and the key issues it currently faces. Where possible, we will try to ensure that the date of your presentation coincides with a week that deals with a related organization or issue. For example, someone doing the World Bank or IMF will present during the week we deal with International Financial Institutions.

Research Paper Proposal

Due date for outline: 23 October

Students are required to write a 15-page research paper (double-spaced, 12 point font, 3,750 words). The topic should be related to the International Organization you chose from the list above, and take one of the themes below as a starting point for analysis. The exact topic is to be agreed in consultation with the instructor by email or phone.

After students develop their topic in consultation with the professor, they will submit a **research paper proposal**, which establishes the question to be answered, outlines the way in which you will answer it and provides a brief bibliography.

The proposal is worth 10% of the total final grade. Length 1-2 double spaced pages not including the bibliography.

Research Paper

Due date for final paper: 20 November

The second deliverable is the research paper itself. This worth 30% of the total final grade.

The research paper should examine your international organization in the context of a specific issue.

Take Home Final Exam, 6-7 December

The final exam will be an open book take home exam. The questions will be posted on Moodle on 6 December. The responses must be submitted via Moodle before midnight on 7 December.

Participation

This is a seminar based upper year course. Students are expected to have done the readings in advance and to participate in class discussion on an ongoing basis.

Textbooks

Karns and Mingst, *International Organizations*, 2nd edition, 2010.

Other readings as provided by the instructor.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING LIST

Week One - 9 September 2020

Introduction

Discussion of the course, its expectations, and our approach.

Week Two – 14 and 16 September

The Idea of International Organizations

14 September – Introduction to International Organizations - What are they?

Pease, pp. 1-5.

Thomas J. Volgy, Elizabeth Fausett, Kieth A. Grant, Stuart Rodgers, "Identifying Formal Intergovernmental Organizations," *Journal of Peace Research*, vol. 45, no. 6, 2008. Read only pp. 849-852 (up until Threshold sub-heading).

15 September – do mini assignment on Moodle

16 September – Class discussion based on mini assignment

Week Three – 21 & 23 September

21 September

What does theory tell us about why states join and stay with international organizations?

Kenneth Abbott, Duncan Snidal, "Why States Act through Formal International Organizations."

Robert O. Keohane, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?" *Foreign Policy*, vol. 110, Spring 1998, pp. 82-96.

22 September – do mini assignment on Moodle

23 September – Class discussion based on mini assignment

Week Four 28 & 30 September

The United Nations

For both classes:

Karns & Mingst, chapter 4.

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

28 September – United Nations, and UN Organs (except the Security Council)

30 September – Security Council

Week Five – 5 October & 7 October

5 October International Financial Institutions

Karns & Mingst, pp. 395-405.

Pease, Chapter 6, pp. 157-166.

Pease, Chapter 7, pp. 185-199.

7 October - How to think about the research proposal

****12 & 14 October – No classes – Thanksgiving and Fall Break**

Week Six – 19 & 21 October

The European Union and NATO

Pease, pp. 25-30.

Karns & Mingst, pp. 153-178.

Global NATO -> mini assignment

Week Seven – 26 October & 28 October

Regional Organizations

Karns & Mingst, chapter 5. **Pages xxx**

S. Neil MacFarlane, Thomas G. Weiss, Regional Organizations and Regional Security, *Security Studies*, Autumn 1992, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 6-37.

****23 October - Research Paper Outline due ****

Week Eight – 2 & 4 November
The United Nations in Practice

Peacekeeping and Peace Enforcement – Case study Somalia

Karns & Mingst, Chapter 8. pp. 289-305, 311-316, 324-330, 346-354.

Week Nine – 9 November

****No class – 11 November**

Human Rights

Karns & Mingst, chapter 10.

Week Ten – 16 & 18 November
The Role of States

Karns & Mingst, Chapter 7.

****20 November – Research Paper due ****

Week Eleven – 23 & 25 November
World Health Organization/Pandemics as a test of International Organization

Sara E. Davies, “Securitizing Infectious Disease, *International Affairs*, vol. 84, no. 2, March 2008, pp. 295-313.

David E. Sanger, et al., « Search for Coronavirus Vaccine Becomes a Global Competition,” *New York Times*, 19 March 2020.

Grant Robertson, “In the dark,” *Globe and Mail*, 25 July 2020.

Week Twelve –30 November & 2 December

30 November: Global Governance

Karns & Mingst, Chapter 12

2 December – review for the exam
Week Thirteen – 6-7 December

Take Home Exam