

PIA5049: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

International Organisations

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

5049

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

AIS5049 International Organisations

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to ground students in the theories, practices, challenges, and possible futures of international organisations, and relate these debates to the most important developments of the changing contemporary world order.

The course pays attention to both the alphabet soup of specific organisations, both past and present (ADB, AIIB, APEC, ASEAN, EU, G7, G20, G77, GATT/WTO, ICPP, IMF, NATO, NDB, OECD, UN UNEP, WB, WHO, WMO, WTO, and others), as well as the broader context of shifting dynamics from the creation of the post-1945 world order to the global financial crisis of 2007/2008 and beyond. The course is divided into four themes, with three weeks devoted to each theme: 1. Theories of International Organisations (Realism & Liberalism, Marxism & Constructivism, Non Western IR Theories, Unipolarity vs. Multipolarity); 2. International Organisations in Focus (Global Governance, International Trade & Monetary Regimes, Climate, Environment and Energy, Global Health, regional organizations, International Organisations and East Asia); 3. International Organisations and Global Challenges (War, Trade, Health, Climate Change); and 4. the Future of International Organisations (the Post-2008 World Order, the Rise of China-Centered International Organisations, NGOs and International Organisations).

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Be able to critically analyse compare, and contrast the main theories of international organisations in the contemporary world order.	25	x	x	x
2	Understand the politics and the technical inner workings of the most important international organisations in the contemporary world order.	25	x	x	
3	Gain an increased awareness of, and the ability to formulate one's opinions on the practices and challenges of the most important international organisations and their roles and positions in the contemporary world order.	25	x	x	x
4	Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate verbally one's opinions on the various issues surrounding international organisations, and more generally improve public speaking and discussion skills.	25	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	1	Lectures on successive topics in the course, requiring active student participation	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	2	Weekly Readings	1, 2, 3, 4	

3	3	Class Presentations and Guided Discussions	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	4	Final Quiz	1, 2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class and Discussion Participation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	Yes
2	Class Presentation and Guided Discussion	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No
3	Final Quiz	1, 2, 3	50	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Class and Discussion Participation (20%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Both quantity and quality of participation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) The most active and qualitatively excellent participation

Good

(B+, B, B-) Above average participation

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Average participation

Marginal

(D) Below average participation

Failure

(F) Barely any or no participation whatsoever

Assessment Task

Class Presentation and Guided Discussion (30%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Presentation (15m) and Guided Discussion (10m)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent critical analysis, originality, understanding of readings, and guided discussion

Good

(B+, B, B-) Above average critical analysis, originality, understanding of readings, and guided discussion

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Average critical analysis, originality, understanding of readings, and guided discussion

Marginal

(D) Below average critical analysis, originality, understanding of readings, and guided discussion

Failure

(F) Barely any critical analysis, originality, understanding of readings, and guided discussion

Assessment Task

Final Quiz (50%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the theories, concepts, and facts covered in the course and in the readings

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent demonstration of critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the theories, concepts, and facts covered in the course and in the readings

Good

(B+, B, B-) Above average demonstration of critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the theories, concepts, and facts covered in the course and in the readings

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Average demonstration of critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the theories, concepts, and facts covered in the course and in the readings

Marginal

(D) Below average demonstration of critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the theories, concepts, and facts covered in the course and in the readings

Failure

(F) Barely any demonstration of critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the theories, concepts, and facts covered in the course and in the readings

Assessment Task

Class and Discussion Participation (20%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Both quantity and quality of participation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) The most active and qualitatively excellent participation

Good

(B+, B) Above average participation

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Average to below average participation

Failure

(F) Barely any or no participation whatsoever

Assessment Task

Class Presentation and Guided Discussion (30%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Presentation (15m) and Guided Discussion (10m)

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(A+, A, A-) Excellent critical analysis, originality, understanding of readings, and guided discussion

Good

(B+, B) Above average critical analysis, originality, understanding of readings, and guided discussion

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Average to below average critical analysis, originality, understanding of readings, and guided discussion

Failure

(F) Barely any critical analysis, originality, understanding of readings, and guided discussion

Assessment Task

Final Quiz (50%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

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Good

(B+, B) Above average demonstration of critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the theories, concepts, and facts covered in the course and in the readings

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Average to below average demonstration of critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the theories, concepts, and facts covered in the course and in the readings

Failure

(F) Barely any demonstration of critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the theories, concepts, and facts covered in the course and in the readings

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

International Organisations; Global Governance; Post-1945 World Order; Global Financial Crisis of 2007/2008; Realism; Liberalism; Marxism/Critical Approaches; Constructivism; Unipolarity; Multipolarity; Asian Development Bank; Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation; Association of Southeast Asian Nations; European Union; Group of 7; Group of 20; Group of 77; General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organisation; International Monetary Fund; North Atlantic Treaty Organisation; New Development Bank; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development; United Nations; World Bank; BRICS; Non-Governmental Organisations; Transnational Social Movements; World Economic Forum; World Social Forum

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Mearsheimer, John (1994-1995) The False Promise of International Institutions in <i>International Security</i> 19, 3: 5-49.
2	Keohane, Robert and Lisa Martin (1995) The Promise of Institutional Theory in <i>International Security</i> 20, 1 (1995): 39-51.
3	Beeson Mark and Stephen Bell (2009) The G-20 and International Economic Governance: Hegemony Collectivism, or Both? in <i>Global Governance</i> 15: 67-86.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Cox, Robert (1992) Multilateralism and World Order in <i>Review of International Studies</i> 18, 2 (April): 161-180.
2	Weiss, Thomas and Rorden Wilkinson, eds. (2014) <i>International Organizations and Global Governance</i> New York: Routledge.
3	Drezner, Daniel (2014) <i>The System Worked: How the World Stopped Another Great Depression</i> Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4	Selected Readings:
5	Goldsmith, John and Stephen D. Krasner (2003) The Limits of Idealism in <i>Daedalus</i> 132, 1: 47-63.
6	Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore (1999) The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations in <i>International Organization</i> 53, 4: 699-732.
7	Abbott, Kenneth, and Duncan Snidal (1998) Why States Act Through Formal International Organizations in <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 42, 1: 3-32.
8	Ruggie, John (1982) International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic System in <i>International Organization</i> 36, 2: 379-415.
9	Ruggie, John (1998) What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge in <i>International Organization</i> 52, 4: 855-85.
10	Weiss, Thomas (2000) Governance, Good Governance and Global Governance: Conceptual and Actual Challenges in <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 21, 5: 795-81.
11	Wendt, Alexander (1992) Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics in <i>International Organization</i> 46, 2: 391-425.
12	Beeson, Mark and Stephen Bell (2009) The G-20 and International Economic Governance: Hegemony, Collectivism, or Both? in <i>Global Governance</i> 15: 67-86.
13	Beeson, Mark (2013) Can China lead? in <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 34, 2: 235-52.
14	Hampson, Fen Olser and Paul Heinbecker (2011) The “New” Multilateralism of the Twenty-First Century in <i>Global Governance</i> 17, 3 (July-Sept.): 299-310.
15	Wade, Robert (2011) Emerging World Order? From Multipolarity to Multilateralism in the G20, the World Bank, and the IMF in <i>Politics & Society</i> 39, 3: 347-378.
16	Woods, Ngaire (2010) Global Governance after the Financial Crisis: A New Multilateralism or the Last Gasp of the Great Powers? in <i>Global Policy</i> 1, 1 (January): 51-63.
17	Vreeland, James Raymond (2007) The Politics of IMF Conditional Lending in <i>World Economics</i> 8, 3: 185-193.

18	Busch, Marc and Eric Reinhardt (2003) Developing Countries and GATT/WTO Dispute Settlement in <i>Journal of World Trade</i> 37, 4: 719-735.
19	Busch, Marc and Eric Reinhardt (2006) Three's a Crowd: Third Parties and WTO Dispute Settlement in <i>World Politics</i> 58, 3: 446-477.
20	Busch, Marc (2007) Overlapping Institutions, Forum Shopping, and Dispute Settlement in <i>International Trade in International Organization</i> 61, 4: 735-761.
21	McNamara, Kathleen (2008) A Rivalry in the Making? The Euro and International Monetary Power in <i>International Political Economy</i> 15, 3: 439-459.
22	Voeten, Erik (2000) Clashes in the Assembly in <i>International Organization</i> 54, 2: 185-215.
23	Lim, Daniel Yew Mao and James Raymond Vreeland (2013) Regional Organizations and International Politics: Japanese Influence Over the Asian Development Bank and the UN Security Council in <i>World Politics</i> 65, 1: 34-72.
24	Acharya, Amitav (August 15, 2007) ASEAN at 40: Mid-Life Rejuvenation? in <i>Foreign Affairs</i> http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64249/amitav-acharya/asean-at-40-mid-life-rejuvenation
25	Andersen, Thomas Barnebeck, Henrik Hansen, and Thomas Markussen (2006) US Politics and World Bank IDA-Lending in <i>Journal of Development Studies</i> 42, 5: 772-794.
26	Ravenhill, John (2009) East Asian regionalism: Much Ado about Nothing? in <i>Review of International Studies</i> 35, S1 (February): 215-235.
27	Glosny, Michael (2010) China and the BRICs: A Real (but Limited) Partnership in a Unipolar World in <i>Polity</i> 42: 100-129.
28	Ikenberry, John G. (2008) The Rise of China and the Future of the West in <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 87, 1 (January/February) http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/63042/g-john-ikenberry/the-rise-of-china-and-the-future-of-the-west
29	Cooley, Alexander and James Ron (2002) The NGO Scramble: Organizational Insecurity and the Political Economy of Transnational Action in <i>International Security</i> 27, 1: 5-39.
30	Sending, Ole Jacob and Iver Neumann (2006) Governance to Governmentality: Analyzing NGOs, States, and Power in <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 50, 3: 651-672.
31	Cammack, Paul (2012) The G20, The Crisis, and the Rise of Global Developmental Liberalism in <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 33, 1: 1-16.
32	Cammack, Paul (2004) What the World Bank Means By Poverty Reduction, and Why It Matters 9, 2: 189-211.
33	Starrs, Sean (2014) The Chimera of Global Convergence in <i>New Left Review</i> 87 (May-June): 81-96.