

Brock University
Politics 3P26 – Fall 2017
International Law and International Organizations

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Course Description

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 and Iraq), 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.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be expected to know the factors which have influenced the evolution of international law and international organizations since 1945. In particular, students will be expected to know how the nature of international politics has changed since the end of the Cold War and how, in turn, these changes have shaped current developments in the nature of international law and international organizations. Students will be expected to know the different theories which explain these developments. Finally, students will be expected to know the different case-studies which will be put forward in class. In that regard, particular attention will be given to our examination of the current situation in Syria.

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

Wednesday September 6 – Introduction and Overview.

Friday September 8 – 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.

Wednesday September 13 - 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.

Friday September 15 – 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.

Wednesday September 20 – Principles and Processes of the United Nations: The Mechanics of UN Multilateralism.

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

Friday September 22 – 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.

Wednesday September 27 – The United Nations and Conflict Resolution: Peacekeeping and Post-Conflict Reconstruction.

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

Friday September 29 - The United Nations and Conflict Resolution: Disarmament and Arms Control Regimes.

“Controlling the Instruments of War.” In Bennett.

Wednesday October 4 – International Financial Institutions and Development: Promoting Economic Development. **Distribution of text to be reviewed in the first essay.**

“Promoting Economic Welfare.” In Bennett.

Friday October 6 – The United Nations and Development: Linking Economic and Social Development.

“Promoting Social Progress.” In Bennett.

Wednesday October 18 – 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.

Friday October 20 – The Changing Nature of Multilateralism and International Law: Global and Regional Multilateralisms.

“Varieties of Regionalism.” In Bennett.

Wednesday October 25 – 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.

Friday October 27 - 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.

Wednesday November 1 – 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.

Friday November 3 – Multilateralism and Law in a Globalized World: Towards Global Human Rights? [Part I – Defining Human Rights]

Read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Wednesday November 8 – Multilateralism and Law in a Globalized World: Towards Global Human Rights? [Part II – Defending Human Rights]

“Human Rights.” In Bennett.

Friday November 10 – **Discussion of the Research Essay.**

Wednesday November 15 - Multilateralism and Law in a Globalized World: New Actors, New Agendas?

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

Friday November 17 – The Future of Multilateralism and International Law: Structures, Processes and Norms.

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

Wednesday November 22 – The Future of Multilateralism and International Law: International Law as the Promotion of Western Norms in the Non-Western World?

Readings TBA.

Friday November 24 – Conclusion: The Limits of International Law: Expanding or Diminishing?

Wednesday November 29/Friday December 1 – 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 4. The essay is due on October 25. Students will be expected to summarize the arguments presented in the text, and then to respond to them on the basis of discussions in class and in seminar.

Research Essay: 40%

A research question will be distributed in class on November 10. It will concern one of the case-studies considered in the course. A research essay of 15 pages is due on December 8.

Late Submissions Policy

The penalties for late submission of assigned coursework are 2% per day, and 5% per weekend, unless accompanied by medical documentation. See Medical Exemption Policy and the medical health certificate at <http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>

Relationship between attendance and grades

Students are expected to attend all seminars and must submit all assignments in order to pass this course.

Important dates

Check the section on sessional or important dates in the relevant online University Calendar (<http://brocku.ca/webcal/>)

November 6 is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty.

November 1 is the day you will be notified of 15% of your course grade.

October 9-13 is reading week.
December 6 is Snow/Reading day.

Academic Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct is a serious offence. The principle of academic integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in University study. Students should consult Section VII, "Academic Misconduct", in the "Academic Regulation and University Policies" entry in the Undergraduate Calendar, available at <http://brocku.ca/webcal> to view a fuller description of prohibited actions, and the procedures and penalties.

Intellectual Property Notice

All slides, presentations, handouts, tests, exams, and other course materials created by the instructor in this course are the intellectual property of the instructor. A student who publicly posts or sells an instructor's work, without the instructor's express consent, may be charged with misconduct under Brock's Academic Integrity Policy and/or Code of Conduct, and may also face adverse legal consequences for infringement of intellectual property rights.

Academic Accommodation

As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the University community with disabilities. If you require academic accommodation related to a documented disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities in the Student Development Centre (4th Floor Schmon Tower, ext. 3240). You are also encouraged to discuss any accommodations with the instructor in advance of due dates and scheduled assessments.

Academic Accommodations due to Religious Obligations

Brock University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the undergraduate and graduate communities such that accommodations will be made for students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event. Students requesting academic accommodation of the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructor for alternative dates and/or means of satisfying requirement.

Medical Exemption Policy

The University requires that a student be medically examined in Health Services, or by an off-campus physician prior to an absence due to medical reasons from an exam, lab, test, quiz, seminar, assignment, etc. The Medical Certificate can be found at: <http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>