Case Analysis of International Organizations

1. Course Overview

In today’s world international organizations exert much greater influence in international relations as a significant driving force for multilateralism. This course will analyze the role of international organizations and the practice of their collective decision-making through various case studies. It will start with overview of the mainstream theoretical perspectives and then discuss in-depth a series of important and often controversial cases the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations have dealt with to address major challenges of the contemporary international society. Covering three pillars of their activities, namely peace and security, development, human rights and democracy, the topics selected will include the functions and limitations of main organs of the UN, collective security enforcement mechanism and peace-keeping, nuclear non-proliferation and the role of the IAEA, the CTBTO, NSG, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), the Post-2015 development agenda, G-7/G-20 Transition, human rights institutions, the Community of Democracy (CD), the Responsibility to Protect, the International Criminal Court (ICC), and regional organizations such as EU, OSCE, ASEAN, ARF and EAS. The course will also examine challenges for the future of global governance and the issue of reform of international institutions to enhance their effectiveness and credibility.

2. Course Objectives

The principal objective of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and analytical tools needed for comprehensive understanding of the roles of key international organizations and “politics” played therein. The course will put much emphasis on the practicality of the studies to benefit future professionals in international affairs. It will take the format of seminar and case-teaching, sharing practical experience of the instructor’s participation in the government foreign policy-making as well as various multilateral negotiations and conferences during his diplomatic career.

3. Requirements

Students are expected to make presentations (20 minutes) at the class on
the assigned topics and actively participate in interactive discussions. Each week’s topic and presenters will be announced in advance in class. There will be mid-term and final examinations.

4. Evaluation

Class participation: 20%
Presentation: 20%
Examinations: 60% (Mid-term 30%, Final 30%)

5. Weekly work plan

Week 1  Course Introduction and Work Programs
Week 2  International System and the Role of International Organizations
        - Overview of the Theoretical Perspectives
Week 3  Multilateralism and the Practice of Collective Decision-Making of International Organizations: How do they actually operate?
        - Case Study: IAEA and ROK Nuclear Experiments Issue
Week 4  The United Nations and International Peace and Security I
        - The Functions and Limitations of Main Organs and Collective Security Enforcement Mechanism
        - Case Study: North Korea, Iraq
Week 5  The United Nations and International Peace and Security II
        - Preventive Diplomacy, Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
        - Case Study: Changing mandate of UN Peacekeeping Operations
Week 6  Nuclear Non-proliferation and International Organizations
        - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Nuclear Verifications, the CTBTO, NSG, NPT Regime and their Limitations
        - Case Study: North Korea Nuclear Crisis and the failure of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization
Week 7  Sustainable Development and Intergovernmental Process for the Post-2015 development agenda
- Case Study: Rio+20 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Week 8  Mid-term Examination (Take-Home)

Week 9  Global Economic Crisis and International Financial Institutions
- World Bank, IMF, G-7/G-20 Transition
- Case Study: Seoul G-20 Summit Meeting

Week 10  Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy
- Human Rights Institutions and Mechanism, The Community of Democracy (CD)
- Case Study: Commission of Inquiry on North Korea human rights situation

Week 11  The United Nations Normative Entrepreneurship and the ‘Responsibility to Protect’
- Case Study: Why yes, Libya and no, Syria?

Week 12  International Justice and International Judicial Institutions
- Case Study: The International Criminal Court (ICC)

Week 13  Regional Organizations
- EU, OSCE, ASEAN, ARF, EAS, APEC
- Case Study: The Applicability of OSCE Experience in East Asia Multilateral Security Cooperation Mechanism

Week 14  Challenges Ahead and Institutional Reform
- Credibility and Effectiveness of the UN System and its Reform
- Case Study: UN Security Council Reform

Week 15  Wrap-Up Discussions

Week 16  Final Examination
6. Recommended Readings

<Week 2>


<Week 3>
- Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst, Chapter 1, pp.25-33


- IAEA, Board of Governors Chairman’s Conclusion, 26 November 2004

<Week 4-5>
- Kelly-Kate S. Pease, Chapters 2, 5
- Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst, Chapters 4, 8
- Donald M. Snow, Cases in International Relations, Edition 5, Longman, 2012, Chapter 1, Sovereignty: The Legality and Impact of Invading Iraq, pp.10-19 & Chapter 8, Peacekeeping: Humanitarian Disaster and International Responses in Darfur, pp.146-166

- UN, Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, Studies By Agenda:

- Ban Ki-moon, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S FIVE-YEAR ACTION AGENDA, 25 JANUARY 2012


<Week 6>
- Kelly-Kate S. Pease, Chapters 5, pp140-155
- John Baylis, Chapter 23
- Donald M. Snow, Chapter 6

- CTBTO, *CTBTO Fact Sheet “CTBT: Ending Nuclear Explosions”* available at www.ctbto.org/specials/who-we-are/


- Gareth Evance, Kawaguchi, Special Commission Report on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament, 2010


- Arms Control Association resources, Arms Control and Proliferation Profile:


<Week 7>
- Kelly-Kate S. Pease, Chapters 7, 8
- Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst, Chapters 9, 11
- Donald M. Snow, Chapter 13, Global Warming: Facing the Problem after Copenhagen, pp.245-260


<Week 9>

- Donald M. Snow, Chapter 12, Extending Globalization: From G-7 to G-20, pp.234-242


<Week 10, 11, 12>
- Kelly-Kate S. Pease, Chapter 9
- Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst, Chapter 10
- John Baylis, Chapters 30-31
- Donald M. Snow, Chapter 3, War Crimes Applied and Cooperation Applied: The International Criminal Court and Torture, pp.52-61

<Week 13>
- Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst, Chapter 5
- Kelly-Kate S. Pease, Chapter 2, pp.25-35
- Donald M. Snow, Chapter 10, Regional Integration: The European Union Faces the Future, pp.194-205
- Lee Shin-wha, The East Asia Summit and the Difficulty of Establishing a


<Week 14>

- Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst, Chapter 12, pp.537–553.

- Simon Chesterman, Secretary or General ?, Cambridge University Press, 2007


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