

**Sierra Nevada College**  
**Department of Business**  
**Syllabus**  
**INTL 415 International Organizations**  
**INDEPENDENT STUDY**  
*Semester: Spring 2014*

**General Information:**

**Faculty:** Mary L. Lewellen, Associate Professor  
**Telephone:** Mobile –703-585-7454; Home -- 775-849-3721  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday 8:00 – 14:00  
**Office Location:** TCES 217  
**E-Mail:** [mlewellen@sierranevada.edu](mailto:mlewellen@sierranevada.edu)  
**Class Schedule:** Per our agreement – minimum of one hour per week  
**Credit:** 3 hours  
**Required Texts:** International Organizations: The Politics, Law, Practice  
Ian Hurd, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 978-0-521-14737-8  
International Organizations: Principles and Issues (7th Edition) by A.  
LeRoy Bennett and James K. Oliver  
Journal of Foreign Affairs (semi-monthly) published by Council on  
Foreign Affairs

**Course Description:** This course explores the increasingly important roles played by public international organizations, including the United Nations, multi-nation organizations, e.g., European Union, international financial organization, regional groups and alliances, non-governmental organizations, etc., in international affairs and their impact on global business.<sup>1</sup>

**Course Objectives:** “From this course, students will develop an understanding of the field of International Organizations. They will understand the evolution of international organizations as well as their roles, processes and functions in the contemporary world. Students will explore several organizations in greater depth and analyze how international and regional organizations are meeting the challenges posed by such developments as the end of the cold war, terrorism and globalization of business.” (Tan)

**Course Requirements and Methods of Evaluation:**

**Instructional Strategies:** This class will use reading assignments, projects, case studies, reports, and discussions to teach course concepts and materials. *Students may be called on at*

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<sup>1</sup> The course structure is based in part on the syllabus of the International Organization course taught by Prof. Paige Johnson Tan at University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Many of the assignments included, i.e., map test, op-ed, are included in that course.

*random to lead and present the class reading(s) for the day. If the student is not prepared to lead the discussion and/or present the reading, he/she will receive a ZERO for the day's work.*

### **Approximate Timetable and Schedule of Activities:**

The order of topics, tests, assignments, etc. is presented in this syllabus. Every effort will be made to stay on scheduled with the syllabus. However, the professor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus as the semester progresses and the particular needs of the independent study emerge. These changes will be announced in our weekly meeting. It is the responsibility of the individual student to stay informed about any changes in topic order, tests dates, etc.

### **Exams:**

There are three exams worth a total of **300 points, including the final exam..** The exam questions will be short answer, problem-solving, and/or essay. The final exam will be cumulative. If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero if you do not have an excused absence. If you have an excused absence, the final exam will serve as the makeup.

Exam 1 (100 points)  
Exam 2 (100 points)  
Final Exam (100 points)

### **Independent Study Discussions:**

**100 total points** will be based on your participation in our group discussion. We learn by being actively involved and engaged, and I therefore expect you to be prepared. Beyond the assigned readings, I expect you to stay informed about current events. Thus, each week will include a "class discussion on current topics". You should listen, read, and/or watch the news to ensure that you are prepared to discuss current topics relevant to International Organizations and their work.

Class participation grades will be assigned based on the following criteria:

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|-----------|--|
| A: 90-100 | Student is actively engaged in every class. Answers multiple questions each class. Excels at answering the harder questions. Always prepared. All homework completed.  |
| B: 80-89  | Student frequently participates in class, but does not excel every class. Answers many questions; sometimes answers the harder questions. Prepared most of the time, but not always. Performance is good, but not consistently excellent. Most homework completed. |

- C: 70-79                      Student attends class and answers some questions, but performance is not consistent. Student is engaged in some classes and disengaged in others. Student answers correctly most questions I ask, but does little beyond that. Student knows the basics from the CPAs, but cannot go beyond that. Approximately half of the homework completed.
- D: 60-69                      Student attends class. Only answers questions that I ask. Student pays attention in class, but reluctantly participates. Student seldom volunteers to answer questions. Student is present in class, but rather passive. Less than half of the homework completed.
- F: < 60                        Student does not attend all classes. Seldom answers questions correctly even when asked. Comes to class unprepared to answer the basic questions from the CPAs. Seldom volunteers for anything, very passive, sometimes disruptive behavior. Usually seems to be present only in body, but not in mind and spirit. Takes notes and hopes that he/she will not have to speak. Less than half of the homework completed.

**Homework:** Homework will be graded on a pass/fail basis. All homework must be submitted on the date it is due or you will receive a failing grade for that week's homework assignments. Given your exams will have a strong degree of correlation to materials included in the homework, you should endeavor to complete all assigned work on a timely basis. Your overall grade for your homework assignments is included in your class participation grade as noted above.

**Negotiation.** You will write a memo to your instructor (who will serve as your country's chief negotiator) from your country's Foreign Ministry (State Department) or the head of the International Organization. The paper should discuss your nation's (or IO's) top four or five priorities for the negotiation and explain why, in relation to the country's foreign policy or other factors, those priorities are the most important. Background information about the country should only be included insofar as it contributes to elucidating your priorities and the reasons for them. The paper may additionally discuss the your planned strategy or tactics for the negotiation itself. How do you plan to get what you want? Which countries will be your natural allies?

This paper should be 8-10 double-spaced pages in length. The paper is worth **200 points**. This assignment is more demanding than students tend to believe, so I encourage you to get started early.

**Research paper:** The purpose of this assignment is to help you to develop your knowledge and outlook on a specific issue of significance within the topic in the field of International Organizations. The paper should be about 10-12 pages in length (no fewer than ten and no more than fourteen). This assignment is worth **200 points**.

### **Grading:**

The achievement of course objectives will be assessed as follows:

Attendance, Discussions, and Attitude	100
Mid-terms (2)	200
Final Exam	100
Negotiation Paper	200
Research Paper	200
Total Possible Points	<u>800</u>

The student's final grade will be based upon the following scale:

94-100%	A
90 – 93%	A-
84 – 89%	B
80 – 83%	B-
74 – 79%	C
70 – 73%	C-
64 – 69%	D
Below 64	F

### **Class Assumptions:**

1. The student is serious about pursuit of educational goals, degree, and classes at Sierra Nevada College, and it is their top priority over any other professional and personal commitments, including interpersonal relations, skiing or snowboarding, extracurricular activities, and employment.
2. The student is knowledgeable about using the Internet, in class technology tools, and the library to research specific information required in the fulfillment of the course requirements.
3. The student has the knowledge designated as prerequisite to take this class and is competent in Microsoft Office.
4. The student is responsible for all of the material in textbooks, assignments due, and any material covered in class lectures, presentations, case-studies, and discussions.

### **Assignments:**

Papers are due at the start of class on the date listed on the syllabus. Each twenty-four hours that a paper is late will result in a penalty of one letter grade. ***Late papers must be submitted by e-mail and must receive confirmation of receipt from the instructor to be considered "turned in." For your protection, submit your paper from an e-mail account which will keep a record of your outgoing e-mail. With this, you could demonstrate a true attempt to submit the paper***

INTL 415 International Organizations  
Spring 2014

*that somehow disappears into the electronic ether. Do not submit papers to the instructor's faculty snail mailbox, the department secretary, or under the instructor's office door. After submitting papers electronically, students should bring a print-out of the late assignment to the next class meeting.* Late assignments will not be graded on the same schedule as assignments submitted on time. Under no circumstances should students miss class to complete an assignment.

### **Written Work and Presentations Requirements:**

All written requirements—assignments, projects, papers, etc.,--MUST be typed in double space. Any assignment that is NOT typed will NOT be graded. All written work submitted for grading must be **original** copy. Note: your instructor will request that all of your papers be submitted through "Turnitin" so please make sure you have footnoted all materials appropriately. All written work will become the property of the professor. Students wishing to retain a copy of the assignment should make a copy prior to submitting the work for grading. All work, assignments, and other requirements submitted for grading must be of professional quality and in a folder or binder. Students will be expected to use spell-check on all work submitted. All work submitted for grading will be returned to the student for a brief period in the class for the student's review and information. The written work and examinations will be returned only to the student named on the work.

Substitution or extra credit will NOT be allowed for assignments not submitted on the scheduled or due date. Assignments may be turned in early. Students are urged to jointly and collaboratively work together on case study analysis, team projects, and assignments. Details of all assignments and projects will be thoroughly explained in the syllabus or in subsequent attachments.

### **Prim Library Resources**

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

### **Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism**

#### **The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with

INTL 415 International Organizations  
Spring 2014

members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

### **Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code**

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

A written statement of the official policies, procedures, and processes related to Academic Honesty/Plagiarism can be found in the Student's Handbook/University Catalog. It is critical that students understand that many of the assignments in this class will be done as team projects. As such, EACH student on the team is responsible for ensuring that the academic honesty/plagiarism policies are adhered to on all assignments. Students are expected to submit original work for all assignments. Students will be required to submit all written papers/presentations electronically through [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) using course codes provided by the instructor.

### **ADA Accommodations:**

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations.

INTL 415 International Organizations  
Spring 2014

Possible accommodations for disabilities include extended testing time, test-taking in isolation, computer use for test taking, tape recorders in class, study skills counseling, and share note-taking in classes. If a student wishes to request an accommodation in one of his or her classes, the student should contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831 1314 x7475, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu) or go to the OASIS offices on the 3rd floor of Prim Library, within the first week of the semester.

### **The SNC E-Mail System:**

The SNC e-mail system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college e-mail accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC e-mail account.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment/Readings Due</b>
Week 1	Review of the Syllabus Course Organization	Syllabus
	Homework: Define or identify the following terms and give an example of each to extent required.	
	IO PIO ASEAN NAFTA AU SADC NATO UNICEF	NGO ICC ECOWAS OECD PVO SACU EU UNHCR
		CBO ICJ Mercosur DAC INGO COMESA WFP IBRD
	Library Research – Identification of Possible Research Topics	
Week 2	Introduction to International Organizations	Chapter 1
Week 3	A Guide to the Study of Intl Organizations Discussion – Current Topics Sign-Up for Research Paper topic Sign-Up for IO topic	Chapter 2
Week 4	The World Trade Organization Discussion – Current Topics	Chapter 3
Week 5	The IMF and the World Bank	Chapter 4
	<b>Mid-Term Exam 1</b>	
Week 6	The United Nations I: Law and Administration	Chapter 5
INTL 415 International Organizations Spring 2014		



	Discussion – Current Topics	
Week 7	The UN II: International Peace & Security Discussion – Current Topics	Chapter 6
Week 8	Research Paper Due, Discussion Current Topics	
Week 9	The International Labor Organization Discussion -- Current Topics	Chapter 7
Week 10	The International Court of Justice Discussion -- Current Topics	Chapter 8
Week 11	The International Criminal Court Discussion -- Current Topics	Chapter 9
Week 12	Regional Organizations	Chapter 10
Week 13	Discussion – Current Topics Negotiation Paper Due	
Week 14	Conclusion	Chapter 11
Week 15	<b>Mid-Term 2</b>	
May 13	Final Exam (take home)	

**Sierra Nevada College  
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INTL 415 – International Organizations  
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**ILLUSTRATIVE RESEARCH TOPICS**

**SUGGESTED TOPICS**

1. Strengths and weaknesses of past UN Secretary Generals
2. The pros and cons of the UN's recent performance in:
  - a. Somalia
  - b. Darfur
  - c. Zimbabwe
  - d. Iraq
  - e. Iran
  - f. Pakistan
  - g. Burma
  - h. Syria
3. The effectiveness of a regional political organization or sub-organization such as:
  - a. SADC
  - b. IGAD
  - c. ASEAN
  - d. ECOWAS
3. Strengths and weaknesses of an international non-governmental organization working in humanitarian assistance such as:
  - a. World Vision
  - b. CARE
  - c. OXFAM
  - d. CRS
  - e. Red Cross
  - f. Medicins San Frontieres
  - g. Mercy Corps
4. The roles of various international organizations in peacekeeping
5. Strengths and weaknesses of the IMF and IBRD
6. The functions and purposes of the World Court and the International Criminal Court

7. The overlapping functions of international development organizations
8. International environmental protection organizations – can they be successful?
9. The various functions of international business organizations
10. Public International Organizations – do they have a role to play?
11. Compare and contrast regional integration in a regional organization of your choice and in the European Union. Explain the reasons for similarities and differences you observe.
12. Should the UN have its own military force to respond to crises around the globe?
13. How is an organization of your choice approaching contemporary challenges like the end of the Cold War, terrorism, and/or globalization? (Remember, this question requires analysis and not just description.)
14. Write a memo to the Secretary-General of the United Nations advising him on how to deal with a contemporary international challenge. (Your memo should have a short executive summary at the beginning. The Secretary-General is a busy man.)
15. What is the US' position on the International Criminal Court? Do you agree or disagree? How does the existence of the International Criminal Court fit within the overall development of international organizations?
16. Other topics (to be approved in advance by the professor)