



Course information 2023-24

IR2085 International organisations

General information

COURSE LEVEL: 5

CREDIT: 30

NOTIONAL STUDY TIME: 300 hours

Summary

This course builds on the foundations laid by the prerequisite course *IR1011 Introduction to international relations*. It offers a comprehensive introduction to the theory and practice of international organisations, with particular reference to role of formal international organisations. International organisations to be discussed range from the League of Nations to the United Nations, from the World Bank to the World Trade Organization, from the European Union to the African Union, from NAFTA to ASEAN, and from NATO to the International Criminal Court.

Conditions

Prerequisite: If taken as part of a BSc degree, the following course must be attempted before you can register on this course:

- IR1011 Introduction to international relations.
- IR1198 International relations: theories, concepts & debates

Aims and objectives

The course seeks to give students an understanding of the major theoretical and empirical aspects of the role of international organisations in international politics, including, *inter alia*, their impact on:

- the practice of international cooperation and conflict,
- the maintenance of international peace and security,
- the management of international economic relations,
- the promotion of international environmental standards,
- the prosecution of international crimes,
- and related matters of concern to international society.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course and having completed the essential reading and activities students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core literature on international organisations
- Engage with this literature critically by developing their own argumentation
- Explain the main theoretical approaches and empirical issues in the study of international organisations

Please consult the current EMFSS Programme Regulations for further information on the availability of a course, where it can be placed on your programme's structure, and other important details.

- Write clearly, effectively, and subtly about these issues.

Essential reading

For full details please refer to the reading list.

Hurd, Ian *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010) first edition [ISBN 978-0521768344]

Armstrong, David, Lorna Lloyd and John Redmond *International Organisation in World Politics*. (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2004) third edition [ISBN 978-1403903037]

Karns, Margaret P. and Karen A. Mingst *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*. (Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner, 2015) third edition [ISBN 978-1626371514]

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three-hour and fifteen-minute closed-book written examination.

Syllabus

The course seeks to give students an understanding of the major theoretical and empirical aspects of the role of international organisations in international politics, including, *inter alia*, their impact on the practice of international cooperation and conflict, the maintenance of international peace and security, the management of international economic relations, the promotion of international environmental standards, the prosecution of international crimes, and related matters of concern to international society. International organizations to be discussed range from the League of Nations to the United Nations, from the World Bank to the World Trade Organization, from the European Union to the African Union, from NAFTA to ASEAN, and from NATO to the International Criminal Court.

- *Origins* of international organisations: why do IOs such as the Organization of American States emerge?
- *Development* of international organisations: what goes on within IOs such as the United Nations?
- *Effects* of international organisations: what difference do IOs such as the International Monetary Fund make?
- *Pathologies* of international organisations: when do IOs such as the European Union go wrong?

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