

Brock University
Politics 3P26 – Fall 2013
International Law and International Organizations

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Purpose of the Course

This course seeks to study the sources and forms of rules-based behavior in international affairs, and to examine these phenomena against the background of the evolving nature of international politics. Changing configurations of multilateralism will be studied, with a primary focus on the past and present activities of the United Nations. Issues related to the evolution of international interventions (as exemplified, for instance, by the current debates about the involvement of the international community in Syria), the misgivings about the efficiency of operations of post-conflict reconstruction (as exemplified by the ongoing situation in Afghanistan), the relationship between official and non-official multilateral networks, and multilateral approaches to aid and development, will be discussed. The central principles, actors, and mechanisms of international law will be considered. Current questions of international law linked, for example, to the role of the International Criminal Court, the evolving understandings of the nature of human rights, or the impact of current international interventions in zones of conflict on norms of sovereignty and self-determination, will be analyzed.

Required Readings

Leroy Bennett and James K. Oliver. *International Organizations. Principles and Issues. (Seventh Edition)*. Prentice-Hall: 2003.

Thomas G. Weiss. *Thinking About Global Governance. Why People and Ideas Matter*. Routledge, 2011.

A number of readings will also be distributed in class.

Lecture Topics

Thursday, September 5 – Introduction and Overview.

Tuesday, September 10 – International Law and International Politics in the Inter-War and Post-War Era: The League of Nations.

“A Great Experiment: The League of Nations.” In Bennett.

Thursday, September 12 - International Law and International Politics in the Inter-War and Post-War Era: The Birth of the United Nations.

“The Genesis of the United Nations.” In Bennett.

Tuesday, September 17 – Principles and Processes of the United Nations: The UN Charter.

“Basic Principles and Organization of the United Nations.” In Bennett.
Also read the Charter of the United Nations, in Appendix II of Bennett..

Thursday, September 19 – Principles and Processes of the United Nations: The Mechanics of UN Multilateralism.

“Basic Structure and Operations of the United Nations.” In Bennett.

Tuesday, September 24 – Understanding the Nature of Law, Power, and Norms in International Politics.

“How UN Ideas Change the World.”;
“What Happened to the Idea of World Government?”;
“Moving Beyond the North-South Theater.”;
“World Politics: Continuity and Change Since 1945.”
In Weiss.

Thursday, September 26 – The United Nations and Conflict Resolution: Peacekeeping and Post-Conflict Reconstruction.

“Collective Security and its Alternatives: Theory and Practice.” In Bennett.

Tuesday, October 1 - The United Nations and Conflict Resolution: Disarmament and Arms Control Regimes.

“Controlling the Instruments of War.” In Bennett.

Thursday, October 3 – International Financial Institutions and Development: Promoting Economic Development.

“Promoting Economic Welfare.” In Bennett.

Tuesday, October 8 – The United Nations and Development: Linking Economic and Social Development. **Distribution of text for review essay.**

“Promoting Social Progress.” In Bennett.

Thursday, October 10 – The Changing Nature of Multilateralism and International Law: The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

“The Search for Justice Under Law.” In Bennett.

Tuesday, October 22 – The Changing Nature of Multilateralism and International Law: Global and Regional Multilateralisms.

“Varieties of Regionalism.” In Bennett.

Thursday, October 24 – The Changing Nature of Multilateralism and International Law: The Responsibility to Protect

Read the report on The Responsibility to Protect produced by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty.

Tuesday, October 29 - The Changing Nature of Multilateralism and International Law: Multilateral Interventions after the Responsibility to Protect.

“Political Innovations and the Responsibility to Protect.”;

“The Fog of Humanitarianism.”;

“The Humanitarian Impulse.”;

“The Sunset of Humanitarian Intervention?”

“Principles, Politics, and Humanitarian Intervention.”

In Weiss.

Thursday, October 31 – Understanding the Nature of Law, Power, and Norms in International Politics: Globalization and Global Governance.

“Framing Global Governance: Five Gaps.”;
“Governance, Good Governance, and Global Governance.”;
“Pluralizing Global Governance.”
In Weiss.

Tuesday, November 5 – Multilateralism and Law in a Globalized World: Towards Global Human Rights? [Part I – Defining Human Rights]

Read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Thursday, November 7 – Multilateralism and Law in a Globalized World: Towards Global Human Rights? [Part II – Defending Human Rights]

“Human Rights.” In Bennett.

Tuesday, November 12 – **Discussion of the Research Essay.**

Thursday, November 14 - Multilateralism and Law in a Globalized World: New Actors, New Agendas?

“The Third United Nations.”;
“A Research Note about Military-Civilian Humanitarianism.”
In Weiss

Tuesday, November 19 – The Future of Multilateralism and International Law: Structures, Processes and Norms.

“International Organization in Retrospect and Prospect.” In Bennett.

Thursday, November 21 – The Future of Multilateralism and International Law: International Law as the Promotion of Western Norms in the Non-Western World?

Readings TBA.

Tuesday, November 26 – Conclusion: The Limits of International Law: Expanding or Diminishing?

Thursday, November 28/Tuesday, December 3 – Material which still needs to be addressed/**Discussion of the Research Essay.**

Evaluation

Seminar Participation: 30%

Seminars will serve to review the material presented in class; to review the material presented within the assigned readings; and to situate the topics considered that week in class and in the readings within the broader themes of study of the course.

Students should be prepared to discuss all of these items.

Review Essay: 30%

Students will write a 10 page review essay on a text distributed in class on October 8. The essay is due on October 22.

The last date for withdrawal without penalty for this course is Wednesday, November 6. Grades for the Review Essay will be given to students in the week before that date.

Research Essay: 40%

A research question will be distributed in class on November 12. A research essay of 15 pages is due on December 4.

