

PPE3251 - 'THE PARLIAMENT OF MAN'? THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN WORLD POLITICS

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1. FACULTY INFO

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| Email: | herman.salton@auw.edu.bd |
| Office: | H607 |
| Office Hours: | Mon & Wed, 9-11am (Please stick to these days and times. If you really cannot make them, please email me in advance to arrange an appointment. Thank you). |
| Classes: | Mon & Wed, 11am-12.20pm in Room H402 |
| Qualifications: | LLB Law (Trento), MPhil IR (Oxford), PhD Law (Auckland), PhD IR (Wales) |
| Areas of Expertise: | International Relations United Nations International and Diplomatic History Human Rights (especially racial and religious discrimination) International Law (especially international organization) |
| Profile: | I was educated at the universities of Trento, Oxford, Auckland and Wales. Formerly a Senior Fellow at the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, City University of New York, I was also a visiting scholar at Sciences-Po, Paris (France) and TUJ, Tokyo (Japan); an officer at the Icelandic Human Rights Centre, Reykjavík (Iceland); and an Associate with the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, United Nations Headquarters, New York City (USA). I have published in international politics, international law, global history and human rights. I am fluent in English, French, Italian and Spanish, and I joined AUW in the Fall of 2013. |

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the role of the United Nations Organization (UNO) in world politics. It offers an overview of the organization's history, it assesses the position of the UNO within the broader spectrum of international relations theory, and it explains its functions. Among other things, students will learn why and how the UNO came into existence, what its aims are and who in New York does what and why. The course will also offer a broad overview of the way in which the UN responded in the past—and is responding today—to global issues such as international peace and security, terrorism, humanitarian assistance, development and democratization. The course will blend history and theory: a long-term historical perspective

will be followed by several case-studies, the theoretical implications of which will also be considered. A wealth of materials will be used in an attempt to provide students with a real-life experience of the UNO, of its actors and members.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Discuss the historical development of the UNO;
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the UNO's origins and functions;
- Understand the relations between the main organs of the UNO;
- Critically assess the different theoretical approaches to the UNO;
- Evaluate common criticisms of the UNO;
- Analyse the validity of claims made in defence of the organization;
- Demonstrate a knowledge of contemporary issues at the UNO;
- Critically evaluate the effectiveness of the organization's response to major issues;
- Critically evaluate the relationship between UNO and USA;
- Analyse the extent to which the UNO has fulfilled the purposes of its Charter;
- Discuss the contemporary role and significance of the UNO;
- Discuss and evaluate proposals for the organization's reform.

4. COURSE STRUCTURE

The first part of this course will focus on the historical and theoretical dimensions of international cooperation. It will carry out an overview of the development of the international system beginning with the Concert of Europe, running through the League of Nations and ending with the San Francisco Peace Conference establishing the UNO. It will ask why the UNO was created and will prepare the groundwork for a more in-depth study of the organization in the rest of the course. It will also provide a basic introduction to the place of international organization within the theoretical framework of the discipline of International Relations (IR).

The second and third parts of the course will focus on how the UN works. After an examination of the organization's main bodies, we will consider its key functions from 1945 to today. Special emphasis will be placed on the changing tasks of the UNO through the prism of the evolving role of secretaries-general and their relationship with the superpowers (especially the USA). Topics covered include the increasingly positive reception of the UNO after the Cold and Gulf wars; the era of disillusionment in Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda; and the effects of 9/11 on the UNO/USA relationship. A number of case studies will be considered, and particular attention will be given to the post-Iraq association between the UN and the USA.

5. CLASS FORMAT

The course will involve a mixture of lectures, presentations and seminar-style discussions. All classes will be highly interactive: in my view, the role of the teacher is not to provide the right answers but to ask the right questions (and I will ask many!) As a result, it is not enough for you to come to class: you will need to be proactive and participate in the discussions. Naturally some of you will be shyer than others, which is fine (the best students are not necessarily the most talkative). However, you *will* need to interact with your peers and with your teacher.

6. READINGS

a) Tom G. Weiss & Sam Daws
The Oxford Handbook on the UN
Oxford: OUP, 2008

A sophisticated, if challenging, compilation of essays on the United Nations.

c) Margaret Joan Anstee
Never Learn to Type: A Woman at the UN
London: John Wiley, 2003

The memoirs of the first woman to reach the rank of UN Under-Secretary-General.

b) Thomas G. Weiss (et al.)
The UN and Changing World Politics
Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2013

A comprehensive assessment of the UN's many roles in world politics.

Note: all three books are in the library.

7. ASSESSMENTS

1) Participation (10%):

Your participation grade will depend on the regularity of your class attendance, on your punctuality, and especially on your contribution to our debates (such as engaging with me and with your colleagues when we discuss a certain issue). Unjustified absences will result in penalties as per AUW's policy, but please note that I also have my own, strict policy for unjustified late arrivals whereby the classroom doors will be locked 20 minutes after the start of class. Late arrivals are extremely disruptive and should be avoided at all costs.

Date: Although your participation will be monitored from Day 1, your grade will be given to you by the end of November.

2) SG Selection (25%):

This course's first simulation will reproduce the environment, tensions and actions (and intrigues!) in New York during the selection and appointment processes for new SGs. The class will be randomly divided into several UN actors: candidates for the SG's job, ambassadors from the five permanent members of the Security-Council (P5) who will have to interview the candidates, shortlist them and refer them to the General Assembly (GA); and GA members who will make the final appointment. More information will be given closer to the date, and your role in this event will be assigned to you shortly. You will submit a written memo, but there will also be an oral selection panel.

Memo Due: Mon, 26 September 2016 (TBC)

Panel Date: Wed, 28 September 2016 (TBC)

3) SC Simulation (25%):

The second simulation for this course will involve a special session of the SC on ISIS. In addition to the 15 ambassadors that make up the Council, the meeting will also be attended by the SG (myself) and the Under-Secretaries-General of key UN departments such as Peacekeeping (DPKO), Political Affairs (DPA), and Humanitarian

Affairs (OHA). Each of you will be randomly assigned to one of those ambassadorial roles, and your performance will be monitored and assessed during this session. Once again, a written memo will be submitted in preparation for the oral debate, and more information as well as advice will be given closer to the date.

Memo Due: Mon, 7 November 2016 (TBC)

Simulation Date: Wed, 9 November 2016 (TBC)

4) Final Essay (40%)

This in-class essay will test the breadth of your knowledge. Your abilities to comprehend and analyse a number of UN-related issues will be assessed. This is a pre-seen essay: TEN essay questions will be sent to you exactly 24 hrs before the event, so as to give you time to choose THREE and to structure your final essay.

Date: Mon, 28 November 2016 (TBC)

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| 8. GRADING SCALE |
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| 96.68 to 100 = A+ | 86.68 to 89.99 = B+ | 76.78 to 79.99 = C+ | 66.78-69.99 = D+ |
| 93.33 to 96.67 = A | 83.33 to 86.67 = B | 73.33 to 76.67 = C | 63.33 to 66.67 = D |
| 90 to 93.32 = A- | 80 to 83.32 = B- | 70 to 73.32 = C- | 60 to 63.32 = D- |
| | | | < 59.99 = Fail |

Please Note: In this course, factual knowledge is important but insufficient to perform well; critical thinking is what will make the difference not only in terms of marks but also—and more importantly—in terms of your development. Consequently, the mere memorization of facts will not take you very far—only the critical assessment of them will. What I am interested in is your approach to a problem. However, you will only be able to acquire this analytical capacity if you come to class, read widely and participate in the debates and class discussions. Remember: analytical reasoning without facts is impossible, but facts without any analytical framework are useless! Both are needed and will be required.

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| 9. COURSE SCHEDULE (*) |
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PART ONE: HISTORY

WEEK 1. INTRODUCING THE COURSE

Mon 22 August—Introduction: Teacher, Students and Aims

Questions: Why me? Why you? Why here?

Readings: None

Wed 24 August—Methodology: What, Why and How to Learn?

Questions: What is the best approach to this course?

Readings: TBC

WEEK 2. INTRODUCING THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

Mon 29 August—Historical Perspectives: The UN, Yesterday and Today

Question: Why was the UN established?

Required Reading: Weiss, Introduction; Kennedy, Preface;

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 1;

Wed 31 August—Theoretical Perspectives: The UN in Theory and Practice

Question: How is the UN best thought of?

Required Reading: Weiss, Chapter 1;

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 2;

WEEK 3. THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Mon 5 September—International Cooperation, 1815-1945

Question: When, how and why did nation-states started to cooperate?

Required Reading: Kennedy, Chapter 1;

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 3;

Wed 7 September—The UN during the Cold War, 1945-1988

Question: Was the UN during the Cold War irrelevant?

Required Reading: Weiss, Chapter 2;

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 4;

[11-13 SEPTEMBER: EID BREAK]

WEEK 4. THE DREAM OF A 'NEW WORLD ORDER'

Mon 19 September—Enthusiasm: UN Security Operations after the Cold War, 1988-98

Question: What changed for the United Nations after the end of the Cold War?

Required Reading: Weiss, Chapter 3;

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 5;

Wed 21 September—Disappointment: Peacekeeping in the 1990s

Question: What were the main challenges for UN Peacekeeping in the 1990s?

Required Reading: Kennedy, Chapter 3 + TBC

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 6;

WEEK 5. THE NIGHTMARE OF SOMALIA, RWANDA AND YUGOSLAVIA

Mon 26 September— Rwanda and Yugoslavia: Mission Impossible? + SG MEMO DUE

Question: Does the UN have 'blood on its hands' in Rwanda?

Required Reading: TBC

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 8;

Wed 28 September—SG SELECTION PANEL EVENT

Question: TBC

Required Reading: TBC

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 8;

PART TWO: STRUCTURES

WEEK 6. THE SECURITY-COUNCIL

Mon 3 October—Security-Council (1): Composition

Question: Is the SC legitimate?

Required Reading: TBC + Kennedy, Chapter 2

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 9;

Wed 5 October—Security-Council (II): Functions
Question: Is the SC the most important organ of the United Nations?
Required Reading: Weiss, Chapter 5
Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 10;

[23-27 OCTOBER: FALL BREAK]

WEEK 7. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mon 30 October—Composition
Question: Why is the GA often referred to as ‘The Parliament of Man’?
Required Reading: TBC
Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 11;

Wed 1 November—Functions
Question: Is the GA powerless?
Required Reading: TBC
Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 12;

WEEK 8. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mon 7 November—International Leadership + SC MEMO DUE
Question: Does the SG have power?
Required Reading: TBA
Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 13;

Wed 9 November—SC SIMULATION
Question: TBC
Required Reading: TBC
Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 14;

WEEK 9. THE SECRETARIAT

Mon 14 November—Structure: DPKO, DPA and EOSG
Question: What is the Secretariat’s most important department?
Required Reading: TBA
Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 15;

Wed 16 November—Functions
Question: What does the Secretariat do and is it different from national bureaucracies?
Required Reading: TBA
Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 16;

PART THREE: ISSUES

WEEK 10. HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Mon 21 November—The UN, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs
Question: Is the UN’s notion of human rights compatible with national sovereignty?
Required Reading: Kennedy, Chapter 6; Weiss, Chapter 6 and 7;
Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 19;

Wed 23 November—Democracy: ‘We the Peoples’?

Question: Should the UN have a role in democracy-promotion? Why?

Required Reading: Kennedy, Chapter 7;

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Chapter 21;

WEEK 11. DEVELOPMENT

Mon 28 November—Theories of Development and the UN

Question: How is development best thought of?

Required Reading: Weiss, Chapter 9;

Recommended Reading: Anstee, Epilogue.

Wed 30 November—**FINAL ESSAY**

Question: TBC

Required Reading: TBC

Recommended Reading: TBC

WEEK 12. THE FUTURE OF THE UN + RETURNING ALL GRADES

Mon 5 December—Beyond Security: Soft Power and the UN

Question: What is the most important function of the UN?

Required Reading: Kennedy, Chapter 5;

Recommended Reading: TBA

Wed 7 December—NO CLASSES

(*) Tentative and subject to change. You will be informed of any change as soon as possible.

10. KEY DATES

Eid Break: 11-13 September

Fall Break: 23-27 October

SG Selection Panel Memo: 26 September

SG Selection Panel Event: 28 September (in-class)

SC Simulation Memo: 7 November

SC Simulation Event: 9 November (in-class)

Final Essay: 28 November

11. PLAGIARISM

Academic honesty is critically important and is expected of all AUW students at all times. For your information, definitions of and policies regarding academic honesty are detailed in the AUW Hand-out. Please read *carefully* the section on academic integrity on pages 13-16. Violations of academic honesty will result in failing grades for assignments and/or the entire course.

12. CLASS BEHAVIOUR

My assumption will be that each student in this class is motivated, intelligent and considerate of the opinions of others, and my expectations of you reflect this assumption. I would like to ask you to please come to class exactly on time and participate while you are here. In rare cases, circumstances beyond your control may prevent your timely arrival—in these cases, please

enter quietly and sit by the door. If you need to leave early, please sit by the door and leave quietly. If you will frequently need to arrive late or leave early, please speak to me about it. I am committed to starting and ending every class exactly on time, so please do not prepare to leave before I have ended class. It is disrupting to your colleagues and to myself. Also, please ensure that you do not read or sleep in class, use your mobile, or talk to students around you without good reason. Please also be sure to turn off all phones and beepers. It is not appropriate to leave class to answer a call: if you feel that you have extenuating circumstances (e.g., a family emergency), please see me before class to discuss it. I strongly encourage you to stop me during class if you have a question or relevant comment. If you feel uncomfortable talking during class, please approach me after class. It is my job to help you understand the material and I will do whatever I can to make sure that you do.

13. RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

'Global Governance',
'International Organization'
'International Peacekeeping'
'Foreign Affairs'
'The Economist'