

**International Organizations**  
**University of New York in Tirana**  
**Fall 2007**

**Instructor: Olta Xhacka**

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**Classes:** *Thursday 15:00-18:00*

**Office Hours:** By appointment only

**Course Objective:**

This course intends to familiarize students with the broad notions of international organizations and international institutions as well as with the concrete manifestations of regularized international relations as seen in international organizations with their formal and material existence separate from, though for the most part dependent on, states and groups within states. In this context, this course explores the institutional framework which by the practice of diplomatic method of adherence to the tenets of international law have provided stability, durability and cohesiveness of international relations which could otherwise be regarded as sporadic, ephemeral, and unstable.

The first section will explore the international organizations' rise, development in the 20th century as well as their significance in the modern international political systems. The second section will cover the relationship between international politics and international law covering a variety of topics from diplomatic immunity, to human rights, state responsibility, war crimes, the environment, and the economy. The third sections will focus on the human rights movement in both national and international contexts seeing how human rights ideals have become a modern consciousness, a potent rhetoric and aspiration which inform both the practice and theory of international law and politics. The theoretical, empirical, and analytical foundations underlying these debates will be assessed. Thus, the goal of this course is to enable students to gain a broad understanding of the history, doctrine, and institutional structures that facilitate the practice of international law.

Assignments and Grading

**Readings**

Required readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. Prepare to actively participate in class discussions. Furthermore, the exams and paper will require you to have a strong comprehension of the material covered in both the readings and the lectures. The **required reading** for the course will consist of:

- Clive Archer's *International Organizations*
- Peter Malanczuk's *Akehurts's Modern Introduction to International Law*

**The final grade will be calculated on the basis of the following:**

Participation and attendance	20%
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(pop-up quizzes count for 10% of participation)	
Mid-term exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Paper (after midterm I will assign the topic)	20%
Presentation	10%

**Participation and Attendance:**

Active and constructive participation in class discussions is a required part of the course. At the beginning of the semester students will sign up to be discussion leaders for each week. Discussion leaders will give a brief summary of what they understood from the readings, as well as some questions with regards to these readings, and open up the discussion for the rest of the class.

In order to keep up with the course material you are required to attend class, and if you miss class on a regular basis, you will not pass the course. Excused absences will be granted only in cases of documented emergency or illness, and only if you notify me of your absence ahead of time. You are expected to participate actively in class discussions, with an emphasis on the quality over the quantity of your participation.

*To further evaluate your participation in classes I may occasionally write pop-up quizzes or collect exercises we do in class.*

**Mid-term/Final Exam:** Details to be given in class

**Paper:** This is a research paper in which you will respond to a question given to you by the instructor. A brief outline of the paper is due in class for those students who might choose to write on a topic of their preference different from the ones the instruction has chosen. The instructor has to approve the subject of research before the student writes comprehensively on it. Students will also hold a presentation of their research for their class peers.

**Late Policy:** You are discouraged from handing in your assignments late, but if you do, there will be a late penalty. Late assignments will be accepted up to five days late, with an automatic grade deduction of 10% for every 24 hour period after the due date (i.e., a paper turned in between 48 and 72 hours late will be penalized by 30%, or 30 points for a 100 point assignment). After the five days your assignment will receive the score of 0.

**Individual**

**Tutorials:**

Students are welcome to arrange a tutorial session with the instructor on an individual basis.

**Class Policies:**

Avoid disrupting class discussion, and please turn off any cell phones and beepers before you come into class. Also, arrive on time and to refrain from chatting with your neighbors.

**Any violation of academic honesty principles, e.g. cheating and plagiarising, will result in an automatic F on assignments and/or exam.**

**Course Outline:**

**Week I: Introduction**

- Definitions and History

**Week II: International organizations up to the First World War**

- Chapter 1 in Archer's *Intl. Organizations*

**Week III: Classification of international organizations**

- Chapter 2 in Archer's *Intl. Organizations*

**Week IV: Role and functions of international organizations**

- Chapter 3 in Archer's *Intl. Organizations*

**Week V: Schools of thought on international organizations**

- Realists
- Reformists
- Radicals
- Read Chapter 4 in Archer's *Intl. Organizations*

*Week VI: Chapter 5 in Archer's Intl. Organizations.* Supporting material will be handed out in class

**Week VII: The United Nations**

- Alfred J. Hotz's *The United Nations since 1945*
- H. Field Haviland Jr's *The United States and the United Nations*
- Louis Henkin's *The United Nations and Human Rights*

*Week VIII: Midterm Exam*

**Week IX: History, theory, and sources of International law**

- Chapter 1 through chapter 3 in Malanczuk's *Akehurts's Modern Introduction to International Law* (pg. 1-60)

**Week X: International Law**

- Chapter 4 - International law and municipal law (pg. 63-71)
- Chapter 5 - States and governments (pg. 75 -88)
- Chapter 7 - Jurisdiction (pg. 109 - 117)
- Chapter 8 - Immunity from Jurisdiction (pg. 118 - 128) in Malanczuk's *Akehurts's Modern Introduction to International Law*

**Week XI: Legal framework of state interactions**

- Chapter 9 - Treaties (pg. 130 - 146)
- Chapter 10 - Acquisition of territory (pg. 147 - 158)
- Chapter 11 - Legal consequences of changes of sovereignty over territory (state succession) pg. 161-170 in Malanczuk's *Akehurts's Modern Introduction to International Law*

*Week XII: Human Rights and International Covenants*

- Chapter 14 - Human rights (pg. 209 - 220)
- Chapter 18 - Peaceful settlement of disputes between states (pg. 273 - 300)  
Malanczuk's *Akehurts's Modern Introduction to International Law*
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (to be handed out in class)
- International Covenant on Social and Political Rights (to be handed out in class)

*Week XIII: Presentations*

*Week XIV: Economy and Environment*

- Chapter 15 - Economy (pg. 222 - 239)
  - Chapter 16 - Environment (pg. 241 - 251) in Malanczuk's *Akehurts's Modern Introduction to International Law*
- \* Research Paper Due**

*Week XV: Final Exam - GOOD LUCK!*

STUDENTS: If you feel that you have special learning difficulties, please, make an appointment with Ms. Anxhela Gramo. Ms. Gramo is trained to help students with learning difficulties. She shall provide this service to our students, just as it is offered in all American universities.