International Relations Program
Fall 2017

Course title: The United Nations: International Peace and Security
Language of instruction: English
Professors: Pol Bargués Pedreny, Ignasi Torrent Oliva
Professor’s contact: polbargues@gmail.com, ignasi.torrent@upf.edu
Office: 40.225
Course contact hours: To be arranged with the instructors
Recommended credit: 3 US credits-6 ECTS credits
Course prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course
Language requirements: None

Course focus and approach: From a scholar approach of International Relations, the course offers an approach to the study of the United Nations -its history, goals, and structure- focusing on how it works to achieve one of its founding objectives, namely maintaining international peace and security.

Course description: The course is structured in two blocks. The first one introduces the United Nations, its goals, its main bodies and its decision-making process as a starting point. It then focuses on the UN architecture as a decisive international actor regarding international peace and security by analyzing: the UN institutional framework that deals with these issues (the UN Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, etc.); relevant aspects of the UN Charter in relation to this topic (Chapters VI and VII); and the historical evolution of how the UN has coped with peace and security issues. The second block explores one of the main tools the United Nations applies to maintain peace and security: the UN Peace Operations. This is done by focusing on theoretical debates that have shaped the missions over the time, by examining their evolution in nature and scope and by grasping historical examples (Sierra Leone, Haiti, Burundi, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, etc...).

Learning objectives: The aim of this course is threefold: first, to introduce students to the United Nations (aims, institutions, history) and its critical role in contemporary international society; second, to focus on the analysis of mechanisms in place at the UN architecture to achieve one of its main goals: maintaining international peace and security; and third, to provide a systematic toolkit which helps students out in critically analyzing the performance of the UN Peace Operation missions, by identifying strengths and weaknesses of different historical operations in the field.

Course workload: The course will entail attendance to a series of lectures and seminars, as well as some in-class short activities related to readings and assignments proposed by the instructors.

Teaching methodology: The course comprises twenty sessions and two seminars. The teaching of the course would combine traditional lectures, several in-class short activities (primary
sources analysis, discussions, etc.), and a series of seminars aimed at deepening in certain topics while helping students to develop their abilities and skills.

**Assessment criteria:** Students will be assessed through different items: a series of practical seminars requiring oral and written tasks (30%) – for further details check the *Seminars’ Guide*, class participation (20%), and a final exam (50%). Further indications will be given by the instructors at the beginning of the course.

**Absence policy:**

Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. Missing classes will impact on the student’s final grade as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Penalization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>No penalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five (5) absences or more</td>
<td>The student receives an INCOMPLETE (“NO PRESENTAT”) for the course</td>
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The PEHE/HESP attendance policy **does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences**. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Emergency situations (hospitalization, family emergency...) will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the HESP.

**Classroom norms:**

- No food or drink is permitted in class
- No mobile phones or other electronic devices are permitted in class with the only exception of laptops (only when used for class purposes)
- Students will have a ten-minute break after the first hour of each session

**Weekly schedule**

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

(Date: Wed, Sept. 27th; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)


Required readings for class discussion:

WEEK 2: THE UNITED NATIONS STRUCTURE AND CHARTER
(Date: Mon, Oct. 2\textsuperscript{nd} & Wed, Oct. 4\textsuperscript{th}; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)

The United Nations Charter: key features and main content. Interpretation, reform and revision of the UN Charter. Organic structure of the UN: main and subsidiary bodies. The UN budget.

Required readings for class discussion:


WEEK 3: PEACE AND SECURITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS
(Date: Mon, Oct. 9\textsuperscript{th} & Wed, Oct. 11\textsuperscript{th}; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)

Maintaining international peace and security as a UN objective. The UN Charter system in relation to peace and security: a) Pacific settlement of disputes; b) Actions with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression. History of the UN as an international actor working for peace and security.

Required readings for class discussion:


WEEK 4: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE UNITED NATIONS
(Date: Mon, Oct. 16\textsuperscript{th} & Wed, Oct. 18\textsuperscript{th}; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)

The role of the UN in protecting Human Rights. The UN Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review. Reforms in the field of international cooperation in promoting and protecting Human Rights.

Required readings for class discussion:


WEEK 5: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS
(Date: Mon, Oct. 23\textsuperscript{rd} & Wed, Oct. 25\textsuperscript{th}; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)

The role of the UN in fostering international social and economic cooperation. The UN Charter system in relation to international social and economic cooperation: the UN General Assembly and the ECOSOC. The UN and international development. The institutionalization of international aid. Reforms in the field of international social and economic cooperation.

Required readings for class discussion:


WEEK 6: UN PEACE MISSIONS: AN INTRODUCTION  
(Date: Mon, Oct. 30th; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)  
UN as peace implementing actor. History of UN peace missions. Organs within the UN involved in peace and security tasks. Decision-making process through which the UN takes action in real scenarios.  
Required reading for class discussion:  

WEEK 7: UN PEACEKEEPING  
(Date: Mon, Nov. 6th & Wed, Nov. 8th; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)  
UN peacekeeping concept. History of UN peacekeeping. UN organs aimed at peacekeeping: the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Responses to inter-state crisis through unarmed or lightly armed UN forces. Analysis of UN peacekeeping missions in real scenarios: Palestine, Kashmir or Mount Sinai.  
Reading and class discussion:  

WEEK 8: UN PEACEMAKING  
(Date: Mon, Nov. 13th & Wed, Nov. 15th; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)  
UN peacemaking or peace enforcement concept. Evolution from peacekeeping to peacemaking. UN low-level military operations. Analysis of UN peacemaking missions in real scenarios: Congo, Somalia or Yugoslavia.  
Reading and class discussion:  

WEEK 9: UN PEACEBUILDING  
(Date: Mon, Nov. 20th & Wed, Nov. 22nd; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)  
Reading and class discussion:  

WEEK 10: UN PEACE AND SECURITY: A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK  
(Date: Mon, Nov. 27th & Wed, Nov. 29th; Time: 15:15h-17:15h)
Debates around the UN role in maintaining peace and security, and fostering development. Human Sustainable Development, New Wars, Human Security, the Responsibility to Protect, Failed States, Liberal Peace, Statebuilding. Provision of analytical frameworks for analysis: linking the theory to real missions. The future of the UN peace missions.

Reading and class discussion:

Last revision: June 2017
Required readings: Course reading pack prepared by the instructors.


UNITED NATIONS (1945), Charter of the United Nations, 24 October 1945, 1 UNTS XVI. Available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3930.html


Recommended bibliography:


International Relations Program
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JAMES, A. (1990), Peace-keeping in International Politics. New York: St. Martin's.


