

## **POLS 313: *International Organization***

<b>Instructor:</b> Andrew Konitzer <b>Email Address and Telephone:</b> <a href="mailto:ackonitz@samford.edu">ackonitz@samford.edu</a> Ext. 4630 <b>Website:</b> Available on <i>Blackboard</i>	<b>Meeting Time:</b> TR 11:00-12:50 <b>Class Location:</b> Brooks 223A <b>Office Hours and Location:</b> DBH 108 MW: 10:00-11:30 TR: 9:30-11:00
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### Course Description and Objectives

This course explores the challenges to cooperation amongst state actors and the efforts of various international organizations to coordinate states' actions, regulate interstate relations, and minimize international conflict. The course begins with an introduction to the basic theories of international relations with a specific focus on differing concepts of state interests, sources of conflict and cooperation and potential roles for international institutions. Following this section we then shift focus to specific types and areas of international cooperation including alliances, collective security, peacekeeping, the regulation of international financial and economic processes, and the promotion and protection of human rights. Each section includes a general exploration of the particular challenges which characterize each sphere, an overview of different organizations focused on these issues and a more detailed investigation of the United Nations' efforts to develop and implement solutions.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply various international relations theories to questions of international cooperation and conflict management
- Describe and assess the various challenges facing international organizations in the spheres of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, international financial and economic regulation and the promotion and protection of human rights
- Describe the UN's role in addressing the different issues and challenges related to the above mentioned spheres
- Describe the structures and functions of key international organizations
- Assess the current controversies and debates surrounding various prominent international organizations such as the World Bank, United Nations, NATO and others

**Class Format:** Class sessions combine a mixture of interactive lecturing and class discussion of key topics from the readings. Most class periods will also begin with a short quiz over the reading materials for that day.

**Prerequisites:** An interest in politics, political history, foreign cultures, current events...and the future of humanity.

**Readings:** The following books are required and can be purchased at the Bookstore:

- J. Samuel Barkin, *International Organization: Theories and Institutions* (2006)
- Thomas Weiss, David Forsythe, Roger Coate and Kelly Pease, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics* (2007)
- Stanley Sloan, *NATO, the European Union, and the Atlantic Community: The Transatlantic Bargain Challenged* (2005)
- Sebastian Mallaby, *The World's Banker: A Story of Failed States, Financial Crises, and the Wealth and Poverty of Nations* (2006)
- Ramesh Thakur, *The United Nations, Peace and Security: From Collective Security to the Responsibility to Protect* (2006)

The reading load will consist of readings from the required texts along with other readings posted on *Blackboard*. Expect to read between 100-200 pages of text per week.

**Course Grade:** Your grade is derived from your class attendance, participation, quiz grades and your performance on three major papers. Grades are composed as follows:

Grade Composition	Grading Scale	
Participation: 10%	<b>93.4% or greater: A</b>	<b>73.4-76.6%: C</b>
Individual quizzes: 20%	<b>90.0-93.3%: A-</b>	<b>70.0-73.3%: C-</b>
Group activities: 20%	<b>86.7%-89.9%: B+</b>	<b>66.7%-69.9%: D+</b>
Papers: 5%, 15%, 30%	<b>83.4%-86.6%: B</b>	<b>63.4-66.6%: D</b>
	<b>80.0-83.3%: B-</b>	<b>60.0-63.3%: D-</b>
	<b>76.7-79.9%: C+</b>	<b>Below 60.0: F</b>

**Participation:** Individual participation grades are derived from the instructor's evaluation of the quantity and quality of individual contributions during interactive lectures and discussions.

**Individual Quizzes:** As indicated above in the class format section, most classes will begin with individual quizzes on the reading materials. The instructor also reserves the right to administer reading quizzes on *Blackboard* so as to preserve more class time for lecture/discussion. *Blackboard* quizzes will be announced at the end of the previous class period.

**Group Activities:** Occasionally a group quiz will be administered in place of an individual quizzes. Questions on these quizzes will be oriented less towards your ability to understand and recall key aspects of the readings and more on your group's ability to apply and synthesize different concepts. Your Group Activity grade is derived in part from your group's overall performance (15% of total course grade) and in part from your group mates' evaluations of your performance (5% of total course grade).

**Papers:** In the course of the semester, students will complete two 3-5 page papers and one final 5-7 page paper based on the readings. The topic for each paper will be described by the instructor two weeks in advance of the due date. Students will be required either to apply a concept or theory from the readings to an empirical case and/or assess a debate within the political science literature (example: Do rationalist or sociological approaches do a better job of explaining NATO's continued existence after the Cold War?). The papers carry progressively higher weights of 5%, 15% and 30%, respectively. This will give students the opportunity to improve their writing and analytic skills without adversely affecting their final grade.

**Attendance, Missed Tests, and Late Assignments:** Attendance is mandatory and low attendance **will** affect your grade. Each student is permitted a total of 6 absences per semester, after which the student's **final course grade** will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (say, from an A to an A-) for each additional absence. Late papers will be docked ½-letter grade for each day past the deadline. Quizzes can only be made up if the student is away on a university-related event (athletes and other club members) or has otherwise informed me of his or her absence *before* the date that they miss class.

**Special Accommodations:** Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services located in Counseling Services on the lower level of Pittman Hall, or call 726-4078 or 726-2105. I will grant reasonable accommodations only upon written notification from Disability Support Services.

### **Web Resources:**

***Course Website: Available on Blackboard***

This site contains readings, notes and other important course information. Be sure to visit frequently!

***Sources for News***

Keep up on world events through these and other sources:

**The Economist:** <http://www.economist.com>

**Financial Times (US site):** <http://news.ft.com/home/us/>

**New York Times:** <http://www.newyorktimes.com>

**BBC News:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

**CNN News:** <http://www.cnn.com>

**World News.com:** <http://www.worldnews.com/>

### Readings and Class Schedule

August 26	Syllabus and Course Overview
Theoretical Perspectives on IOs	
August 28	Mearsheimer's "The False Promise of International Organizations"
September 2	IO, Introduction – Chapter 2
September 4	IO, Chapter 3-4
Alliances	
September 9	NATO 1-2
September 11	NATO 3-5
September 18	NATO 6-8
September 23	NATO 9-12
Collective Security, Peacekeeping and "Human Security"	
September 25	Barkin, Chapters 5 & 6
September 30	UN Chapters Introduction-2
October 2	UN Chapters 3-4
October 7	UNPS Part 1
October 9	UNPS Chapter 7-9
October 14	UNPS Chapter 10-12
October 16	UNPS Chapter 6
October 21	No Classes, Fall Break
Human Rights	
October 23	Barkin, Chapter 7
October 28	UN Chapters 5-6
October 30	UN Chapters 7
November 4	UNPS Chaps 3-5
November 6	Shrinking the Space for Denial: The Impact of the ICTY in Serbia, 9-30
Development and Finance	
November 11	Barkin Chapters 8-9
November 13	WB Preface-3
November 18	WB 4-6
November 20	WB 7-9
November 25	WB 10-Afterward
November 27	No Classes, Thanksgiving Break
December 2	UN Chapters 8-10
December 4	UN Conclusion, UNPS Part 4