



PO 357 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: STRUCTURES AND CASE STUDIES

IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:

The course investigates the concept and functions of international organizations in the contemporary world. In its first part it deals with issues common to all international organizations, e.g. the various categories (NGOs, IGOs, peace-keeping, technical, traditional, supranational etc.), structures, membership, establishment, termination, international status, etc. In its second part the course examines in the form of case studies the major international organizations, such as the UN and the other organizations based in Vienna as well as the European Union. Field trips to the Vienna International Center (VIC), which hosts some of the organizations discussed in class, are included in the course.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: Interest in political and legal affairs connected with international organizations

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, studies of hand-outs, students' presentations, class discussions, texts in Moodle; field trips to international organizations based in Vienna (UN in November mandatory!)

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Attendance 10%
- Oral Work/Participation 15%
- Midterm 25%
- Term Paper 25%
- Final Exam 25%

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- be familiar with the tasks of the major international organizations in the world, including the UN and the UN Family (IMF, World Bank, WTO, UNIDO, IAEA, etc.), the EU and OPEC
- understand and to legally assess day-to-day cases involving the UN and the other organizations examined in the course
- form their own opinion on such cases, thus widening their horizon on international affairs

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

IES Vienna requires attendance at all class sessions, including field study excursions, internship meetings, scheduled rehearsals, and all tests and exams. Attendance will be taken for every class. If a student misses more than two classes without an excuse, the final grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (for example, A- to B+) for every additional unexcused absence.

Excused absences are permitted only when:

- 1) a student is ill (health issues),
- 2) when class is held on a recognized religious holiday traditionally observed by the particular student, or
- 3) in the case of a grave incident affecting family members;
- 4) Exceptions may be made for conflicting academic commitments, but only in writing and only well in advance of missed class time.

Please refer to IES Vienna Attendance Policy for details on how to get your absences excused.

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CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1	Idea of this course Organization of this course Course requirements Excursions Notion and concept of international organizations Do international organizations affect your personal life? Ideological and political positions towards international organization Organizations based in Vienna (UN, IAEA, UNIDO, OPEC, etc.)	Oral presentations of issues discussed. Texts in Moodle
Week 2	Categories : intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (IGOs and NGOs) Differences Reasons for their establishment Case study: EU Crisis Management Fiscal Crisis	Oral presentations of issues discussed Texts in Moodle
Week 3	NGOs Profit-making (TNCs) : positive and negative aspects IT&T and other cases Non-profit making (Greenpeace, Amnesty International , Red Cross)	Oral presentations of issues discussed Texts in Moodle: Fischer, <i>Transnational Corporations</i>
Week 4	IGOs Definition, Categories, structure, membership Membership: acquisition and termination,, decision making, dissolution, case studies (Bernadotte et al.) International Legal Personality of IGOs, Financing of IGOs Language issues	Oral presentations of issues discussed Texts in Moodle
Week 5	The League of Nations, establishment, structure, evaluation	Oral presentations of issues discussed Texts in Moodle on Syrian crisis

	The United Nations, principles establishment, structure, voting procedure, membership, current problems	
Week 6	Visit to UN Principles of UN OPEC: establishment, structure	Oral presentations of issues discussed Texts in Moodle
Week 7	The World Trade Organization (WTO) Structure, principles, the present “trade war”	Oral presentations of issues discussed Texts in Moodle
Week 8	Types of economic organizations: free trade zones, custom unions, internal market etc. Case studies The European Union, history, structure, crisis management	Oral presentations of issues discussed Texts in Moodle
Week 9	The European Union Case studies (Brexit, etc.)	Oral presentations of issues discussed Texts in Moodle
Week 10	Principles and values of EU Recapitulation of issues discussed	Oral presentations of issues discussed Texts in Moodle
Week 11	Final Exam	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

Mandatory trip to UN in November (date to be announced shortly)

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Texts in Moodle; Articles on specific organizations in: Rudolf Bernhardt (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Public International Law*, 4 vols. (Amsterdam 1996-2002);
- Derek Bowett, *The Law of International Institutions* (London, 5th ed. 2000 individual chapters tba.);
- internet home pages of international organizations
- hand-outs distributed in class;

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Peter Fischer, *European Law* (3rd ed. Zilina 2011)
- Henry Schermers, *International Institutional Law* (4th ed. Alphen an den Rijn 2000)
- Peter Fischer, *Free Trade Areas*, *Encyclopedia*, Vol. I, p. 473.



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