

**International Organization**  
**PSC 348-01**  
**Spring 2016**

**Jerry Pubantz**  
**317 Curry Building**  
[j\\_pubant@uncg.edu](mailto:j_pubant@uncg.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2pm-3pm; Thursdays, 11am-12 noon

This course examines the history, politics, philosophy, structure and role of international organizations in international politics with a special emphasis on the United Nations. It also looks at security, economic, and regional organizations such as the European Union as well as functionally specialized agencies.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the successful conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- explain the historical and philosophical origins of contemporary international organization;
- describe the structures and functions of major international organizations;
- analyze the role of international organization in international relations;
- critique negative and positive political responses to the United Nations and other important international organizations;
- identify and interpret current scholarly literature on international organization; and
- use basic research methods to write research papers on important topics related to international organization.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Thomas G. Weiss, David P. Forsythe, Roger A. Coate, and Kelly-Kate Pease. *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Westview Press.

Jussi M. Hanhimaki. *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Oxford University Press.

Ian Hurd. *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

There will be two tests (February 11 and March 31) during the semester and a final examination. **Please note: The final exam will NOT be given individually or collectively at any earlier date and time than the scheduled period set by the Registrar. This semester it is scheduled for April 29, 3:30-6:30pm.** Each student will also prepare a research paper (8 to 12 pages, due no later than April 14) on an appropriate topic. Given the topical nature of the course, it will be important for members of the class to keep up with on-going world events and the involvement of international organizations in those events. The best source for this information is *The New York Times*, to which you may want to purchase an online subscription ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)). The final exam will count for 30% of the final grade, the paper 30%, and each mid semester test 20%.

**N.B.: There will be no class on March 17**

Course Outline:

- I. History, Theory and Practice of International Organization January 12 – 21  
A. Philosophical Speculation on International Cooperation  
B. 19<sup>th</sup> Century Developments  
C. World War I and the League of Nations  
D. Types of International Organizations: Universal, Regional, Specialized  
E. International Organization within the theoretical schools of international relations  
Readings: Hanhimaki, Introduction  
Hurd, Chapters 1-2  
Pubantz and Moore, The Many Places of the UN System; Origins of Modern International Organization (on Canvas)
- II. Founding of the United Nations Jan. 26 – Feb. 2  
A. Dumbarton Oaks, Yalta, and San Francisco Conferences  
B. Bretton Woods System  
C. International Court of Justice  
Readings: Hanhimaki, Chapter 1  
Hurd, Chapter 8  
Pubantz and Moore: Founding of the United Nations (on Canvas)
- III. Eleanor's UN: Beyond Sovereignty February 4 – 9  
A. Habermas's Public Sphere and Global Civil Society  
B. Age of the NGO  
Readings: Pubantz and Moore: Eleanor's UN: Beyond International Peace and Security; The Age of the Nongovernmental Organization (on Canvas)  
Jessica Matthews, "Power Shift," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 76, No. 1, Jan/Feb. 1997 (on Canvas)
- IV. The United Nations System Feb. 16 – 25  
A. UN Charter  
B. Collective Security  
C. Principal Organs  
D. Specialized Agencies, Programmes and Funds  
E. Cold War Accommodations  
F. Crisis and Reform  
Readings: Hanhimaki, Chapters 2 and 7  
Hurd, Chapter 5  
Pubantz and Moore, The Cold War and Beyond; Financial Crisis and the Impetus for Reform (on Canvas)  
Weiss et al, Chapter 1, pp. 143-154.
- V. Maintenance of Peace and Security March 1 - 22  
A. Chapters VI and VII of the UN Charter  
B. Disarmament  
C. Peacekeeping and Nation-Building  
E. Responsibility to Protect  
Readings: Hanhimaki, Chapters 3-4  
Hurd, Chapter 6  
Weiss et al, Chapters 2-4; pp. 129-143

VI. Economic Development March 24 - 29  
A. UN Development Programme  
B. International Monetary Fund and World Bank  
C. Sustainable Development and the SDGs  
Readings: Hanhimaki, Chapter 5  
Hurd, Chapters 3-4  
Weiss et al, Chapters 9-11

VII. Rising Regional Organizations April 5 - 12  
A. European Union  
B. African Union and ECOWAS  
C. Gulf Cooperation Council  
D. From Economic to Political Integration  
Readings: Hurd, Chapter 10

VIII. Global Public Policy Making April 14 - 21  
A. Human Rights and International Judicial Diplomacy  
B. Women's Empowerment  
C. Environment  
Readings: Hanhimaki, Chapters 6  
Hurd, Chapter 9  
Weiss et al, Chapters 6-8

### **Some General Notes and Guidelines**

**Canvas:** Please establish access to the Canvas site for this course. Regular announcements, reserve readings, new readings assigned during the term, the syllabus, assignments, and other critical information for the class will be maintained there. Check the site daily if possible. You are responsible for knowing all course information on the site.

**Attendance:** I will take class attendance for the first couple weeks of the course in order to get to know you. Students in the past have found attendance critical to their understanding and performance in the course, and I expect that this will be the case this semester. If you miss a class, you remain completely responsible for the material covered that day, new assignments made, the outcome of classroom discussions, and any change in course schedule or other matter related to the course.

**Tests and other assignments:** Except in the case of a bona fide medical emergency with confirming documentation, or the sudden death of an immediate relative, I do not approve make-up tests or accept assignments late. If you have a commitment scheduled for the day of a test or assignment, you should contact me well before the date so that we can consider the possibility of taking the test or submitting the assignment early. Given the percentage each test and assignment counts in this class, it should be expected that you will likely fail the course or do poorly if you do not take a test or turn in a required assignment. It is absolutely critical that you complete all of the work in the course.

**Class rules:** This class is wide open for discussion. So please come prepared, be on time, and actively participate. In our exchanges all of us have the right to expect professionalism and courtesy. If you have a cell phone or pager with you, BE SURE to turn it off before you enter the room. If it rings while in class, you will not be allowed to bring it to class again. Please bring old-fashioned paper, pens, and pencils. **I do not want you to use your laptop or tablet during class.** It is far better to be focused on the discussion and materials in the class than on trying to

transcribe every aspect of the session. You can transfer your handwritten notes to your computer at a later time, which will prove a very valuable learning exercise.

All students are expected to abide by the University's academic integrity regulations. If you are not familiar with the University's policy, please see <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Plagiarism (presenting the ideas or words of another as if they were one's own) is cheating. **At a minimum, plagiarism on the paper assignments or cheating on the tests will result in a grade of "F" for the course – not for the assignment, but for the course.** The UNCG Honor System will be triggered by your misuse of materials, or by your submission of work that was done by others but passed off as your research and writing.

**Office hours:** This semester I will hold office hours immediately after this class on Tuesdays from 2 to 3pm, and again on Thursdays from 11am to noon. Should you need to make an appointment for another time, you may do so by e-mail and we will set a time to meet. I look forward to talking with you about your work.