

Vesalius College

Course description

Course title: The United Nations Organization and Global Governance

Course code: POL 314 / POL 314E

Teacher responsible: Huysseune, Michel

Course description:

This course studies the United Nations organizations as the protagonist in processes of conflict control, dispute settlement and the maintenance of international peace and security. The historical background and genesis of the United Nations are examined, as well as the UN machinery for diplomatic and juridical dispute settlement and conflict resolution. The course places a special emphasis on the UN's role in the organization of a framework for global governance, especially in the field of sustainable development, and on its role in addressing the security challenges of the 21st century.

Course objectives:

The overall objective of the course is to provide understanding of the United Nations as a key element in the evolving structure of global governance. The course has three aims: an understanding of the workings of an institution, policy analysis and policy prescription. Students will be guided to design a theoretical framework for analysing the impact of U.N. initiatives and involvements. Students will further develop their analytical skills in drafting practical policy recommendations for solving specific policy problems.

At the end of the course, students should be acquainted with

- the history and the institutions of the UN
- theories on the development of the UN
- the role of the UN in global governance
- UN policies

They should be able to develop research a) in which the global governance processes and the role of the UN are analyzed from a theoretical perspective, b) in which UN policies are analyzed and assessed.

Grade weighting scheme:

- Presence and participation in classes: 10 %
- First written assignment: 20%
- Midterm Exam: 25 %
- Second written assignment: 20 %
- Final Exam: 25 %

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

Handbooks: Sven Bernhard Gareis & Johannes Varwick, *The United Nations. An Introduction*, Houndsmill, Palgrave, 2005.