

**Political Science 362**  
**International Organizations**  
**11:00- 12:15 TTH**  
**235 Brackett Hall**  
**Fall 2009**

**Instructor:** Dr. Zeynep Taydas

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**Course Blackboard Web page:** bb.clemson.edu

### **Course overview**

This is an introductory course on the development and the role of the International Organizations (IOs) in world politics. While the international system is often described as anarchic, this is true only in the sense that no world government exists. In fact, international relations are increasingly shaped by international organizations such as the United Nations, European Union, NATO, IMF, World Bank and a number of international non-governmental organizations like Amnesty International and Greenpeace.

This course will explore the historical, theoretical and political foundations of international institutions and regimes and specific activities of international organizations in various areas, including international peace and security and political economy. More specifically, our goal in this class is to understand the evolution of international organizations as well as their roles, processes, and functions in the contemporary world. We will explore several organizations in greater depth (especially the LoN and the UN) and analyze how international and regional organizations are meeting the challenges posed by such developments as globalization and the end of the cold war.

### **Readings (Available at the university bookstore)**

In the course schedule (below), I have indicated the readings to be completed each week. Please note that there will be reading questions in all exams.

#### *Required Texts:*

1. International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance by Margaret P. Karns (Author), Karen A. Mingst (Author). ISBN: 1555879632.
2. The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics by Lawrence Ziring, Robert E. Riggs and Jack C. Plano (Authors), ISBN: 053463186X
3. International Organizations and Democracy: Accountability, Politics, and Power by Thomas D. Zweifel (Author). ISBN: 1588263924.

4. Assorted handouts and articles (distributed in class or found on blackboard).

## **Course Requirements and Evaluation**

The requirements for this course include one midterm exam, one final, quizzes, solid class participation, attendance, presentation and discussion leadership.

25% - Mid-term Exam

35% - Final

15% - Presentation and Discussion leadership

15% - Unannounced Quizzes (total of 3)

10% - Attendance and Participation

## **Examinations**

The midterm and final may include multiple choice, short identification, short answer and essay questions. All the exams are closed-book. Final exam will be cumulative and you will be responsible from everything we have covered since the beginning of the semester.

Students are required to bring a blue book with them on the examination day. All exam answers are to be written in either blue or black ink (no pencils).

## **Attendance and participation**

The students are expected to attend, participate and be prepared for all class sessions. To do so, all of the readings must be completed before Tuesdays, every week. This class will be far more rewarding for you if you keep up with the reading. You will find it easier to contribute to classroom discussion if you complete the reading.

Remember, participation in class is an important part of learning. Participation is different from attendance. It means speaking up and contributing to discussions and debates. Perfect attendance with no participation will also result in a low grade. In addition the following activities will lower a student's participation grade: side conversations, sleeping, reading a newspaper, doing a crossword puzzle, working on assignments for other courses, playing games, surfing on the net or instant messaging using laptops, etc.

The attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester. After three unexcused absences, the attendance grade will begin to suffer. Attendance is expected; only health and family emergencies will be accepted as excuses for absences and in these cases, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible.

In deciding whether to attend a class, please do not ask me if I am covering anything important that day. The course is carefully planned out- everyday is important.

## **Presentation and discussion leadership**

At the beginning of the semester, you will be grouped into teams (discussion groups). Every member of the team is supposed to choose two articles from major news sources regarding the current developments about international organizations (Reuters, CNN, BBC, EU Observer, Economist, and Financial Times etc.). The detailed information how to select the articles will be provided later in the semester.

You are expected to write a page long summary for the two articles you selected (i.e. half a page for each- single spaced). I will enforce this role strictly since your class mates will not have enough time to read long summaries. After preparing your articles, you need to put your name on top and send it to your team leader in a timely fashion. Late submissions will be penalized (10 percent reduction in the overall presentation grade). The leader will merge the files and send it to me (as an attachment- word file). I expect to get the group summary from the group leaders two days before the date of the presentation, by noon. I will post it to blackboard site and I expect everybody to read these summaries carefully before coming to class. Each team member will make copies of his/ her own news summary for the class and will distribute it at the beginning of the discussion session.

After short presentations, members of the team will serve as the discussion leaders and lead the discussion in the class. Discussion leaders are expected to know the material very well, direct questions to the class and answer the questions coming from their classmates. After the presentations (i.e. at the end of class), every member of the group is expected to submit their presentation materials (two original articles, and background research summary). Late submissions will be penalized (10 percent reduction in the overall presentation grade).

Note that there WILL be questions from the news summaries and the presentations in quizzes and exams. Therefore it is important for you to attend these discussion sessions.

The presentation grade will be based on the selection and the quality of the summaries, the background research, the quality of the presentation and discussion leadership (quality of questions, answers to the questions etc), and organization of the group as a whole. Attendance will be taken during these sessions. Active participation by the rest of the class is expected and it will be a very important component of the participation grade.

Discussion leaders will be graded individually; however, cooperation among team members often yields higher grades for all members of the team. Any inconsistencies and repetitions during the presentation and discussions among team members will cause significant grade reductions for the whole team. More details regarding the presentations and discussion sessions will be provided within the first few weeks of class.

You will be given the chance to choose the date you want to present. When I circulate the list of presentations next week, choose a date that you can present for sure because there will be **NO make ups** for presentations.

I strongly encourage you to keep informed about the news on international organizations during the semester. In addition to the news agencies mentioned above, the official website of the UN is a great source of information (<http://www.un.org/english/>).

## Quizzes

Three quizzes will be given throughout the semester. These quizzes are designed to evaluate your understanding of the main themes in recent readings and lectures. If you have attended lecture regularly and completed all readings in a timely fashion, the quizzes should not be difficult. Please note that quizzes will **NOT** be announced and there will be **NO** make-ups.

## Office hours

Office hours are provided to students as an extra resource to learn. So, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them. My office hours are noted at the top of the first page of the syllabus. If this time is inconvenient for you, please email me to schedule an appointment.

In addition, keep in mind that the best way to reach me is via email, not telephone. So please use email to contact me and give me at least one business day to respond to your emails.

## Internet and Email

Resources for this course (e.g., a copy of the syllabus, most of the handouts, presentation list) can be found on the course Blackboard page. You can login at [bb.clemson.edu](http://bb.clemson.edu). I will provide more detail about the Blackboard as we proceed through the semester.

It is very important for your success in this class to monitor the blackboard site regularly. I will post the announcements, study guides, presentation related documents, some of the handouts and additional readings throughout the semester.

If I need to contact you I will use your Clemson email address as it appears in the blackboard. So make sure that your name is listed in the roster (and blackboard site) of this class.

## Make-up policy

No make-up examinations will be granted without a university-approved excuse to miss a scheduled exam or quiz. In cases of severe illness or deaths in the family, I require a solid proof (e.g. a signed doctor's note and an explanation on the doctor's letterhead describing why you cannot take the exam; obituaries; e-mails from your academic advisor explaining the specific situation). Make-up exams will be possible only

- if you contact me *in advance* by e-mail and,
- provide me with the *appropriate documentation*.

There will be **NO** make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Same rule applies to all assigned work, including presentations.

## Grading Scale

Final grades in the course will fall on a standard 100-point scale where:

A = 89.5 -100

B = 79.5 - 89.49

C = 69.5- 79.49

D = 59.5- 69.49

F < 59.5.

Grades (just like the rules of the syllabus and content of exams) are not a starting point for negotiation. However, if a student wants his/ her exam to be regarded, the request must be submitted to me in writing within forty- eight hours. I will not accept a grade protest unless the student submits a written justification for the change, citing exact book pages and referring to class discussions. Note that I will re-grade the entire exam, not individual questions.

## Academic Integrity

Clemson University's official statement on academic integrity is as follows: "As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a "high seminary of learning." Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form."

In short, academic dishonesty is an offense against the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- *Cheating*, or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty.
- *Plagiarism* which includes but is not necessarily limited to, submitting examinations, themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes or other material as one's own work when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person.
- *Unauthorized possession of examinations* or reserve library materials, or laboratory materials or experiments or any other similar actions.
- *Unauthorized changing of grades* or markings on an examination or in an instructor's grade book or such change of any grade record.

The university also outlines what constitutes plagiarism here:  
<http://www.lib.clemson.edu/Plagiarism/index.htm>.

Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action. "When, in the opinion of a faculty member, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, including a description of the misconduct, to the Associate Dean for Curriculum in the Office of Undergraduate Studies. At the same time, the faculty member may, but is not required to, inform each involved

student privately of the nature of the alleged charge.”  
([http://www.cs.clemson.edu/html/academics/academic\\_integrity\\_2002.html](http://www.cs.clemson.edu/html/academics/academic_integrity_2002.html)).

Keep in mind that for the purpose of this class, the use of four or more consecutive words without quotation marks will constitute plagiarism. You must document the source of any material that is not an original thought. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, you MUST talk to the instructor handing in an assignment. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty in this course will receive a failing grade (F) in the course, and penalties may include suspension or even dismissal from the University.

### **Accommodations for disabilities**

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contract me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. “Qualified students” are those who present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Student Disability Services when we meet. Student disability services is located in G-20 Redfern (656-6848). Accommodations are not retroactive. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

### **Other policies**

I expect you to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct to provide an appropriate environment conducive to learning of all.

1. Cell phones and pagers MUST be turned off and put away.
2. Please refrain from any activity that is not related to the class, including using a computer in class for non-class purposes (*playing games, surfing on the net, instant messaging etc.*), *studying material from other classes, reading newspaper, laying your head on the desk and sleeping, and having conversations with people sitting around you*). Also try to refrain from any activity that will disturb your classmates and me during class. Students engage in renegade computer activities will be marked absent for that day. These activities will also result in a lower participation grade.
3. Please come to class ON time and DO NOT leave early; if you must do so, let me know beforehand and please sit near the door so your exit will be less disruptive. Unpunctuality will result in a lower participation grade. Also please do not start zipping up your backpack and rustling papers before the end of class period.
4. Please allow 15 minutes for the instructor to show up to class. If the instructor has not shown up 15 minutes after the beginning of the scheduled class time, students are free to leave.

## **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

Note: Course schedule is subject to change.

### **PART I: International Organizations and Governance**

#### **Week 1:** August 20 (TH)

- Course introduction

#### **Week 2:** August 25 (T), 27 (TH)

- Movie
- Extra credit assignment #1

Readings: Karns and Mingst, ch1

#### **Week 3:** September 1 (T), 3 (TH)

- Introduction to International Organizations (IOs) and Global Governance
- IGOs, NGOs and States

Readings: Karns and Mingst, ch 6, 7.

#### **Week 4:** September 8 (T), 10 (TH)

- IGOs, NGOs and States- cont.
- History of IOs

Readings: Karns and Mingst, ch 3, Zweifel ch 1, 2

#### **Week 5:** September 15 (T), 17 (TH)

- History of IOs- cont.
- Theories of IOs (approaches to international organizations)

Readings: Karns and Mingst, ch 2

Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories" *Foreign Policy* 110 (Spring 1998) pp.29-46 (available through library- e- journals).

**Week 6:** September 22 (T), 24 (TH)

- Theories of IOs (approaches to international organizations)- continued
- *Presentation & debate #1*

Readings: Robert O. Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?” *Foreign Policy* 110 (Spring 1998) pp.82-96 (available through library- e- journals).

**Part II: International Organizations in World Politics**

**Week 7:** September 29 (T), October 1 (TH)

- Theories of IOs- cont.
- IOs in World Politics- UN

Readings: Karns and Mingst ch 4, Ziring et al. ch 1, 2.

**Week 8:** October 6 (T), 8 (TH)

- IOs in World Politics- Cont.
- **First mid-term exam: October 8**

**NOTE:** Last day to drop without grades the course is October 10.

**Week 9:** October 13 (T- **NO CLASS- FALL BREAK**), 15 (TH)

- *Presentation & debate #2*

**Week 10:** October 20 (T), 22 (TH)

- The UN- cont.

Readings: Zweifel ch 3, Ziring et al. ch 3, 4.

**Week 11:** October 27 (T), 29 (TH)

- Reform of the UN
- *Presentation & debate #3*

Readings: Ziring et al. ch 11

Mats Berdal, “The UN after Iraq,” *Survival* 46, 3 (Autumn 2004), pp 83-102 (available through library- e- journals).

**Week 12:** November 3 (T), 5 (TH)

- Regional organizations

Readings: Karns and Mingst ch 5, Zweifel 7.

**Week 12:** November 3 (T), 5 (TH)

- Regional organizations

Readings: Zweifel ch 8, 9.

### **PART III: Global Issues and International Organizations**

**Week 13:** November 10 (T), 12 (TH)

- IOs, Peace and Security
- *Presentation & debate #4*

Readings: Karns and Mingst ch 8, Ziring et al. ch 5, 6

**Week 14:** November 17 (T), 19 (TH)

- IOs, Peace and Security- cont.
- International Organizations, International Political Economy (IPE) and Development.

Readings: Karns and Mingst ch 9, Ziring et al. ch 10, Zweifel 4, 5, 6.

**Week 15:** November 24 (T– **NO CLASS**), 26 (TH– **NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK**)

**Week 16:** December 1 (T), 3 (TH)

- Conclusions

Readings: Karns and Mingst ch 12, Zweifel ch 10

***FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 9, 3.00p.m- 5.30 p.m.***

Po Sc 362

I read the syllabus and understand its terms.

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Student Name

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Signature

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Date