POLS5121

International Organisations and Global Politics

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Deborah Barros Leal Farias	deborahblf@unsw.edu.au	by appointment	MB 135	

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

email: soss@unsw.edu.au

phone: 02 9385 1807

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Examines the role of international organisations in global politics. Explores the effectiveness of security arrangements at the regional and global levels. Analyses the roles of international organisations in global economic governance. Evaluates the relevance of international organisations in providing solutions to the social and humanitarian challenges facing humanity at the beginning of the 21st century.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and outline the diverse and contested structures of the international system;
2. Describe and discuss a variety of debates and approaches surrounding the role and function of international organisations in global politics;
3. Locate, evaluate, prioritise and deploy appropriate information in a sophisticated and persuasive manner;
4. Analyse, explain and critique basic and more advanced literatures relating to the theories and practices of international organisation, including a variety of concepts, theories and categories of analysis;
5. Summarise and evaluate debates, communicating your ideas with fluency and vigour, informed by an understanding of ethical issues and a self-reflexive awareness of the reasoned views of others.

Teaching Strategies

POLS5121 encourages and rewards students as independent learners who approach their studies with enthusiasm and diligence. In accordance with UNSW Learning and Teaching guidelines, as a course designed at the MA level this course is intended both to supplement existing knowledge and experience and also to develop expertise in the analysis of international organisations and global politics. The course is based on the assumption that students have an active role to play in the learning process and are active participants in the production of knowledge, whether they have prior knowledge or experience of these issues or not. Thus the course actively engages student involvement through independent reading, class participation and the preparation and presentation of written work.

The assessment modes are designed to enable students to reflect on their understanding of the subject matter and to contextualise the course content in relation to the overall degree program. This course is designed as a seminar in order to meet the identified learning outcomes and course aims.

This course requires students to submit all assessment items in order to pass the course.

Assessment

See Moodle for further details.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Critical reviews	15%	20/06/2021 11:59 AM	1, 2, 3, 4
Annotated bibliography	35%	11/07/2021 11:59 PM	2, 3, 4
Essay	50%	15/08/2021 11:59 PM	2, 3, 4, 5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Critical reviews

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 500-750 words

Details:

Students submit a 750 word critical review of a specified text.

Students will receive a numerical grade within two weeks of submission through the University's Learning Management System (LMS).

Additional details:

NOTE: this assignment has a new title: ESSAY PLAN (weight and length remain unchanged)

Step 1: look at the details for Final Essay (Assignment #3). The goal of the Essay Plan is to help you put together your Final Essay. Your Final Essay has to be either a *critique* of an international organisations (see suggestions under Assignment #3) **or** an essay on a topic and question agreed to by you and the course convenor (obviously related to International Organisations).

The Essay Plan is expected to have an outline of the proposed essay's main question (what you want to research?), rationale (why it this important/relevant?), and structure (how will you structure your paper?). The question must relate to one of the ten topics covered in this course (this should be clear) and should be 'open' or 'critical' in nature; i.e. it should provide scope for a critical analysis of the topic and associated issues under consideration, and the development of a cohesive and coherent argument. Think of this as an opportunity to research something *you* find interesting. If you are truly lost, talk to me ASAP.

-      Format: between 500-750 words (+ 10% tolerance; every 5% above or below these margins is penalized with a 3% grade deduction).

- Feedback: Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten weeks of completion.

Make sure you provide:

- The research question itself;

- A **clear** outline of the essay's main focus and the rationale for posing the stated essay question.

- A brief outline of the proposed essay's structure. It should provide a rough guide of the main issues to be considered or points to be made in the essay. I am looking for evidence that you have reflected on the question, and how best this might be approached in a way that allows you to construct and develop a structured and coherent argument.

Look at examples of great Essay Plans (available on Moodle)

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Annotated bibliography

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1,200 - 1,500 words (bibliography included in word count)

Details:

The aim of the annotated bibliography is to encourage students to begin thinking about the theoretical and conceptual foundations of their research essay. Students will research and identify academic sources. The word length of the annotated bibliography is 1500 words.

Feedback: Written feedback using a rubric, provided within two weeks of submission through the University's Learning Management System (LMS

Additional details:

Annotated Bibliography

The aim of this exercise is to encourage you to begin thinking about your essay and to begin engaging with the academic literature upon which you will draw in the construction of your core arguments when you write your essay.

For this assignment, you should research and identify **five academic sources** that will inform your arguments in your research paper and create a bibliography of those sources. These sources **should not** be drawn from the required or recommended readings listed above – you will need to identify five other sources not listed in this outline that you can use for your essay. **You will lose marks if you include any of the required readings**.

You should then annotate the bibliography, discussing why you have chosen each source, what you

hope to draw from it, how it fits with the rest of the literature with which you engage, and so on.

Guidance on writing an annotated bibliography can be found on the UNSW Learning Centre website at http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/annotated_bib.html.

The Annotated Bibliography is expected to have **between 1,200 (min) and 1,500 (max) words**, with the bibliography being *included* in the word count.

Specifically, your annotated bibliography should:

- Provide the full bibliographic citation for each source discussed

- Demonstrate the quality and depth of reading that you have done

For each text:

- Indicate the content or scope
- Outline the main argument
- Identify any conclusions made by the author/s
- Discuss the relevance or usefulness of the text for your research
- State the strengths and limitations of the text
- Present your view or reaction to the text

The annotated bibliography will be graded /100 and will constitute 35% of your final grade for the course. The annotated bibliography will be graded using a rubric showing the assessment criteria. The rubric is available on Moodle.

This assignment is designed to help you build up your final essay. Therefore, you **will** be able to use the material you write here directly in your final essay (i.e., it will not be considered self-plagiarism)

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: between 2,500 and 3,000 words (bibliography included)

Details:

Students submit 3000 word research essay. Written feedback using a rubric, provided within two weeks of submission through the University's Learning Management System (LMS). This is the final assessment in this course.

Additional details:

The essay consists of either:

1. an *organisational critique* of **one** of the international organisations listed below or
2. an essay on a topic and question agreed to by you and the course convenor

It should have **between 2,500 (min) and 3,000 (max)**, with bibliography included in the word count.

The essay must:

- Clearly and coherently outline the organisation's role in global politics
- Describe and critically analyse some of the key dilemmas faced by the organisation.
- Describe and discuss some of the key criticisms of the organisation. Importantly, here you should provide your own analysis and advance your own arguments regarding the criticisms of the organisation that have been made, including your own evaluation of how effectively the organisation has fulfilled its roles
- Deploy sufficient and relevant primary *and* secondary sources (drawn from independent research and your required and recommended readings).
- Include a complete title, detailing the full name of the organisation on which the paper is based (e.g. 'An Organisational Critique of the World Trade Organisation')

Essays should demonstrate that you have engaged with the themes and issues raised in the course and that you are able to construct a persuasive and well-evidenced argument in relation to one or more of these themes or issues.

You are free to use the material you have already written in your Essay Plan and Annotated Bibliography for this assignment.

Further guidance to assist with preparing, planning and researching your essay is available on Moodle. You will be assessed on your ability to demonstrate research skills (the ability to provide accurate and detailed information about your chosen organisation), on synthesis and persuasive argument (in bringing together ideas and data from several sources), on quality of presentation (including accurate referencing) and on the clarity of your writing.

You are recommended to choose from the following organisations below. **You must consult with me first if you want to study an organization not listed below.**

UN Organisations	Economic Organisations	Regional Organisations	Other Organisations
The United Nations Security Council	The World Bank	The European Union	International Criminal Court
The United Nations General Assembly	The International Monetary Fund	The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation	International Labour Organisation
The United Nations Environment Programme	The World Trade Organisation	The African Union	International Criminal Police Organisation
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	The Asian Development Bank	Association of South East Asian Nations	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
World Health Organisation	OECD	The Arab League	World Economic Forum

References to the core texts alone will **not** be sufficient to pass this assessment.

To write a good essay:

- Explain in the introduction the context of the question, your basic argument/s and how the paper will proceed step by step (the structure).
- Signpost the structure throughout the paper, indicating the logical progression from paragraph to paragraph and section to section (so linking sentences at the ends of paragraphs and sections are important).
- Provide persuasive analysis of evidence in support of your argument/s.
- Ground your argument in the theoretical debates of the discipline where relevant.

Your essay must be properly referenced and accompanied by a reference list. If you are not sure about referencing conventions, please speak to me or see the *School of Social Sciences Referencing Guide*.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Seminar	**International Organisations and Global Governance** **Topic:** What is global governance in contemporary world politics and how has it developed? **Questions for Seminar Discussion:** • What is global governance? • Who (or what) are, or have been, the key actors in global governance? What role do international organisations play?
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Seminar	**Theories of IOs in Global Politics 1** **Topic: Realist and liberal approaches to IOs and global governance** **Question for Seminar Discussion:** • What are the strengths and weaknesses of realist and liberal approaches for understanding the role of IOs?
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Seminar	**Theories of IOs in Global Politics 2** **Topic**: Post-positivist approaches to global governance **Questions for Seminar Discussion**: • What are some of the core ideas of Marxist and neo-Marxist theorising? How do they impact the perceived role of IOs? • Why are international organisations important to constructivist approaches to IR?
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Seminar	**The Historical Foundations of Global Governance 1** **Topic:** Significant developments in international

		organisation during the 19th and early 20th centuries. **Questions for Seminar Discussion:** • What is the legacy of the 19th century for global governance and international organisation?
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Seminar	**The Historical Foundations of Global Governance 2** **Topic**: The roles, functions and effectiveness of the League of Nations and the United Nations. **Questions for Seminar Discussion:** • What lessons can be drawn from creation, life, and ultimate failure of the League? • What are the main strengths and weaknesses of the United Nations?
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Reading	**You should use this week to work your Annotated Bibliography (due 11/7) and/or your Final Essay**
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Seminar	**Bretton Woods & WTO** Topic: The development of the post-Second World War global economic order and governing of the international trade regime. Questions for Seminar Discussion: • What is meant by the 'Washington Consensus' and what is its relationship with 'structural adjustment'? • Why is the WTO so controversial?
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Seminar	**Regional organisations** **Topic:** The roles and functions of regional organisations in the international system, focusing on the European Union. **Questions for Seminar Discussion:** • Why is the EU so unique compared to other regional organisations? • In light of Brexit, where do you think the EU is heading?
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Seminar	**Environment & Human rights** **Topic:** The importance of international institutions

		in the human rights and environmental regimes **Questions for Seminar Discussion:** • What are the main strengths and weaknesses of IOs in dealing with global environmental and human rights problems?
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Seminar	**G7, G20, BRICS** **Topic:** The roles and importance of G7, G20, and BRICS in global economic governance. **Questions for Seminar Discussion:** • Is the G20 a legitimate policymaking institution and actor within global economic governance? Why/why not? • BRICS doesn't make sense - does it matter?

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All required readings for this course are **available via Leganto**, so you do not need to purchase anything. It is a requirement that you complete at the minimum the 'Required Reading' each week before the seminar. In addition to the "Required Reading" there are a number of texts that provide coverage of most of the topics analysed in the course

Recommended Resources

See Moodle for details

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically. Informal feedback and feedback specific to a particularly seminar topic will be welcomed and encouraged during the semester. Student feedback is taken seriously and continual enhancements are made to learning and teaching activities on the basis of student feedback. For example, and as a direct result of student feedback, the submission times of assessments takes into consideration the needs of students who have full time employment.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.