

Introduction to International Organizations

Course code: IRS 101

Semester and year: Fall 2021

Day and time: Tuesdays: 14.15 – 17.30 p.m. CET in class and online via Microsoft Teams

Instructor: Zuzana Fellegi

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Consultation hours: After classes in the classroom and via Microsoft Teams upon individual prior agreement

Credits US/ECTS	3/6	Level	Introductory
Length	15 weeks	Pre-requisite	None
Contact hours	42 hours	Course type	Bachelor Required

1. Course Description

The world faces increasingly complex global problems including ongoing armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, economic inequality and instability. The aim of this course is to explore different ways how to prevent and solve such problems through working towards the world order - a system for controlling world events that aims to install political and economic stability and social justice; including the world government, regional integration and expansion of international norms and institutions such as the UN, EU, CoE, WB, IMF, NATO, etc. The course introduces main international actors and explains their interaction and impact on the field of security, trade, development, monetary and environmental issues and human rights. The classes will be interactive and all concepts and terms will be explained on concrete examples. Each class will be supplemented by case studies of recent international events giving the students opportunity to critically analyse concrete actions of international actors and to understand their potentials, limits and effect on global development.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Understand history and theory of formation and functioning of international organizations;
- Understand working and decision-making mechanism of major intergovernmental and non/governmental organizations;
- Analyse activities and legal acts of international organisations in different fields including security, trade, development, environment, and human rights;
- Think critically and to provide possible solutions for present problems connected to the work of international organisations;
- Evaluate effectiveness of different international organizations and to assess their impact in international relations;
- Discuss the possibilities of further development of international organizations in the context of globalisation and rising populism.

3. Reading Material

Required Materials

- Bomberg, Peterson, Corbett (2012). *The EU how does it work*. 3rd ed. Oxford : Oxford University Press
- Cali, Basak (2010). *International law for international relations*. Oxford : Oxford University Press
- Gutner, Tamar (2017). *International organizations in world politics*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Hurd, Ian (2013). *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Karns, Margaret (2015). *International organizations : the politics and processes of global governance*. 3rd ed. Boulder; London: Lynne Rienner
- Pease, Kely-Kate S. (2010). *International Organizations: Perspectives on Governance in the Twenty-First Century*. 5th ed. New York: Longman
- Smith, Rhona (2014). *Textbook on international human rights*. 6th ed. Oxford : Oxford University Press

Recommended Material

- Archer, Clive (2014). *International Organizations*. 4th ed. London; New York: Routledge
- Bache, Bulmer, George, Palmer (2015). *Politics in the EU*. 4th ed. Oxford : Oxford University Press
- Barkin, Samuel (2013). *International Organization: Theories and Institutions*. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan
- Baylis, Smith (2014). *The Globalization of World Politics: an Introduction to International Relations*. 6th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Best, Jacqueline (2014). *The Return of the Public in Global Governance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Colomer, Joseph (2014). *How Global Institutions Rule the World*. Palgrave Macmillan
- Fischer, Klemens (2015). *Handbook on International Organisations: A Comprehensive Guide*. Springer
- Hanhimaki, Jussi (2015). *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Hough, Peter (2013). *Understanding Global Security*. 3rd ed. Routledge
- Mingst, Karen (2011). *The United Nations in the 21st Century (Dilemmas in World Politics)*. Westview Press
- Peet, Richard (2009). *Unholy Trinity: The IMF, World Bank and WTO*. 2nd ed. New York: Zed Books
- Rittberger, Volker (2011). *International Organization. Polity, Politics and Policies*. 2nd ed. London; New York: Palgrave Macmillan
- Reus-Smit, Christian (2010). *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Weiss, Forsythe, Coate, Pease (2013). *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*. 7th ed. Boulder: Westview Press
- Wiess, Wilkinson (2014). *International Organization and Global Governance*. London; New York: Routledge
- Woods, Ngaire (2006). *The Globalizers: The IMF, the World Bank, and Their Borrowers*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press

4. Teaching methodology

Each class will begin with a short revision of a previous one. Presentation of new material will be interactive and students will be asked to give their opinions based on revised course material. Each class will present at least two case studies - one prepared by the lecturer and one by the students themselves. The last section of the class will be devoted to discussion of assigned material and presented cases. The students are required to read assigned material prior to each class in order to participate actively. They also need to follow websites of discussed international organizations and the latest international news concerning them.

5. Course Schedule

Date	Class Agenda
Class 1 31.8	Topic: History of international organizations. Description: Introduction to the course, explanation and division of research projects, introduction to the history of international organizations. Reading: Gutner_5-10 Assignments: Division of research and presentation topics.
Class 2 7.9	Topic: Theoretical approaches to international organizations. Description: Introduction to main theoretical approaches to the international organizations incl. realism, liberalism, feminism and Marxism. Reading: Pease_6-12 & 41-72.
Class 3 14.9	Topic: International law; states and inter-governmental organizations. Description: Introduction to international law, formation and recognition of states and international organizations. Reading: Cali_5-12, 100-119, 191-200.
Class 4 21.9	Topic: Non-governmental organizations: multinational companies (MNCs) and non-profit international organizations. Description: MNCs and NGOs as actors in IR - their rights & duties, impact of their activities. Reading: Karns_1-41. Assignments/deadlines: Presentation 1.
28.9	National Holidays - no class
Class 5 5.10	Topic: United Nations – structure. Description: Main UN organs – Security Council, General Assembly, International Court of Justice - their composition, functions and interaction. Reading: Gutner_35-66. Assignments/deadlines: Presentation 2.
Class 6 12.10	Topic: United Nations – activities. Description: Main UN activities and their impact incl. security, development and human rights. Reading: Pease_105-132. Assignments/deadlines: Presentation 3.
Class 7 19.10	Midterm Exam Description: NEO online test. Reading: Readings from Week 1 to 7. Assignments/deadlines: Review all material from Week 1 to 7.
26.10	Midterm break
Class 8 2.11	Topic: European Union – structure. Description: Main EU organs – European Council, European Commission,

	European Parliament, Court of Justice of the EU – their composition, functions and interaction. Reading: Bomberg_47-70. Assignments/deadlines: Presentation 4.
Class 9 9.11	Topic: European Union – activities. Description: Main EU activities and their impact incl. common market, agriculture, cohesion, migration, foreign policy and security. Reading: Bomberg_99-116. Assignments/deadlines: Presentation 5.
Class 10 16.11	Topic: Council of Europe, EU - human rights. Description: Main human rights organizations, their composition, activities and impact. Reading: Smith_96-118. Assignments/deadlines: Presentation 6.
Class 11 23.11	Topic: NATO, ICC – security. Description: Main security organizations, their composition, activities and impact. Reading: Pease_132-152. Assignments/deadlines: Presentation 7.
Class 12 30.11	Topic: WTO – trade issues. Description: Main trade organization, its composition, activities and impact. Reading: Hurd_109-137. Assignments/deadlines: Presentation 8.
Class 13 7.12	Topic: IMF, World Bank – monetary and development issues. Description: Main financial organizations, their composition, activities and impact. Reading: Hurd_138-167. Assignments/deadlines: Presentation 9.
Class 14 14.12	Topic: Final Exam. Description: NEO online test. Reading: All readings. Assignments/deadlines: Review material from all semester.

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes*
Final test	50	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject knowledge on history, theory, purpose and activities of major int. organizations. 	Critical thinking
Midterm test	30	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject knowledge on history, theory, purpose and activities of major int. organizations. 	Critical thinking

Research Project/ Presentation	40	30%	Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse activities and legal acts of selected int. organizations in different fields including security, trade, development, environment, and human rights; Think critically and to provide possible solutions for presented problems; Evaluate effectiveness of given int. organizations and to assess their impact. 	Critical thinking
Preparation, participation	30	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular and active participation; Ability to analyze and to effectively discuss the possibilities of further development of int. organizations. 	Critical thinking
TOTAL	150	100%		

*1 = Critical Thinking; 2 = Effective Communication; 3 = Effective and Responsible Action

7. Detailed description of the assignments

Final and Midterm Exam: Midterm exam will assess progress of students in the first half of the course - Weeks 1 to 7. Final exam will be comprehensive and students will be responsible for all topics covered in classes including student presentations as well as assigned readings (with emphasis on the 2nd half of semester). Both exams will be in-class online tests combining multiply choice and false and true questions (closed book). **Distance learning students from different time-zones will take on-line tests individually within 24 hour time-window (starting from the in-class test timing).** There will be 30 questions per maximum 30 minutes which is a standard format used in the EU competition tests. Students should demonstrate that they have a good understanding of the most relevant issues and concepts and that they are able to provide swift and correct answers.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	%
Ability to correctly evaluate the main purpose of each question	50%
Ability to reflect upon offered possible answers in broader context of all information and knowledge received in the course	25%
Ability to provide correct answers under the time limit	25%

Research Project/Presentation: Students are requested to prepare a research project connected with one of the topics discussed during the course. The project should prove students' capacity to make a theoretical argument and support it with factual/empirical information. Topics; form and deadlines will be discussed at the beginning of semester. Each student needs to find independently at least two relevant academic sources of information (working papers from research institutes, university articles, book chapters etc.) pertinent to a chosen topic. Students will prepare a 20-minutes' presentation accompanied with the power point presentation which will be delivered in-class or live online via Microsoft

Teams. Distance learning students from different time-zones will record their presentations and upload them to Microsoft Teams (or alternatively, in case of technical problems, they may submit them through the NEO with a detailed commentary accompanying each slide). Students are also required to prepare two questions for the subsequent discussion. Along with your partner, prepare your presentation according to the manual Presentation Guidelines available at the NEO. Assignments must be submitted electronically via NEO/assignments one day before the date of presentation at the latest. No late submissions will be accepted – please follow the deadlines. Evaluation will be done on the basis of a demonstrated analysis, the ability to critically interpret researched material and the quality of sources and discussion questions.

Assessed area	%
Content – recent, relevant and correct information; ability to analyze main problems and suggest creative solutions; ability to apply and to demonstrate acquired knowledge from the course; ability to link the topic of the presentation to the overall topic of the class; ability to apply a concrete theory to a presented problem; ability to formulate credible claims and evidence; reference to primary & secondary sources	50%
Form of written presentation – ability to design a balanced and well-structured presentation including relevant figures, maps & charts; with logical and well-sequenced sections; with clear connection between the introduction, body and conclusion; with persuasive and informed argumentation	35%
Form of oral presentation - clear and free speech; good intonation; eye contact; positive body language; ability to stress the most important issues and to explain difficult concepts; quick and appropriate reactions to possible interventions; ability to provide interesting and relevant examples	15%

Class Preparation, Participation and Attendance: This part includes evaluation of students’ verbal participation throughout the whole semester and attendance of classes. Students are asked to read assigned material regularly prior to each class and to apply knowledge from the reading to specific questions. Electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops...) may not be used in classes; their use will result in the student being marked absent and/or being expelled from the class. Distance learning students from the CET zone need to take part and to participate actively in a real-time when classes take place. They will be evaluated based on their participation in the real-time classes. Distance learning students from different time-zones will be evaluated based on regular 1-page summaries of the reading for each week accompanied with their thoughts and comments. The summaries need to be submitted electronically via emails within 48 hours after the class session.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	%
Participation – ability to raise relevant questions and to provide correct and insightful answers concerning discussed topics	80%
Attendance – regular and active participation without disruptive elements such as late arrivals and the use of electronic devices for other than class purposes	20%

8. General Requirements and School Policies

General requirements

All coursework is governed by AAU’s academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules available in the Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work.

Electronic communication and submission

The university and instructors shall only use students' university email address for communication. It is strongly recommended that any email communication between students and instructors take place in NEO LMS. Each e-mail sent to an instructor that is about a new topic (meaning not a reply to an original email) shall have a new and clearly stated subject and shall have the course code in the subject, for example: "COM101-1 Mid-term Exam. Question". All electronic submissions are carried out through NEO LMS. No substantial pieces of writing (especially take home exams and essays) can be submitted outside of NEO LMS. An instructor usually answers emails within 5 working days (excluding holidays and weekends). **Please make sure that you address your requests at least 5 working days prior to your deadlines; last minute emails will not be answered.**

Attendance

Attendance, i.e. presence in class in real-time is expected. Students will be marked absent if they miss a significant part of a class (by arriving late or leaving early) as specified in the syllabus. **Online participation and learning based on recordings is provided for distance learning students only; remaining students need to take physical part in classes.** Evaluation of the distance learning students in the CET zone will be based on their participation in the real-time classes. Evaluation of the distance learning students from different time-zones will be done based on regular 1-page summaries of the reading for each week accompanied with their thoughts and comments. The summaries need to be submitted electronically via emails within 48 hours after the class session.

Absence excuse and make-up options

Should a student be absent from classes for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), s/he must submit to the Dean of Students an Absence Excuse Request Form supplemented with documents providing reasons for the absence. The form and documents must be submitted within one week of the absence. If possible, it is recommended the instructor be informed of the absence in advance. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if s/he submits an Absence Excuse Request Form along with the finalized add/drop form.

Assignments missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up which may result in a decreased or failing grade as specified in the syllabus.

Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean of Students are entitled to make up assignments and exams provided their nature allows for a make-up. Students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week of the date the absence was excused to arrange for make-up options.

Late work: No late submissions will be accepted – please follow the deadlines.

Electronic devices

Electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops...) may not be used in classes. All presentations are available at the NEO and students are invited to write the notes out by hand. No electronic devices may be used during tests or exams. The use of electronic devices during the classes will result in the student being marked absent and/or being expelled from the class.

Eating is not allowed during classes.

Cheating and disruptive behavior

If a student engages in disruptive or other conduct unsuitable for a classroom environment of an institution of learning, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the

room for the duration of the activity or for the day and shall report the behavior to the Dean.

Students engaging in behavior which is suggestive of cheating (e.g. whispering or passing notes) will, at a minimum, be warned. In the case of continued misbehavior the student will be expelled from the exam and the exam will be marked as failed.

Plagiarism and Academic Tutoring Center

Plagiarism is “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.” (Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993)

Turnitin’s White Paper ‘The Plagiarism Spectrum’ (available at <http://go.turnitin.com/paper/plagiarism-spectrum>) identifies 10 types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe:

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another’s work, word-for-word, as one’s own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.
5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one’s own previous work without citation; To self-plagiarize.
6. HYBRID: The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.
7. MASHUP: A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources
9. AGGREGATOR: The “Aggregator” includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.
10. RE-TWEET: This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text’s original wording and/or structure.

As the minimum policy the types of plagiarism from 1 through 8 results in the failing grade from the assignment and must be reported to the Dean. The Dean may initiate a disciplinary procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Allegations of bought papers and intentional or consistent plagiarism always entail disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.

If unsure about technical aspects of writing, students are encouraged to consult their papers with the tutors of the AAU Academic Tutoring Center. For more information and/or to book a tutor, please contact the ATC at: <http://atc.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/>.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities are asked to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage*	Description
A	95 – 100	Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A-	90 – 94	
B+	87 – 89	Good performance. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 – 86	
B-	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	Fair performance. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 – 76	
C-	70 – 72	
D+	65 – 69	Poor. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 – 64	
F	0 – 59	Fail. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.