

IRL 388

ADVANCED STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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1. CONTACTS

EMAIL:	salton@icu.ac.jp
CLASS TIMES	Thursday, 15:10-16:20 (I) Thursday, 16:30-17:40 (II)
ROOM:	H-103_B
OFFICE:	ERBII-230
OFFICE HOURS:	Thursday, 1PM-3PM or By Appointment

2. INSTRUCTOR

QUALIFICATIONS: B.A. in Law (Trento, Italy)
 Ph.D. in International Law (Auckland, New Zealand)
 M.Phil. in International Relations (Oxford, UK)
 Ph.D. in International Politics (Aberystwyth, UK)

EXPERTISE: International Relations, International Law, International History
 International Organization (especially the UN), Diplomacy

PROFILE: *I am an Associate Professor of International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Studies, having joined ICU in September 2018.*

I was educated at the Universities of Trento (Italy), Auckland (New Zealand), Oxford (UK) and Aberystwyth (UK), and I hold two doctoral degrees, one in International Law and the other in International Relations.

Prior to joining ICU, I was an Associate Professor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at the Asian University for Women (AUW), a liberal arts college that promotes gender equality and draws students from Asia and the Middle East. I was also a researcher at Sciences-Po in Paris and at Temple University Japan (TUJ) in Tokyo; an officer at the Icelandic Human Rights Centre in Reykjavik, Iceland; and an Associate with the UN Under-Secretary-General's Office in New York City.

I teach and publish in the areas of international politics, international law, global institutions (especially the UN) and human rights. I have written a number of academic articles and three single-authored monographs, most recently 'Dangerous Diplomacy', which was published by Oxford University Press in 2017.

In addition to my role at ICU, I am also the Deputy Director of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), Tokyo Office; the Deputy Secretary-General of the Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan (GPAJ); a Senior Adviser to the Centre for Advanced Studies on South Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal; and the Secretary/Treasurer of the International Studies Association, Asia-Pacific.

For more info, see www.hermansalton.net

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course deals with a unique figure in world politics: the Secretary-General of the United Nations. At once civil servant, diplomat, executor of the wishes of the Security Council, and commander-in-chief of tens of thousands of peacekeepers, the UN Secretary-General depends on the member states of the Organization both in terms of legitimacy and in relation to the financial and legal resources needed to 'do the job'.

This course will consider the complex factors – historical, legal, political, and normative – that have contributed to shape the role of the world's top diplomat. It will do so by reviewing how the Secretaries-General of the past exercised their functions and by considering their relations with the UN Security Council. The tension between the two roles of the Secretary-General – the 'secretary' and the 'general' – is central to this theme.

The course will highlight the unique moral authority of the Secretary-General, as well as the unique challenges that each holder encountered during their often tumultuous mandates. We will also ask if (and why) SGs carry more authority than national leaders.

4. LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand the role(s) of the UN Secretary-General in world politics;
- Appreciate the uniqueness of the UN Secretary-General's position;
- Understand how past Secretaries-General handled major crises;
- Compare the prerogatives of the UN Secretary-General with those of national leaders;
- Reflect on the meaning of leadership in international organizations;
- Understand the differences between domestic and international leadership.

5. CONTENTS

WEEK 1 | 7 December 2023 | OVERVIEW

CL1. Teacher, Students, Course

CL2. The UN Secretary-General: A Unique Role in World Politics

WEEK 2 | 14 December 2023 | AN 'IMPOSSIBLE' JOB?

CL1. The Most Impossible Job Description?

CL2. Resolving the Office's Contradictions

WEEK 3 | 21 December 2023 | TRYGVE LIE (1946-53)

CL1. Introducing the SGs of the Past

CL2. Trygve Lie: Appointment, Context, Personality and Agenda

WEEK 4 | 11 January 2024 | DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD (1953-61)

CL1. Appointment and Historical Context

CL2. Personality and Agenda

WEEK 5 | 18 January 2024 | U THANT (1961-71) & KURT WALDHEIM (1972-81)

CL1. Appointments and Historical Contexts

CL2. Personalities and Agendas

WEEK 6 | 25 January 2024 | NO CLASSES

WEEK 7 | 1 February 2024 | JAVIER PÉREZ DE CUÉLLAR (1982-91)

CL1. Appointment and Historical Context

CL2. Personality and Agenda

WEEK 8 | 8 February 2024 | BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI (1992-96)

CL1. Appointment and Historical Context

CL2. Personality and Agenda

WEEK 9 | 15 February 2024 | KOFI ANNAN (1997-2006)

CL1. Appointment and Historical Context

CL2. Personality and Agenda

WEEK 10 | 22 February 2024 | BAN KI-MOON (2007-16)

CL1. Appointment and Historical Context

CL2. Personality and Agenda

6. LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Lectures:	English
Readings/Materials:	English (materials in other languages can be supplied)
Tests/Quizzes/Assignments:	English
Discussions/Presentations:	English
Communication with Instructor:	English/French/Spanish/Italian

7. GRADING POLICY

Presentation:	30% [<i>Presenters will be randomly assigned</i>]
Participation:	20% [<i>In-class attendance and participation</i>]
Final Paper	50% [<i>Students choose topic. Paper is due by Week 10</i>]

Grades matter and you should strive to obtain the best possible grade. However, *the way* you study and approach the subject is even more important. In this course, factual knowledge is essential but insufficient; critical thinking is what will make the difference in terms of grades and – far more important – in terms of your development. Consequently, the mere memorization of facts will not take you far – only the critical assessment of them will. What I am interested in is your own approach to a certain theme. However, you will only be able to acquire this analytical capacity if you do the readings before coming to class and if you participate in the discussion. Remember: analytical reasoning without facts is impossible, but facts without an analytical framework are useless! Both are needed.

8. INDEPENDENT STUDY

Study time depends on the student's attitude. The best performers will have done the readings carefully, performed well in presentations, participated actively in class discussions, and prepared their final paper well before the deadline.

9. COURSE FORMAT

The course involves a mixture of lectures, discussions and presentations. All classes will be interactive: in my view, the role of the teacher is not to offer correct answers but to raise questions, especially in a course such as this that deals with a wide range of topics. As a result, it will not be enough to come to class: you will need to be proactive and participate in the discussion. Naturally some of you will be shyer than others, which is fine (the best students are not the most talkative!) But you need to interact with myself and your peers.

10. READING LIST

Materials for this course will be uploaded on Moodle before class.

Books used include:

Simon Chesterman (ed)

Secretary or General? The UN Secretary-General in World Politics

Cambridge University Press, 2007

Manuel Frölich and Abiodun Williams (eds)

The UN Secretary-General and the Security Council

Oxford University Press, 2018

The following academic journals will also be helpful:

Diplomacy and Statecraft

Global Governance

Studia Diplomatica

For the Official UN News Portal: <https://news.un.org/en/>

For Independent Coverage of the UN: <https://www.passblue.com>