

# **POLITICAL SCIENCE 2104, Section 650 (Online)**

## **THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

Department of Political Science  
The University of Western Ontario  
2013-2014

Instructor: Dr. Pietro Pirani

### **How to communicate with the professor:**

To ensure timely and effective communication, there are two ways to get in touch with me. Primarily, you can send an e-mail to [ppirani2@uwo.ca](mailto:ppirani2@uwo.ca). I will normally respond within 24 hours. Moreover, I have set up a Skype account, and the name is: **uwo\_po2104**. Given the nature of the course, I will not have “office hours” on Skype. So, please, send me an e-mail to my e-mail address ([ppirani2@uwo.ca](mailto:ppirani2@uwo.ca)) and we will arrange a Skype meeting.

### **Course Overview:**

The purpose of this course is to provide the students with sound knowledge regarding the role played by the United Nations in the international arena. Particular attention will be paid to the evolution and reforms of the United Nations Organization as well as to the current debate surrounding the role played by this organization in world affairs. The course has a threefold structure focusing on the contribution of the UN to international peace and security, human rights protection, and sustainable development.

### **1. Course Goals and Objectives:**

- To expand students' substantive knowledge of the United Nations, including the network of UN agencies, the wide range of issues in which the UN is involved, and the political factors shaping the United Nations' role in world politics.
- To examine the extent to which international organizations serve as agents of positive change in world politics.
- To give students an opportunity to make connections between the academic study of the United Nations and real-world policy issues related to the United Nations' role in world politics.

### **2. Course Policies**

#### **Deadlines:**

- Two tests, which will be due:
  - First test: **November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013** (The test can be written online by accessing the Sakai course page from 8am to 11:59pm)
  - Second test: **March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014** (The test can be written online by accessing the Sakai course page from 8am to 11:59pm)
- A paper, which will be due on:
  - March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 (the paper will be returned marked with comments)
  - March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (the paper will be returned marked **without** comments)
- Annotated Bibliography, which will be due on:
  - November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- Final exam, which will take place during the formal exam period in **April**

### 3. Course Requirements

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. **This decision cannot be appealed.** If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protecting your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation. Office of the Dean. Faculty of Social Science

The University of Western Ontario uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

### 4. Course Resources:

- Mingst K. and M. Karns (2012). *The United Nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century* (4<sup>th</sup> edition). Westview Press. The textbook can be found at the UWO Bookstore.
- Selected Readings. All selected readings can be found on the WebCT course page.
- Further non-mandatory readings will be suggested during the course. Moreover the students are required to consult the following web-sites and read weekly the related newsletters:
  - United Nations ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org))
  - Human Rights Watch ([www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org))
  - International Center for Transitional Justice ([www.ictj.org](http://www.ictj.org))
  - International Crisis Group ([www.icg.org](http://www.icg.org))
  - Avocats Sans Frontières ([www.asf.be](http://www.asf.be))

### 5. Unit Overview

#### UNIT One: Dilemmas in the New Millennium

- Dates: September 9 – September 22
- **Unit Objectives:** This unit is an introduction to the United Nations and the field of International Relations (IR). This unit is designed to introduce you to the broadest sense of the field of IR and issues in global politics, and their implications on the United Nations.
- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-17).
- Introduce yourselves and talk about your hopes and expectations for this course

#### UNIT Two: Theories of International Relations

- Dates: September 23 – October 6
- **Unit Objectives:** This unit introduces students to representative and important theoretical approaches in the field of international relations. The course aims to give students a greater ability to (1) look at world affairs from alternative perspectives and (2) assess the validity of contending hypotheses about the behavior of international actors.
- Unit Readings:
  - Martin Griffiths' *International Relations Theory for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*
    - Chapter 2: "Realism" (pp. 11 – 20)
    - Chapter 3: "Liberal Internationalism" (pp. 21-34)

- Chapter 4: “Marxism” (pp. 35 – 46)

### **UNIT Three: Origins and evolution of the United Nations**

- Dates: October 7 - October 20
- **Unit Objectives:** The unit copes with the history of the United Nations, its institutional articulation and the debate surrounding the need for a reform.
- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 2 (pp. 19-62)

### **UNIT Four: The United Nations and its institutions (part II)**

- Dates: October 21 – November 3
- **Unit objectives:** The unit unfolds the role played by states and non-state actors in the United Nations.
- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 3 (pp. 63-96)

### **UNIT Five: Collective security: Traditional peacekeeping and extended peacekeeping after the Cold War**

- Dates: November 4 – November 17
- **Unit Objectives:** This unit provides an introduction to collective security, peacekeeping, and state building – overlapping and inter-related activities involving the use of international security and civilian assets to help states and societies recover after war. The goal of the unit is to give students a better understanding of the history, politics, and operational realities of peacekeeping
- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 4 (pp. 97-158)

## **Human Rights**

### **UNIT Six: Human rights instruments**

- Dates: November 18 – December 6
- **Unit Objectives:** The unit will provide a basic introduction to human rights issues in the international arena by examining the following questions: What are human rights? Where do they come from? What are the main international human rights agreements? What are some problems with those agreements? Are human rights universal?
- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 6 (pp. 197-246)
  - Rosemary Foot, “[Human Rights and Counterterrorism in Global Governance: Reputation and Resistance](#)”, *Global Governance* 11 (July-Sept. 2005): 291-310
  - Kenneth Roth, “[Getting Away with Torture](#)”, *Global Governance* 11 (July-Sept. 2005): 389-406

### **UNIT Seven: Humanitarian interventions**

- Dates: January 6 – January 19
- **Unit Objectives:** Humanitarian intervention has become in recent years a new justification for military action. However, its definition and implementation are difficult and complex. This unit addresses such issues.

- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 4 (pp. 133-158)
  - [\*The Responsibility to Protect: Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty\*](#), International Development and Research Centre, 2001 (chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4)

### **UNIT Eight: The United Nations and post-conflict justice**

- Dates: January 20- February 2
- **Unit Objectives:** This unit provides students with an understanding of the concept of post-conflict and transitional justice. It focuses in particular on the United Nations as an actor in the realm of transitional justice by discussing its linkage with the ad hoc international tribunals and with the International Criminal Court.
- Unit Readings:
  - *International Center for Transitional Justice*, “What is Transitional Justice?” at [ictj.org/about/transitional-justice](http://ictj.org/about/transitional-justice). Please pay attention to the following key words: criminal prosecutions, institutional reforms, reparations, truth commissions;
  - Dan Saxon, “[Exporting Justice: Perceptions of the ICTY Among the Serbian, Croatian, and Muslim Communities in the Former Yugoslavia](#)”, *Journal of Human Rights*, 4 (2005): 559–572.

## **Sustainable Development**

### **UNIT Nine: International trade and sustainable development (I)**

- Dates: February 3 – February 16
- **Unit Objectives:** This unit explores the political, economic, and social challenges of Third World development.
- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 5 (pp. 159-196)

### **UNIT Ten: International trade and sustainable development (II)**

- Dates: February 24 – March 9
- **Unit Objectives:** This unit explores the political, economic, and social challenges of Third World development.
- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 5 (pp. 159-196)

### **UNIT Eleven: The UN and the protection of the environment**

- Dates: March 10 – March 23
- **Unit Objectives:** Modern development practices destroy the environment and diminish our quality of life. This unit addresses these issues by looking in which way the United Nations has coped with such challenges. In particular, special attention will be given to analysis of the new sustainable development paradigm as a possible solution to many environmental problems. Finally, this unit will assess the state of international environmental institutions, laws and policies at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 7 (pp. 247-280)

## Conclusions

### UNIT Twelve: The United Nations: Key actor or instrument?

- Dates: March 24 – April 8
- **Unit Objectives:** This unit highlights the findings outlined in the previous units.
- Unit Readings:
  - Mingst and Karns, Chapter 8 (pp. 281-292)

## Assignment Overview

### Assignment One: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**Fifteen per cent** of your final mark will be assessed from class participation in on-line group discussions. Every two weeks, you will join a discussion group composed of **ten** students and respond to a series of questions, which I have assigned based on course material. The purpose of these discussions is to familiarize you with the important themes and concepts from each lesson.

Discussions are about more than exchanging information; they require you to extend current thinking, introduce alternatives, and facilitate new understandings for yourselves and your group members. You should expect that the rest of the group has read the articles/chapters, and build on that shared knowledge. A person who merely summarizes the readings will receive a lower grade. A person who analyzes and applies the readings will receive a higher grade.

**Small group discussion activity:** Each lesson comes with **two** questions that students are required to answer. Each answer must be at least five to seven sentences. After the first round in which all the members of the group have answered the questions, the second phase begins. All members in the group must reply to the comments that have been expressed by addressing at least one comment of one student in her/his group. To summarize, by the end of each discussion, each student must respond to the two questions, and reply to one of the other students' answers.

I will be looking for three features in your answers and replies:

- Clarity: Does your response analyze the themes and concepts clearly and concisely? Is the material placed in a framework that helps me and the other students understand the arguments of the authors?
- Creativity: Are the examples recent and relevant?
- Correctness: How well did you understand the concepts and themes? Did you include the most important elements?

**Guidelines and schedule:** There are 10 small group discussions and they will be held in Unit 2, Unit 3, Unit 4, Unit 5, Unit 6, Unit 7, Unit 8, Unit 9, Unit 10, and Unit 11. You must write your entry according to the schedule and you must attend all ten discussions. At the beginning of each unit, please click on one of the discussion groups listed under the section DISCUSSION on Sakai and join the other students for the debate.

- Please note:
  - There will be a **penalty of 2%** out of **15%** for each discussion missed. If you miss **seven** discussions, you will receive **0%** for this portion of the final mark.
  - Questions discussed in each lesson are the same for all students, and they will be posted at the beginning of each unit.
  - **Deadline:** On the week of the discussion, your original posts must be submitted by 11:59 pm Friday, and you have to respond to your group members by 11:59 pm Friday of the week after.  
**For example:** Unit 2 goes from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>. This means that you **must** answer the three questions assigned for Unit 2 by Friday the 27<sup>th</sup>, and **reply** to one of the other students' answers by Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Assignment Two: RESEARCH PAPER (20%)**

Instructions regarding the paper are posted on Sakai course page.

**Assignment Three: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (5%)**

Instructions regarding the annotated bibliography are posted on Sakai course page.

**Assignments Four and Five: TWO TERM TESTS (15% each)**

**Thirty per cent** of your final mark will be assessed based on your performance in the **two** on-line tests. Each test will measure understanding of terminology, facts, principles, methods, and procedures on which the rest of the course will be built.

- Each test can be written online by accessing the Sakai course page from 8am to 11:59 pm Eastern Time.
- The **first test** will be held on **November 21<sup>st</sup>** and it will be a multiple choice test. The test will cover ALL COURSE NOTES and LECTURE READINGS from **Unit 1 to Unit 5**.
- The **second test** will be held on **March 20<sup>th</sup>** and it will be a multiple choice test. The test will cover ALL COURSE NOTES and LECTURE READINGS from **Unit 6 to Unit 10**.
- Each test will have 50 **questions** and it will last 1 hour.
- I will post 10 questions at the beginning of **Unit 4** and **Unit 9** to give you an idea about the nature of the questions on the test.

**Assignment Six: FINAL EXAM**

The exam will cover ALL LECTURE NOTES and LECTURE READINGS.

**Format:** 30 multiple choice questions and essay questions

**Grading Scheme:**

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Discussion             | 15%            |
| Annotated Bibliography | 5%             |
| Paper                  | 20%            |
| Term Test              | 30% (15% each) |
| Final Exam             | <u>30%</u>     |
|                        | 100%           |

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

## Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

### **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.



**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

\*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.