

Course title: Organisations in Globalisation

Course code: POL 313E

Teacher responsible: Alison Woodward

Course description:

A significant feature of globalisation is the proliferation of cross-border organisations with a substantial impact on governance. These organisations are involved in setting the terms of the global agenda and making rules. They exercise power but their role as players in a legitimate democratic process is increasingly the subject of debate. Are these organisations an expression of the interests of global citizens or an expression of the interests of the most powerful economies? How can they be made more accountable and efficient? Challenges and scandals related to their nature as bureaucratic organisations keep these organisations in the top of international news. This course focuses on the variety of organisations beyond the UN family that are involved in global governance. It includes both governmental and non-governmental actors, with an especial eye to their nature as ‘organisations’, and the diffusion of practices of governance between different types of organisations.

Course objectives:

This course aims to advance student knowledge of the types of organisations involved in global governance through theoretical insights from the sociology of organisation and political science.

- Analyzes role different types of organisations play in the globalisation process.
- Provides theoretical frames for understanding differences and similarities between global organisations
- Builds knowledge on the development of political and civil society governmental and non-governmental organisations and their role in governance.
- Provides insights into Policy process and influence (how these organisations interact to affect the policy process and agendas)

Students develop abilities and skills in

- Critical analysis of contrasting arguments and debates.
- Qualitative bureaucratic analysis through projects on organisations with representation in Brussels thanks to empirical student projects on the problems of transnational organisations and their influence on the political process.
- Using and evaluating data from a variety of sources (web, documents, interviews, academic articles)
- Presentation technique and negotiation through policy debate simulation

Grade weighting scheme:

Presentation 10%, 5 reflection papers 25%, Mid Term 10% Final 10% Participation and policy simulation 15%

Course material (handbooks, readers, readings, newspapers, magazines) and references:

Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics* Ithaca: Cornell University Press 2004.

Karns, Margaret P. and Karen A. Mingst *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance* Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner 2004.

Selection of articles (the journals *Foreign Affairs*, *Global Society*, *Global Governance*, *International Organization* are available electronically through the VUB library).