DESCRIPTION: The international system is often characterized as anarchic and scholars focus on the interactions between nation states. However, since World War II, the number of international organizations has increased considerably and international organizations have become more prominent players in the international arena. Why do international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, or the European Union exist? What role do they play in solving global problems?

In this course we will analyze these questions from a theoretical as well as practical perspective. We shall begin with a broad overview of the characterization of the international system, incentives for cooperation under anarchy, controversies surrounding IOs in the context of international relations theory, the success of international organizations in solving global problems as well as the major challenges IOs face in meeting their mandate. We shall then apply our knowledge to the analysis of different international organizations with a focus of the challenges of United Nations humanitarian intervention.

PREREQUISITES: This is an advanced undergraduate course and correspondingly the reading load is not light. Students should have taken at least the introduction course to international relations and be familiar with the major international relations theories.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Michael Plouffe
Office: SSB 351
Office Hours: Wednesday 9-10am
E-mail: mplouffe@ucsd.edu

David Straszheim
Office: SSB 348
Office Hours: Thursday 1-2pm
E-mail: dstraszheim@ucsd.edu

REQUIREMENTS: The course requirements consist of a midterm exam (30%), a final exam (45%), and an essay (25%).

Exams. The exams will consist of identification, short-answer, and essay questions, and will be administered in class. The final will be comprehensive. You must take both exams to receive a passing grade for the course. The format for both exams will be the same. Dates of the exams:

Midterm exam: October 18th, 8-8:50am, LEDDN AUD

Updated: September 25, 2010
Written Essay. You are required to write an essay on an international organization. The essay should briefly describe the international organizations and its goals. You should then make an argument about why the international organization is achieving or not achieving its stated goal. Specifics will be given in class on October 27th, and the essay will be due at the beginning of class on November 10th. Grading will be based on the clarity of the position taken, concise writing, well reasoned support of the argument, and inclusion of concepts from the relevant literature covered in the course. Late essays will incur a 20% grade penalty for each day after the deadline. The essay should be typed, double-spaced, with at least 1-inched margins all around, typeface of at least 11 point, and 5-8 pages in length.

Missed Exams. Essay extensions and make-up exams will only be given under valid, documented, and extreme circumstances. If you know you will miss an exam for a legitimate reason, notify me at least a week in advance. E-mail is perfectly acceptable. If you are not able to contact me in advance, you must do so as soon as possible. I am a reasonable person and will work with you to resolve reasonable problems. It is your responsibility to arrange with me to take a make-up exam.

Attendance. Class attendance will be important for your performance on the exams. Much of the material that we shall cover may not be in the readings. Taking notes will help you structure the substance.

Academic Integrity. You are expected to do your own work. Students caught cheating on exams or plagiarizing their essays will receive a failing grade for the course and will be turned over to the dean of their college for administrative sanctions.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Grade Appeals. You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. This includes clarity of thought, knowledge of the material, composition, spelling, and grammar. Students who believe to have received an incorrect grade or a grade based on non-academic criteria should formally appeal it to me. The appeal will consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents a reasoned argument that the grade fits the appeal criteria listed above.

READINGS: The course readings will be drawn from a number of books and articles. The following required books are available for purchase at the bookstore:


The book will also be on reserve at the SSH library. All other readings will be available on WebCT.

Updated: September 25, 2010
SCHEDULE: The weekly schedule is subject to change. Make sure to check the page numbers that you are required to read; for most of the articles you are only required to read a fraction of the text!

PART 1: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Friday, September 24th: Course Introduction
- Diehl, pp. 3-8 (Diehl).

Monday, September 27th: What are international organizations?

Wednesday, September 29th: Why is collective action so difficult?

Friday, October 1st: Why do states act through international organizations?
- Diehl, pp. 25-55 (Abbott/Snidal)

PART 2: THE DESIGN OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Monday, October 4th: How do states decide in international organizations?
- Diehl, pp. 111-126 (Cox and Jacobson)
- Diehl, pp. 144-164 (O’Neill)

Wednesday, October 6th: What is the role of the IO agent in the decision-making process?

PART 3: EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Friday, October 8th: Do international organizations matter? A general debate.
- Diehl, pp. 60-91 (Mearsheimer).

Monday, October 11th: Do international organizations promote democracy?

Wednesday, October 13th: Do international organizations promote peace?

Updated: September 25, 2010
Part 4: Nongovernmental Organizations

Friday, October 15th: What is the role of NGOs in international relations?

Monday, October 18th: MIDTERM EXAMINATION
- No readings

Wednesday, October 20th: NO CLASS (professor at conference)
- No readings.

Friday, October 22nd: NO CLASS (professor at conference)
- No readings.

Part 5: International Challenges

Monday, October 25th: Managing international trade I: Multilateralism

Wednesday, October 27th: ESSAY RESEARCH HELP
- No readings.

Friday, October 29th: Managing international trade II: Regionalism
- Diehl, pp. 330-373 (Mansfield and Milner).

Monday, November 1st: Managing the international financial system
- IMF, 2006: What is the IMF?

Wednesday, November 3rd: Providing economic development
- Diehl, pp. 290-311 (Neumayer)

Friday, November 5th: Protecting the environment
- Diehl, pp. 399-414 (Najam)

Monday, November 8th: A multipurpose organization: the European Union

Part 6: Collective Security and Humanitarian Intervention

Updated: September 25, 2010
Wednesday, November 10th: Why is Humanitarian Intervention Important I?
   – No readings

Friday, November 12th: Why is Humanitarian Intervention Important II?
   – No readings.

Monday, November 15th: Why is Humanitarian Intervention Important III?
   – No readings.

Wednesday, November 17th: The Concept of Collective Security
   – Diehl, pp. 197-227 (Miller).

Friday, November 19th: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Monday, November 22th: The United Nations
   – The United Nations Millennium Declaration

Wednesday, November 24th: UN peacekeeping
   – Diehl, pp. 242-270 (Diehl)

Friday, November 26th: THANKSGIVING
   – No readings

Monday, November 29th: The Rwanda Genocide I: History

Wednesday, December 1st: The Rwanda Genocide III: The role of the UN and its member states

Friday, December 3rd: Final Review
   – No readings.

Monday, December 6th: FINAL EXAMINATION
   – No readings.