POLS 4341: International Organizations
Course Syllabus

Description: In a political system with no over-arching authority, one way states and other actors cope is by creating International Organizations (IOs). These organizations help international actors cooperate, solve cross-national problems, and establish norms and expectations about the international community. They are also another avenue through which powerful states can pursue their interests. This course will explore the conception and modern functions of many International Organizations. We will study major governmental and non-governmental IOs, including the UN, the League of Arab States, and Heifer International, among others. In particular, the course will focus on the role of IOs in issues of war and peace, and human rights. Students will conduct research on and participate in International Organization “models” and will gain knowledge about the internal and procedural workings of IOs and the major issues they address.

Course goals:
- Students will develop their understanding of the variety of global organizations which exist and their various purposes.
- Students will develop research skills and be able to find reliable and appropriate information and apply it effectively.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to clearly express their ideas, both in writing and in oral presentation, including speaking in front of large audiences.
- Students will be able to articulately evaluate the performance and future prospects of international organizations in the world community.
- Students will learn skills in persuasion, diplomacy, consensus-building, and negotiation.
- Students will gain experience conducting research and negotiations both in groups and individually.
- Students will learn to think critically in taking on the perspective of member-states in International Organizations and in analyzing the extent to which powerful states pursue their interests through IOs.
Required readings:

- Major daily news source
- Other readings posted online

Course assignments and grading standards: Letter grades will be based on the traditional scale (90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, 70-79 is a C, 60-69 is a D, and below 60 is an F)). There will be no opportunities for extra credit. Course assignments and their percentage of the total grade are as follows:

- Participation: 15%
- Country Report: 10%
- Simulation: 15%
- Simulation Report: 10%
- Research Paper: 20%
- Final: 30%

Expectations: Students are expected to attend all lectures on time, have the assigned readings completed by the beginning of class each day, participate in class discussions, activities, and simulations, and ask questions. Students must have reliable Internet access. Students are expected to be respectful in their interactions with the professor and with their fellow students. Cell phones should be turned off and the owner of any cell phone that rings will be required to bring treats for the rest of the class.

Email policy:
The best way to get a hold of me is through email. Please make sure to 1) put a reasonably informative subject in the subject line, 2) address the email to Dr. or Professor Glazier, and 3) close with your name. Please feel free to ask me any questions about the course, but out of courtesy please check the syllabus and the course website to see if the answer is already available. If you want to make any special arrangements or for any reason want me to remember something, please send it in an email. If I don’t have it in email, it never happened.

Exam Format: The final exam will be closed book and closed note, in-class, timed exam. You will need a bluebook for the exam. If you anticipate being unable to take the exam during the scheduled time, be sure that you are familiar with the make-up exam policy listed below. We will also have periodic “pop quizzes” in this course. The point of the pop quizzes is to make sure you are keeping up with the reading and coming to class regularly. The pop quizzes will be a surprise (hence the “pop” in the name) and cannot be made up.

Missed exams and assignments: The final exam date is indicated in the class schedule, along with your other assignment due dates. Please also make note of the simulation dates. You must be available on these days. For the simulation, either you or your partner must be present at the simulation from 8am to 6pm on the scheduled days. If this class does not fit into your schedule,
then you should consider taking it at a later date. No make-up exams will be given except in cases of serious, documented emergencies. The documentation must have contact information that allows me to call and verify your story. Vacations, birthdays, or hangovers do not qualify as emergencies. Note that what qualifies as a valid excuse is at the discretion of the instructor, so you should make arrangements in advance if at all possible. Failure to comply with this requirement will lead to an “F” for the exam. Students taking a make-up exam will not be given the same exam assigned to the rest of the class, and the format of the make-up exams may vary.

**Paper submission:**
The research paper and the reports must be submitted through Blackboard using the Safe Assign tool on the homepage of the course Blackboard site. All papers will be run through plagiarism screening software, which will compare the material used to online sources, library books, and papers submitted by other students. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Please read the plagiarism handout, posted on our course Blackboard site, very carefully, as well as the cheating policy described below. Plagiarism excuses that are based in ignorance are not acceptable. Read the plagiarism policy. Late papers will be docked 1/3 letter grade for each day they are late. If a paper is 10 days late or more, it will not be read and will automatically receive an “F.” A “practice paper” submission is currently set up on the course Blackboard page. You should submit any past research paper (really, any paper at all will work, but a research paper is best) using the Safe Assign tool to make sure you are familiar with it.

**Cheating policy:** Academic dishonesty is taken very seriously in this course. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, unauthorized collaboration on an assignment, and plagiarism. The professor is REQUIRED to report any academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students, and students caught cheating will receive an F for the assignment and may receive an F for the course. In order to ensure that you understand what constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty, please thoroughly review the plagiarism handout provided online and read the complete description of the UALR policy on academic dishonesty, which is available in the student handbook at [www.ualr.edu/www/handbook/student_rights.html](http://www.ualr.edu/www/handbook/student_rights.html). Claiming to not know the definition of plagiarism is not an excuse for plagiarism.

**Disability statement:** It is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos—please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students should contact the Disability Resource Center, telephone 501-569-3143 (v/tty), in order to set up accommodations at least 2 weeks before the exam or assignment for which they are seeking accommodation. For more information, visit the DRC website at [www.ualr.edu/disability](http://www.ualr.edu/disability).

**Contested grades:** If you believe a grade is inaccurate, you must wait at least 24 hours before coming to speak with the professor. If there is a math mistake or an overlooked an answer, please let me know and I will correct it. However, if you are actually contesting your grade, you must write a letter that explains why you believe a mistake in grading was made. Grades on exams or papers can only be contested within two weeks of when they are handed back. Course grades can only be contested within 60 days of the end of the quarter.
Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Week One: Introduction
Wednesday, January 18: Introduction and Syllabus
   Readings: Kofi Annan, “Nobel Lecture,” December 10, 2001,
Friday, January 20: Simulating International Organizations, Model Arab League
   Readings: Model Arab League Quick Rules, The Model Arab League as a
   Learning Venue

Week Two: International Organizations and Cooperation
Monday, January 23: The Basics of International Organizations
   Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 1
Wednesday, January 25: The Problem of Cooperation
Friday, January 27: MAL and Cooperation
   Readings: Charter of the Arab League,
   http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher,LAS,,,3ae6b3ab18,0.html/

Week Three: Theories of Global Governance
Monday, January 30: Realism vs. Liberalism
   Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 2
Wednesday, February 1: Critical Theories
   Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 2
Friday, February 3: Using Theories in MAL
   Readings: Discussion of the Model Arab League Provisional Agenda and
   selection of countries and committees

Week Four: Why Do States Join IO’s?
Monday, February 6: Why Act Through Formal Organizations?
   Readings: Diehl & Frederking, Chapter 3
Wednesday, February 8: The United Nations
   Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 4
Friday, February 10: Position-taking at MAL
   Readings: Barnett and Solingen, “Designed to Fail or Failure of Design? The
   Origins and Legacy of the Arab League”

Week Five: Regional Organizations
Monday, February 13: Introducing Regional Organizations
   Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 5
Wednesday, February 15: The Arab League and The European Union
   Readings: “The Myth of Europe”
Friday, February 17: No Class; Dr. Glazier will be presenting research at the
Teaching and Learning Conference in Washington, D.C.
Week Six: Country and Issue Research, Saudi Arabia and Algeria
Monday, February 20: Introduction to Saudi Arabian Politics
Readings: Maisel, “Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”
Wednesday, February 22: Introduction to Algerian Politics
Readings: Layachi, “Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria”
Friday, February 24: Discussion
Readings: Special Summit of Arab Heads of State and Council of Economic Affairs Ministers Topics

Week Seven: Country and Issue Research, Saudi Arabia and Algeria
Monday, February 27: Discussion
Readings: Joint Defense Council and Council on Palestinian Affairs Topics
Wednesday, February 29: Discussion
Readings: Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers and Council on Political Affairs Topics
Friday, March 2: Meet in DSC for Field Trip to High School Model Arab League

Country Reports Due Friday, March 2

Week Eight: Simulation Prep and Model Arab League Simulation
Monday, March 5: Mock Sessions
Readings: Model Arab League Handbook
Wednesday, March 7: Simulation Prep
Readings: Model Arab League Handbook
Thursday, March 8-Saturday, March 10: Southwest Model Arab League Simulation

Simulation Reports Due Wednesday, March 14

Week Nine: Debrief and Break
Monday, March 12: Debriefing
Readings: None
Wednesday, March 14: Arab Spring
Readings: “The Arab Spring, Implications for US Policy and Interests”; Syria Undercover
Friday, March 16: No Class

Spring Break: Monday, March 19-Sunday, March 25

Week Ten: Power in IOs
Monday, March 26: Power Disparities
Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 7
Wednesday, March 28: The UN Security Council
Readings: Diehl & Frederking, Chapter 5
Friday, March 30: Options for Less-Powerful States
Readings: “No Choice but the UN for Palestinians”
Week Eleven: Non-state Actors
   Monday, April 2: NGOs and Evaluating NGO Effectiveness
      Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 6
   Wednesday, April 4: Heifer International Case Study
      Readings: Heifer International Annual Report, 2011
   Friday, April 6: SOLD Case Study
      Readings: Selections from Jade Keller’s writings on SOLD
             http://jadekeller.com/2011/01/coming-to-sold/
             http://jadekeller.com/2011/05/when-life-wakes-you-up/

Week Twelve: Peace and Security
   Monday, April 9: The Search for Peace and Security
      Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 8
   Wednesday, April 11-Friday, April 13: No class; Dr. Glazier will be accompanying students to the National Model Arab League Competition in Washington D.C.

Week Thirteen: Peace and Security, Continued
   Monday, April 16: Peacekeeping
      Readings: Diehl & Frederking, Chapter 7
   Wednesday, April 18: R2P
      Readings: Diehl & Frederking, Chapter 8
   Friday, April 20: Terrorism
      Readings: Diehl & Frederking, Chapter 9

Week Fourteen: Human Rights
   Monday, April 23: Protecting Human Rights
      Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 10
   Wednesday, April 25: Punishing Human Rights Violators
      Readings: Diehl & Frederking, Chapter 14
   Friday, April 27: International Criminal Court
      Readings: Diehl & Frederking, Chapter 16

Research Papers Due Monday, April 30

Week Fifteen: Future of Global Governance
   Monday, April 30: Innovations in Global Governance
      Readings: Karns & Mingst, Chapter 12
   Wednesday, May 2: Reforming the UN
      Readings: Diehl & Frederking, Chapter 18
   Friday, May 4: World Government?
      Readings: Diehl & Frederking, Chapter 19

Final Exam Review Day: Monday, May 7
Final Exam on Friday, May 11 from 10:30-12:30