

# PSC 348 - International Organization



PSC 348.1 - International Organization  
Graham 209  
TR 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm  
blackboard.uncg.edu

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MTWR 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm  
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## Course Description

What are international organizations? Why, for example, was the United Nations created; what role does it play in international politics today, and how effective is it at achieving its goals? This course is designed to explain why these organizations are created and what issues they are designed to address and to provide information about some of the most prominent international organizations in existence today. To do this, the course is divided into four main sections. In the first section we will examine what these organizations are and explain why, in general, they are created. We will also look at the role international organizations play within the different schools of international relations theory. The second section will focus on international security and the role that these organizations play in maintaining peace and responding to security threats. The third section examines the role that these international organizations play in international political economy, with particular emphasis on international trade and economic development. The final section of the course examines the role that international organizations play in areas such as the environment, humanitarianism, and human rights.

## Course Requirements

### Exams (60%)

There will be three in-class exams throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 20 percent of your final grade and will cover the lectures and readings from the preceding section of the course. These exams are not necessarily cumulative insofar as the first focuses on security, the second on economics, and the third on other topics; however, the material presented in the introductory part of the course is important for all three of these areas.

### Paper (20%)

You will submit a paper that explains and evaluates a current international organization. The paper will require you both to research the history and structure of an organization and to apply the course materials to evaluate the effectiveness of your chosen international organization. Specific directions regarding the paper will be discussed in class, and all students should have an idea of which organization they will examine by the end of the introductory section. The choice of certain organizations will require you to work in a small group and to present material about the organization in class.

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## Participation (20%)

This course will blend lectures, in-class discussions, and student presentations. Outside of the classroom, students may participate by utilizing my office hours or by setting up appointments to ask questions about the material or review assignments. Additional opportunities to meet for coffee will be announced in class. Please keep in mind that frequent participation does not necessarily mean a better grade if that participation proves counterproductive, disruptive, and so forth.

## Other Guidelines & Information

The information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, its requirements, its policies, and the schedule. However, this information is subject to change as the semester progresses and, therefore, you may not claim any rights based solely on the syllabus. Official announcements are always made in class and on Blackboard and may supersede the information contained here if they are announced after the date specified on the first page of the syllabus. In the absence of more recent announcements, however, the following guidelines are not negotiable and will be strictly adhered to during this semester:

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken 10 times over the course of the semester and will form the basis for your overall participation grade, up to 85 percent. Please keep in mind that attendance does not equal participation. If you wish to receive a participation grade above an 85, you will need to actually participate in class, see me during office hours, or sign up for one of the small group meetings that I will set up later in semester.

**Grades:** Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale: A 93 and higher; A- 90-92.99; B+ 87-89.99; B 83-86.99; B- 80-82.99; C+ 77-79.99; C 73-76.99; C- 70-72.99; D+ 67-69.99; D 63-66.99; D- 60-62.99; F 59.99 and below.

**Late Work:** Late work will **not** be accepted. Due dates for all assignments are listed on the course schedule and any changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard. You must contact me before an assignment is due if you are aware of any potential conflicts that will affect your ability to complete an assignment on time so that we may discuss alternatives.

**Student Conduct Code:** The Academic Integrity Policy of UNCG is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating violations of this policy seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at [academicintegrity.uncg.edu](http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu).

**Technology in the Classroom:** Modern technology is a wonderful thing; however, I also believe services like Facebook and Twitter have no place in the classroom during our class time. Please turn off your cell phones and only use laptops to take notes while in class, otherwise your participation grade could be severely affected.

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## Required Readings

Pease, Kelly-Kate S. 2010. *International Organizations*. 4th Edition. New York, NY: Longman. (a.k.a. IO)

Additional reading assignments listed on the course schedule will be posted as PDF files on Blackboard. The list of assigned readings is subject to change as the semester progresses. However, I will inform you of any additions or changes in advance.

## Course Schedule

### Introduction to International Organizations

19 January	Introduction to International Organizations <i>IO</i> : Chapter 1
21	Origins, Actors, and Levels <i>PDFs</i>
26 - 28	What are International Organizations? <i>IO</i> : Chapter 2
2 - 4 February	IOs and International Relations Theory <i>IO</i> : Chapters 3 and 4

### IOs & International Security

9 - 16	The United Nations <i>IO</i> : Chapter 5 (pp. 105-133), <i>PDFs</i> <b>Discussion</b> ( <i>February 16</i> )
18 - 25	Alliances & International Security <i>IO</i> : Chapter 5 (pp. 133-152), <i>PDFs</i> <b>Presentations / Discussion</b> ( <i>February 25</i> )
2 March	<b>Exam 1</b> : IOs & International Security

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## IOs & International Political Economy

4 - 16	IOs & International Political Economy <i>PDFs</i>
9 - 11 March	<i>Spring Break</i>
18 - 23	International Trade <i>IO: Chapter 6, PDFs</i> <b>Presentations / Discussion</b> ( <i>March 23</i> )
25 - 30	Economic Development <i>IO: Chapter 7, PDFs</i> <b>Presentations / Discussion</b> ( <i>March 30</i> )  <b>Paper - Due at Beginning of Class, March 30</b>
1 - 6 April	The European Union <i>PDFs</i>
8	<b>Exam 2: IOs &amp; International Political Economy</b>

## IOs Beyond Security & Economics

13 - 15	IOs & the Environment <i>IO: Chapter 8, PDFs</i> <b>Presentations / Discussion</b> ( <i>April 15</i> )
20 - 22	IOs, Humanitarianism, & Human Rights <i>IO: Chapter 9, PDFs</i> <b>Presentations / Discussion</b> ( <i>April 22</i> )
27	<b>Presentations</b>
29	The Future of Global Governance <i>IO: Chapter 10, PDFs</i>
8 May	<b>Exam 3: IOs Beyond Security &amp; Economics</b>