

**Political Science 428: International Organization
California State University, Northridge**

Fall, 2001

Mon, Wed, Fri 12:00 noon - 12:50 pm, SH 104

Ticket Number 94136

Instructor: Todd Belt
Phone: 818-677-7237
E-mail: belt@usc.edu

Office: ST 231
Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri: 10:00-11:00am
and by appointment.

Course Description

The focus of this course will be an analysis of the roles of various types of international organizations in contemporary world politics. While this course will focus on more traditional international organizations such as the United Nations and its specialized (functional) agencies, we will also explore some of the newer and evolving regional organizations, environmental organizations, economic and developmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations such as multinational corporations, foundations, humanitarian groups, and other transnationals. Specific consideration will be given to the evolving international structure and the impact that “globalization” has had on international politics, as well as the relationship that national and sub-national actors have with international organizations. To this end, this course will undertake a case study of the World Trade Organization (WTO). By the end of this class, students will be able to understand, explain, and even predict the actions of international organizations.

Required Texts

Krueger, Anne O. (ed.). 2000. *The WTO as an International Organization*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN# 0-226-45449-5.

O’Meara, Patrick, Howard D. Mehlinger, and Matthew Krain. (eds.). 2000. *Globalization and the Challenges of a New Century: A Reader*. Indiana University Press. ISBN# 0-253-21355-X.

Wallach, Lori, Michelle Sforza, and Ralph Nader. 2000. *The WTO: Five Years of Reasons to Resist Corporate Globalization*. Seven Stories Press. ISBN# 1583220356.

Ziring, Lawrence, Robert Riggs and Jack Plano. 1999. *United Nations: International Organization and World Politics* 3rd ed. Harcourt Brace. ISBN# 0-15-507865-8.

In addition, handouts distributed in class will be required reading.

All of the above listed books will be available for purchase in the Matador Bookstore. Most, if not all, will be placed on reserve in Oviatt Library. In addition, handouts distributed in class will be required reading, and students are required to follow international affairs in a national newspaper (*The New York Times* is suggested and is available for delivery with a student discount and is also available on-line).

Course Requirements

There are four requirements for this course:

1. Participation includes contributions to classroom discussion as well as attendance (do not be tardy or leave class early). In order to participate well in class you must complete all assigned readings prior to coming to class. To get credit for attending class, you must show up within 10 minutes of the start of class. If you are not in class within the first 10 minutes, you will be marked absent for the day. You will also be marked absent if you leave class early. You will be permitted two unexcused absences.

An excused absence is an illness that prevents you from attending class or a death in the family. Do not schedule meetings, banquets, vacations, or work for other classes during our regular class meeting time. Beyond your first two unexcused absences, your participation grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade for every time you are marked absent. For example, if you earned a participation grade of a B+ and had four unexcused absences, you will be penalized two-thirds of a letter grade, and your final participation would be a B-. Similarly, if you had six unexcused absences and you had earned an A- for your participation grade, you would be penalized for four-thirds of a letter grade, meaning that you would end up with a C+ for your final participation grade.

Turn off all pagers, phones and other electronic devices prior to entering the classroom. If you have an electronic device that emits noise during class (even an audible “vibration”), you will be asked to leave and will be marked absent for that day —no excuses and no exceptions.

2. Journals / Exercises: Every other week you will be required to turn in a 1-2 page written assignment. The written assignment will either be a class journal or a writing assignment. Specific writing guidelines for each exercise will be distributed on a handout. The course outline indicates whether a journal or exercise is due for each week. Do not ask me to email you the exercise handouts.

For each journal, write a *full*, handwritten page (or a full typewritten page, 12 point Times Roman font spaced at 1½ spacing, 1 inch margins on each side, top and bottom) of your reflections with respect to the course material (partial work will receive partial credit). Journals will be collected on the Monday of the week they are due. The subjects of your journal should include your emotional and intellectual reactions to things you observe outside of this course (in terms of what you have learned through this course) as well as your own responses to what you have learned. It is not important that you think and feel in any particular way, only that you do pay attention to what you are thinking and feeling, and that you become an active part in your own learning process. The emphasis of this class is on participatory education — you will get out of it what you put into it — rather than on a passive, consumer-student mentality.

Journal Writing Guidelines: Do not reiterate what happened in lecture or discussion. Since only the instructor will read the journals, there is no need to recap. You may also give feedback on the readings and the exercises — points that you like, dislike, or feel could be improved. This is your chance to express yourself without being given any specific topic — enjoy this freedom, do not run away from it. Write whatever you are thinking and feeling, not what you think the instructor wants to hear. Be sure to keep your journal on subjects relating to the course, it is not a diary of your daily life. Examples might include your reactions to political events you read about in the newspaper, or trying to explain a current event in terms of what is learned in this class, or reflecting upon a point made in class or in the readings — did it seem correct in terms of what you know (or might it need further exploration)? You will occasionally be given ideas for journal topics during lecture.

Journals receive credit/no-credit and exercises receive letter grades. Late journals will receive partial credit if the work is complete and turned in by the next class meeting. Any journals or exercises turned in after the first 10 minutes of class will be treated as late by one day. Late exercises will be deducted one-third of a letter grade for every day (not class period) that they are late (see above for an example of this type of calculation). Late exercises should be turned into me directly or placed

in my mailbox in the Political Science Department office and date-stamped. Exercises may not be emailed. It is your responsibility to follow up on missed journals and exercises.

3. Examinations: The examinations will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The final exam will be cumulative, but will emphasize the material covered after the midterm. Make-up exams are rarely given and only when a university-authorized excuse is provided. These excuses include illness and a death in the family only. You will not be excused from an exam simply because you missed the prior class. Any requests for a makeup exam must be made *before* the exam is given (call me). You will not be permitted to take a make-up exam if you do not request one before the exam is given. If you wear a hat with a brim on the day of an examination, you will be asked to remove it.
4. For the final research paper, you will be asked to analyze a contemporary international organization or policy being addressed by an international organization (your choice) in terms of the analytical skills learned during this course. The paper is to be 6-7 pages in length and must include at least five textual (not internet) sources. Do not be afraid of the library. You may cite internet sources, but they must be authoritative and will not count towards your requisite five. The paper must:
 - be typewritten in 12 point Times Roman font
 - be double spaced
 - have 1 inch margins on top, bottom, and both sides
 - include a title and cover page
 - include a bibliography page
 - done in the citation style of your choice (footnotes or parenthetical — be consistent)
 - include page numbers
 - include an introduction, body, and a conclusion that looks toward the future

Late papers must be turned in to the Political Science Department Office and date stamped. Late papers will be down-graded one full letter grade for every day that they are late (i.e. a B becomes a C if the paper is one day late). Purchasing a paper constitutes plagiarism. I am familiar with all of the on-line term-paper sites and I *will* check your paper against those available on-line. Plagiarism is a *very serious* offense, and you should be familiar with this university's policy and penalties for plagiarism.

Grading

Participation	10%
Journals and Exercises	20%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	25%
Research Paper	25%

A plus/minus system of grading will be used. A letter grade will be assigned for each of the above categories. The grade will be converted to grade points and weighted by the corresponding percentage (see above). Here is an example: Suppose Carlos received a B+ for Participation, an A- for Journals and Exercises, a C+ for his Midterm Exam, a B for his Final Exam, and an A- for his Research Paper. Carlos' final grade would be calculated as follows:

Final Grade = $(3.3 * .10) + (3.7 * .20) + (2.3 * .20) + (3.0 * .25) + (3.7 * .25)$

Final Grade = $.330 + .740 + .460 + .750 + .925$

Final Grade = 3.205, which is closest to 3.3 grade points, which is equivalent to a B+.

Course Outline

Week 1 (8/27, 8/29). No Class 8/31 (Friday).

Course Introduction and Background

Reading: Ziring, Riggs and Plano, pp. 1-10.

- ◆ Syllabus Distributed
- ◆ The (Anarchic?) Nature of the International System
- ◆ International Cooperation
- ◆ Alliances
- ◆ The League of Nations

Week 2 (9/5, 9/7). No Class 9/3 (Monday).

Regimes and Theories of International Politics

Reading: Ziring, Riggs and Plano, pp. 10-24.

First Journal Due Wednesday

- ◆ Realism and Neorealism
- ◆ Liberalism and Neoliberalism
- ◆ Marxism and Neomarxism
- ◆ Feminism
- ◆ Regimes

Week 3 (9/10, 9/12, 9/14).

United Nations Institutional Structure

Reading: Ziring, Riggs and Plano, pp. 27-107.

- ◆ Charter and Legal Framework
- ◆ Councils
- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Political Process
- ◆ Decision Making

Week 4 (9/17, 9/19, 9/21).

Security and the UN Secretariat

Reading: Ziring, Riggs and Plano, pp. 110-138, pp. 142-207.

Second Journal Due Monday

- ◆ International Administration
- ◆ International Leadership and Diplomacy
- ◆ The Security Council vs. The General Assembly
- ◆ UN Resolution 242
- ◆ Collective Security
- ◆ Balance of Power
- ◆ Peacekeeping Forces
- ◆ Humanitarian Interventions

Week 5 (9/24, 9/26, 9/28).

The UN in Disarmament and Dispute Settlement

Reading: Ziring, Riggs and Plano, pp. 210-254, pp. 257-298.

- ◆ Arms Races and Arms Control
- ◆ “Trust but verify”
- ◆ Nuclear Proliferation
- ◆ Weapons in Space
- ◆ Biological and Chemical Weapons Bans
- ◆ Landmine and Small Arms Bans

Week 6 (10/1, 10/3, 10/5).

The UN, Technology and Trade

Reading: Ziring, Riggs and Plano, pp. 321-379, pp. 384-418.

Exercise: September 29 Mobilization Writing Assignment

- ◆ Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure
- ◆ Aviation
- ◆ Maritime Law
- ◆ Health and Medical Technology
- ◆ Promotion of Regional Economic Integration
- ◆ Handling Financial Crises

Week 7 (10/8, 10/10, 10/12).

Midterm Examination Friday

Human Rights and Evaluating the UN

Reading: Ziring, Riggs and Plano, pp. 471-483, 525-531.

Term Paper Topic Due Monday

- ◆ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ◆ Evaluating The UN’s Past Performance
- ◆ Predicting the UN’s Future Performance and Structure

Week 8 (10/15, 10/17, 10/19).

International Economics and Development

Reading: Ziring, Riggs and Plano, pp. 421-468.

Exercise: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Writing Assignment

- ◆ Development and Underdevelopment
- ◆ Neoliberalism
- ◆ Dependency Theory
- ◆ The World Bank

Week 9 (10/22, 10/24, 10/26).

The WTO I

Reading: Krueger, pp. 1-95.

In-class Film: *This is What Democracy Looks Like*

- ◆ Multinational (Transnational) Corporations
- ◆ GATT and the WTO
- ◆ Purpose and Structure

Week 10 (10/29, 10/31, 11/2).

The WTO II

Reading: Krueger, pp. 97-176.

Third Journal Due Monday

- ◆ Dispute Settlement
- ◆ Domestic Political Linkage
- ◆ Cross-border Liberalization

Week 11 (11/5, 11/7, 11/9).

The WTO III

Reading: Krueger, pp. 231-252, 297-347.

- ◆ Labor Regulation
- ◆ Environmental Regulation
- ◆ Anti-democratic Processes
- ◆ Effects on Developing Countries

Week 12 (11/12, 11/14, 11/16).

The IMF and the WTO — Criticisms and Responses

Reading: Wallach, Sforza and Nader, all.

IMF Report on Structural Adjustment Programs (Handout)

Faiola, “Argentina Doubts Market Wisdom” (Handout)

Fourth Journal Due Monday

- ◆ Criticisms and Responses
- ◆ Structural Adjustment Programs
- ◆ Policies, Functions, and Decision Making Procedures

Week 13 (11/19, 11/21). No Class 11/23 (Friday).

Globalization I

Reading: O’Meara, Mehlinger and Krain, pp. 91-139, 149-157.

- ◆ The Five Dimensions of Globalization
- ◆ Political Globalization
- ◆ Military Globalization
- ◆ Police Collaboration
- ◆ Regionalism

Week 14 (11/26, 11/28, 11/30).

Globalization II

Reading: O’Meara, Mehlinger and Krain, pp. 215-226, 240-252, 282-286, 428-434, 443-460.

In-Class Film: A Place Called Chiapas

Fifth Journal Due Monday

- ◆ Economic Globalization
- ◆ Technological Globalization
- ◆ Socio-cultural / Religious Globalization
- ◆ The European Union
- ◆ NAFTA
- ◆ FTAA

- ◆ The Zapatistas (EZLN)
- ◆ The G7 (G8) and the G77

Week 15 (12/3, 12/5, 12/7).

Globalization and Its Discontents

Reading: O'Meara, Mehlinger and Krain, pp. 323-349, 375-382, 406-415.

Term Paper Due Friday (12/7)

- ◆ The Global Environmental Movement
- ◆ The Anarchist Movement
- ◆ The Drug War
- ◆ Doctors Without Borders
- ◆ Women on Waves

Final exam Wednesday, Dec. 12, 12:45pm-2:45pm.