1. Course Overview

Since World War II, international organizations have become more prominent players in the international system. Debate continues in academic and policy communities over why international organizations exist, whether they matter in global politics, and when they can help alleviate global problems. Throughout this course we will aim to answer the following two questions; 1. Why do international organizations exist? 2. What role do they play in solving global problems?

The first part of this course will provide an opportunity to increase understanding of the concept, functions and roles of International Organizations. It will analyze the historical and theoretical backgrounds of International Organizations in general and then explore how these concepts and roles have been evolving in contemporary international society. We will explore the questions of whether and how international organizations influence world politics by examining the development and activities of international organizations in wide-ranging issue areas.

As the course is designed to enhance students’ understanding of the roles and function of international organizations in the contemporary international system, students will delve into details on who is doing what in specific International Organizations, and whether they are effective in contributing to solutions for the current international challenges and crises.

2. Course Requirements

All students will be provided with reading materials available to download on blackboard (KU portal site), which are expected to be read prior attending lectures. I expect all the students to be punctual and be present in all classes. Attendance will be checked and I expect to be notified by email on your absence before the class begins. The in-class lectures will be focusing on the reading materials; however, active discussions on additional perspectives are expected from the students.

A few case studies will be assigned for 20~30 minute presentation and a 20 minute discussion. Designated students will make a presentation based on the assigned topic and lead a discussion in a class. The presentation should include not
only the summary of the important points on the articles but also raise issues and include information from further in-depth research carried out by students.

3. Course Evaluation
   - Class Attendance and Participation: 10%
   - Case Study Presentation and leading the discussion: 30%
   - Midterm exam: 30%
   - Final Term Paper: 30%

4. Course readings

   *All reading materials including the books listed above will be uploaded on Blackboard.*

5. Course schedule

Week 1 (Mar 8): Introduction to the course

Week 2 (Mar 15): Introduction to IOs, Part 1
What are international organizations?
Why do international organizations exist?
What are their roles and functions?

Week 3 (Mar 22): Introduction to IOs, Part 2
Historic Development of International Organizations
Need for International Organizations

Week 4 (Mar 29): Introduction to IOs, Part 3
Various Theories of IOs
Opposing Perspectives of International Organizations

Week 5 (Apr 5): The United Nations
Basic Principles of the United Nations
Objectives, Issues & Reform
UN Human Rights Mechanism

Week 6 (Apr 12): Regional Organizations
The Roots and Dynamics of Regionalism
Regional Organizations in Europe, Americas, Asia, Africa and the Middle East
Assess the Consequences of Regionalism
Week 7 (Apr 19): Non-Governmental Organizations and the Future of Global Governance and Actors in the International Arena

Week 8 (Apr 26): Mid-term exam

Week 9 (May 3): International Humanitarian Assistance

Week 10 (May 10): The Role of Economic International Organizations: Introduction to the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

**Student Presentations**

Week 11 (May 17): Issue I (Peace and Security)

Week 12 (May 24): Issue II (Environment and Climate Change)

Week 13 (May 31): Issue III (Economic Well-being and Human Development)

Week 14 (June 7): Issue IV (International Migration and Refugees)

Week 15 (June 14): Issue V (Protecting Human Rights)

Week 16 (June 21): Final Paper Due