

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Spring 2018
Discipline:	Political Science
Course Number and Title:	POLS 433: International Organizations
Division:	Upper
Faculty Name:	J. Holmes Armstead, Jr.
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: One (1) general international relations course
Per professor: Prerequisite will be waived

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the law and practice of international organizations, focusing on the interaction between international law and politics in this context. It begins by exploring the nature and structure of the international legal system, and provides an overview of the development of international organizations within the context of the evolution of that system. The course will focus on intergovernmental organizations, and on the UN system in particular, but will also briefly examine a number of regional organizations. The second part of the course addresses cross-cutting institutional issues, including law-making, judicial review, enforcement issues, and the role of the chief administrative officer of an international organization. The third part of the course is devoted to the substantive work of the UN and other organizations in three principal areas: collective security, peace operations, and human rights. The final classes will cover issues relating to UN reform from the perspective of the so-called democratic deficit, as well as a brief examination of the roles of other intergovernmental organizations, including regional organizations, and nonstate actors, such as non-governmental organizations and transnational corporations. The format of the course will consist primarily of lectures, structured discussion, and role-playing activities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through active engagement, students will learn about the law and practice of international organizations. They will learn the history, roles, structures, operations, and limits of these organizations through case-studies and simulations.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone
TITLE: Law and Practice of the United Nations, 2nd ed.
PUBLISHER: OUP
ISBN #: 9780199399482
DATE/EDITION: 2nd ed. / 2016

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico — January 5

A1—January 7: Introduction to International Organizations

Assignment: Identify one issue involving an international organization that has been in the news recently.

A2—January 9: Introduction to the UN System

Assignment: Chapter 1, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone; UN Charter

A3—January 11: The UN in Action

Assignment: Libya case-study packet

Honolulu, Hawaii — January 12

A4—January 14: The Constitutional Framework of the United Nations

Assignment: Chapter 4, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone

January 16—International Date Line crossing (Lost Day)

A5—January 17: Membership in International Organizations

Assignment: Chapter 6, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone

No Class — January 19

A6—January 20: Membership Simulation – Part I

Assignment: Simulation packet

A7—January 22: Membership Simulation – Part I

Assignment: Simulation packet

Kobe, Japan — January 24-28

A8—January 29: Representation in International Organizations

Assignment: Chapter 6, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone

Shanghai, China — January 31 - February 1

In-Transit — February 2-3

Hong Kong, SAR — February 4-5

A9—February 6: Introduction to UN Law Making

Assignment: Chapter 4, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — February 8-13

A10—February 14: Law Making by the General Assembly

Assignment: Chapter 4, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone

No Class —February 16

A11—February 17: Law Making by the Security Council

Assignment: Chapter 4, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone

Yangon, Myanmar — February 19-23

A12—February 24: Law Making Simulation – Part I

Assignment: Law Making Simulation packet

A13— February 26: Law Making Simulation – Part II

Assignment: Law Making Simulation packet

Cochin, India — February 28 – March 5

A14—March 6: Collective Security and the Use of Armed Force: The Jus ad Bellum

Assignment: Use of force packet

No Class — March 7

A15—March 9: Collective Security and the Use of Armed Force: The Charter Regime – Iraq I

Assignment: Iraq I case-study packet

Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11

A16—March 12: Collective Security and the Use of Armed Force: The Charter Regime – Iraq II

Assignment: Iraq II case-study packet

A17—March 14: Collective Security and the Use of Armed Force: Humanitarian Intervention?

Assignment: Libya case-study packet

A18—March 16: The UN Human Rights System: The Charter Bodies

Assignment: Chapter 13, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone

Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23

A19—March 24: The UN Human Rights System: The Treaty Bodies

Assignment: Chapter 13, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone

A20—March 26: Human Rights Treaty Body Simulation – Part I

Assignment: Human Rights Treaty Body Simulation packet

A21—March 28: Human Rights Treaty Body Simulation – Part II

Assignment: Human Rights Treaty Body Simulation packet

Tema, Ghana — March 30 - April 1

Takoradi, Ghana — April 2-3

A22—April 4: International Humanitarian Law & the Role of the ICRC

Assignment: ICRC packet

A23—April 6: Reforming the System

Assignment: Chapter 17, Chesterman, Johnstone, and Malone

Study Day — April 8

A24— April 9: Review

Casablanca, Morocco — April 11-14

A25—April 15: Final Exam

Arrive Bremerhaven, Germany — April 19

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

Field Class & Assignment

The Field Class for this course will take place on *Monday, February 5, in Hong Kong, S.A.R.*

Students will visit the University of Hong Kong and have an interactive dialogue with Chinese students concerning membership and representation of the United States and China as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Students will prepare a reflection paper on their thoughts concerning the prospects for UN reform following this interactive dialogue.

Independent Field Assignments

Students should reflect on the differences among the various countries we visit, and how these difference may present opportunities for and challenges to international cooperation through intergovernmental organizations.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%:
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

Grading will be based on preparation for and participation in class activities (30%) (including simulations and role plays), field assignments (20%), as well as a final exam (50%). Depending on the size of enrollment, students will participate in a series of simulations. All students are expected to participate in all simulations, alternating among different roles. Simulations will afford

participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in the legal and policy considerations of various stakeholders, from the perspectives of civil society organizations, government delegations, and international civil servants. Several simulation topics are listed in the course outline.

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

None.

FILM REQUEST:

None.

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

Will be provided by instructor.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

None.