**United Nations**

Political Science 3620-001

Spring 2014

M,W 4:35 pm – 5:55 pm

OSH 130

Professor: Dr. Rebecca Larsen

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**Course Description**

This course is an “[e]xamination of the structure and principal functions of the United Nations. Particular emphasis is placed on the maintenance of peace and security and U.N. economic and social activities concerning human rights, economic development, and environmental protection.” (University of Utah Catalog)

**Text and Course Materials**

The following texts are **Required** reading and are available for purchase at the bookstore:

Kennedy, P. (2007). *The Parliament of man. The past, present, and future of the United Nations.* New York City, NY: Vintage Books.

Mingst K. A., & Karns, M. P. (2012). *The United Nations in the 21st century* (4th ed.). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Dallaire, Romeo. (2005). *Shake Hands with the Devil. The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda.* New York: Caroll & Graf.

* Not at the bookstore but can be purchased online
* One copy is on reserve in the Marriott Library

**Grade Calculations**

(1) Reading Quizzes 15%

(2) Midterm: 25%

(3) Final: 20%

(4) Abstract for paper: 5%

(5) Research Paper: 20%

(6) Reflection Papers: 15%

Grades are not curved. The normal distribution is used such that any score between a 90 and a 93 is an A-. The score of 94 or above is an A. The score of 80 to 82 is a B-, 83-86 is a B, and 87 and above is a B+. The same system is used for C’s and D’s.

**Requirements**

1. Reading Quizzes: 15% of your grade

Ten reading quizzes are scheduled on the syllabus. Only the top eight scores will count for your grade. Thus you get to drop two quiz scores. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Quizzes will consist of two or three short answer questions on the reading that is to be read for that day’s class.

1. Midterm: 25% of your grade

**The midterm** will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. A study guide will be posted on Canvas within a week of the scheduled midterm.

1. Final: 20% of your grade.

**The Final** will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. A study guide will be posted on Canvas within a week of the scheduled final.

1. Abstract: 5% of your grade.

**Due Saturday, March 29\_by 11:59 pm on Canvas**

You are to develop a proposal (approx. 300 words) for your 8-10 page paper on a UN topic. Suggested topics are provided on Canvas. You must identify a research question, lay out your proposed answer to the question (the argument), and provide at least three references you intend to use in your research. Note: Obviously, you will need to do some research on your chosen topic before you turn in the abstract.

1. Research Paper on UN Topic: 20% of your grade.

**Due Saturday, \_April 26\_ by 11:59 pm on Canvas**

This paper, which is based on your abstract, is to clearly define the research question, the answer or thesis, and provide sufficient evidence to support your thesis. You are to have a minimum of eight references. See more details on Canvas.

1. Reflection Papers on Films: 15% of your grade.

**Due on Canvas, by 11:59 pm Saturday, \_Feb 15 and Saturday,\_March 1\_.**

In class, we will be watching two films related to the UN. You are to post on canvas a reflection paper of 1-2 pages (double-spaced) on your thoughts on the film. You will be writing one reflection paper for each film. This is not to be a summary of the film (you can assume the reader has seen the film), but this is to be an essay of your reflections (for example, what you learned about the UN) and thoughts on the film itself.

**Expectations**

All students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in discussions when relevant. **PLEASE DO THE READING BEFORE COMING TO CLASS**. You are required to know the schedule and post assignments on Canvas by the due date.

**Rights and Responsibilities of Students**

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Articles XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and /or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

**Plagiarism**

Claiming or suggesting that words or ideas of others are your own is a form of cheating. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Utah Student Code as

the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual’s words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression. (Student Code, [www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html](http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html))

It is theft. Punishment for plagiarism is an automatic zero (0) for the assignment. Further disciplinary action may be taken.

**Reasonable accommodation**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581‑5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Schedule**

|  | **Dte** | **Topic/Reading Assignment** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| M | Jan 6 | Introduction to course / Introduction to the UN  Watch short video on the UN  Hand out syllabus |
| W | Jan 8 | Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations. Why do states create IOs?  Reading: M & K, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, ch. 1 |
| M | Jan 13 | Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations. Why do states create IOs?   * **Reading Quiz**   Reading: On Canvas   1. J. Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions” (1994/95) (focus on the introduction, main argument, and the end) 2. R. Keohane and L. Martin, “The Promise of Institutionalist Theory,” (1995). |
| W | Jan 15 | History  Reading: Kennedy, *the Parliament of Man*, preface – ch. 1, “The Troubled Advance to a New World Order,” and Review the UN Charter, with a particular focus on the Preamble (back of either textbook) |
| M | Jan 20 | *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*  *No class* |
| W | Jan 22 | Institutions  Reading: M&K, *The United Nations in the 21st Century,* ch. 2, “The Evolution of the UN System” |
| M | Jan 27 | Institutions: Security Council  Reading: P. Kennedy, ch. 2, “The Conundrum of the Security Council” |
| W | Jan 29 | Institutions: Security Council  Readings: On Canvas   1. Glennon, Michael J., “Why the Security Council Failed” in *Foreign Affairs*, (2003) vol. 82, no. 3, pp. 16-35, On Canvas. 2. Luck, Edward C., “The End of an Illusion” in *Foreign Affairs* (2003) vol. 82, no. 4, pp. 201-202, On Canvas. 3. Slaughter, Anne-Marie, “Misreading the Record” in *Foreign Affairs* (2003) vol. 82, no. 4, pp. 202-204, On Canvas. 4. Hurd, Ian, “Too Legit to Quit” in *Foreign Affairs* (2003) vol. 82, no. 4, pp. 204-205, On Canvas. |
| M | Feb 3 | Institutions, Actors in the UN   * **Reading Quiz**   Reading: M & K, ch. 3, “Actors in the UN System,” and Kennedy, ch. 7, “We the Peoples’. Democracy, Government and NGOs” |
| W | Feb 5 | Actors in the UN   * **Reading Quiz**   Readings: On Canvas   1. Howard, Lise Marjé, “Sources of Change in United States-United Nations Relations in *Global Governance*, 16 (2010), 485-503. 2. Kent, Ann, “China’s International Socialization: The Role of International Organizations” in *Global Governance*, 8:3 (2002), 343-364. |
| M | Feb 10 | International Security and Peacekeeping  Begin watching: “No Man’s Land” [97 minutes]  Readings: (1) P. Kennedy, ch. 3, “Peacemaking and Warmaking,” and (2) M & K, ch. 4, “Maintaining International Peace and Security” *Note: focus on pages 97-142 and the conclusion* |
| W | Feb 12 | International Security and Peacekeeping. Case Study: Bosnia  Finish watching: “No Man’s Land” [97 minutes]   * **Reading Quiz**   Reading: On Canvas, “Bosnia and Kosovo” by Adam Jones, in the ebook, *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction, second edition* |
| S | Feb 15 | * **Reflection paper DUE**   **Please post your reflection paper on “No Man’s Land” by 11:59 pm on Canvas** |
| M | Feb 17 | *No Class, Presidents’ Day* |
| W | Feb 19 | International Security and Peacekeeping. Case Study: Rwanda  Begin watching: “Shake Hands with the Devil. The Journey of Romeo Dallaire” [91 min.]  Readings: On Canvas, “the 1994 Rwanda Genocide” from the book, *Century of Genocide* and Dallaire, *Shake Hands with the Devil*, pp. 1-198 |
| M | Feb 24 | International Security and Peacekeeping  Finish: “Shake Hands with the Devil. The Journey of Romeo Dallaire” [91 min.]  Reading: Dallaire, *Shake Hands with the Devil*, pp. 199-328 |
| W | Feb 26 | International Security and Peacekeeping   * **Reading Quiz**   Reading: Dallaire, *Shake Hands with the Devil,* pp. 328 – 420 |
| S | Mar 1 | * **Reflection Paper Due**   **Please post your reflection paper on “Shake Hands with the Devil. The Journey of Romeo Dallaire” by 11:59 pm on Canvas** |
| M | Mar 3 | Conclusion: International Security and Peacekeeping  Reading: Dallaire, *Shake Hands with the Devil,* pp. 421 - 522 |
| W | Mar 5 | **MIDTERM** |
|  |  | *Spring break – March 10-14* |
| M | Mar 17 | Economic Development   * **Reading Quiz**   Reading: P. Kennedy, ch. 4, “Economic Agendas: North and South Economic Development and M&K, ch. 5, “Economic Development and Sustainability” |
| W | Mar 19 | The Environment, Women, and Children   * **Reading Quiz**   Reading: P. Kennedy, ch. 5, “The Softer Face of the UN’s Mission,” and  Read three short stories from UNDP  website:<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/successstories/> |
| M | Mar 24 | The Environment, Women, and Children  Reading: M&K, Ch. 7 ONLY pages 249-264 |
| W | Mar 26 | The Environment, Women and Children   * **Abstract due**   Reading: No New Reading |
| S | Mar 29 | * **Abstract for research paper due on Canvas by 11:59 pm** |
| M | Mar 31 | Human Rights: Universal Declaration of Human Rights   * **Reading Quiz**   Reading: P. Kennedy, ch. 6, “Advancing International Human Rights” |
| W | April 2 | Human Rights  Reading: M & K, ch. 6, “Human Rights” |
| M | Apr 7 | Human Security   * **Reading Quiz**   Readings: M& K, ch. 7 (minus pp. 249-264) and,  On Canvas, Ogata and Cels, “Human Security: Protecting and Empowering the People,” in *Global Governance* 9:3 (2003). |
| W | Apr 9 | Human Security, Responsibility to Protect  Reading: On Canvas, “The Responsibility to Protect: Is Anyone interested in Humanitarian Intervention?” by Macfarlane et al., *Third World Quarterly* 2004. |
| M | Apr 14 | Reform of the UN   * **Reading Quiz**   Reading: M & K, ch. 8 “Is there a Future for the United Nations?” |
| W | Apr 16 | Reform of the UN  Reading: On Canvas, Ch. 12 “Conclusion” in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 7th edition (2014) by Weiss, et al. |
| M | Apr 21 | Future of the United Nations: Reform of the UN  Reading: P. Kennedy, ch. 8 & Afterward, “The Promise and Peril of the 21st Century” |
| W | Apr 23 | **Last day of Class**  Conclusion: The United Nations in the 21st Century  Reading: P. Kennedy, ch. 8 & Afterward, “The Promise and Peril of the 21st Century” |
| S | Apr 26 | * **Research paper due by 11:59 pm on Canvas** |
| M | Apr 28 | FINAL 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm |