

Re-Inventing the United Nations Grinnell College

George E. Moose, Visiting Professor
(202) 285-3345
gmoose9161@aol.com

Winter 2005
Tuesdays: 10:00 to 11:50 a.m.
Thursdays: 10:00 to 10:50 a.m.

There is broad agreement that, despite more than twenty years of concerted reform efforts, the United Nations – including the many agencies that comprise what is known as the UN system – is not meeting expectations in areas critical to the management of global affairs. Even critics of the UN acknowledge that with increasing global interdependence there is a growing need for effective multilateral institutions to facilitate the development of collective approaches to meeting global challenges. At the same time, even defenders of the UN admit that the current structures are inadequate to the task. The purpose of this course is to explore what must be done to develop that next generation of international institutions, capable of addressing the global problems of the future. Among the questions to be addressed are the following:

- What are the key foreign policy goals that can only be advanced through collective international action?
- How well are existing international institutions performing in facilitating such action in these critical areas?
- What changes would be required to make the international system (or relevant elements of it) more effective vehicles for developing and implementing global policies?
- What is the process by which change and reform could be carried out?

Course Requirements

Class Participation: This is a seminar. Attendance and participation in class discussions will be key factors for successful completion of the course. The class will meet six times; the proposed schedule is set out below.

Papers: Each student will prepare two short papers, three-to-five double-spaced pages each.

- In the first, students will identify an international issue that he/she believes merits priority multilateral action; provide a justification for the selection; and explain why the issue can best/only be addressed within a multilateral framework. Students will also identify and briefly describe the principal international agencies involved in dealing with the issue selected. **Due February 14.**
- In the second short paper, students will describe briefly what they believe are the three key problems or challenges that confront the international system in addressing the issue which he/she identified in the first paper. **Due February 21.**

Two-Credit Students

- **Students taking the course for two credits will submit a third paper**, seven double-spaced pages in length. The paper will take the form of a memorandum addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan recommending three actions or initiatives that could be taken to enhance the U.N.'s effectiveness in dealing with the selected issue. If time permits, students may also be asked to present their proposals to the class. **Due February 28.**

Resources

There are two principal texts for this course:

1. A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility, Report of the U.N. Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, available online at www.un.org or www.un_globalsecurity.org/panel.asp
2. Managing Global Issues: Lessons Learned, edited by P. J. Simmons and Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, The Carnegie Endowment, Brookings Institution Press, 2001, available for purchase in the College Bookstore

Other required readings listed below are available online.

Additional resources can be found at the following web sites:

The Briefing Book on International Organizations in Geneva, published by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, available on line at www.genevabriefingbook.com

The Charter of the United Nations, available on line at www.un.org/aboutun/charter/index.html

www.un.org	Official UN site with links to all UN organizations and agencies
www.unwire.org	Daily newsletter on UN activities with links to other sites
www.unfoundation.org	
www.aei.org	American Enterprise Institute site
www.brookings.org	Brookings Institution
www.heritage.org	Heritage Foundation
www.ceip.org	Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
www.state.org/p/io	State Department's Bureau of International Organization Affairs with links to the U.S. Missions in New York and Geneva and other sites
www.whitehouse.gov	
www.library.yale.edu/UN/	Yale University's United Nations Scholars Workstation, with links to other sites
www.wfa.org	World Federalist Association, with links to other sites

Schedule

Tuesday, February 8

- **Part I:** A brief review of the history of the U.N. and the international system and an overview of its structure.
- **Part II:** A discussion of the key challenges that confront the system of multilateral organizations at the beginning of the 21st century.

Readings:

A More Secure World

- Forward by Kofi Annan, p. vii
- Transmittal letter, p. xi
- Synopsis, pp. 1-6
- Part I: pp. 7-19

Simmons and Oudraat

- Forward, pp. vii-viii
- Introduction, pp. 3-22

Thursday, February 10: Governance Issues in Multilateral Organizations

An overview of governance issues in multilateral organizations, to include an examination of the rights and responsibilities of members; burden sharing; democracy and democracy deficits in international governance; the role of civil society and NGOs; and UN bureaucracies.

Readings:

Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, "The Politics, Power and Pathologies of International Organizations," *International Organization* 53, 1999, pp. 699-732 (available on line)

Suggested Readings:

Robert Keohane, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work," *Foreign Policy*, Spring, 1998

Jesse Helms, "Saving the UN," *Foreign Affairs*, September 1996, pp. 2-17

Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, "The human Rights Panel Needs Some Entry Standards," available on line at www.aei.org/scholars (under Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, articles)

Michael J. Glennon, "Why the Security Council Failed," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2003, pp. 16-35

Tuesday, February 15:

Part I: Intra-State Conflicts and Peace Operations

Readings:

Timothy D. Sisk, "Violence: Intra-State Conflict," in Simmons and Oudraat, pp. 508-533

A More Secure World, Part 2, Section IV, "Conflict Between and Among States," pp. 59-74

Part II: Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Readings:

Thomas Bernauer, "Warfare: Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons," in Simmons and Oudraat, Chapter 16, pp. 610-662

A More Secure World, Part 2, Section V, Nuclear, Radiological, Chemical and Biological Weapons, pp. 39-55

Thursday, February 17: International Health: HIV/AIDS

Readings:

Octavio Gomes-Dantes, "Health," in Simmons and Oudraat, pp. 392-423

A More Secure World, Part 2, Section III, pp. 21-30

Suggested Readings:

Why Health is Important to U.S. Foreign Policy, Council on Foreign Relations, pp. 1-17

February 22

Part I: Human Rights

Readings:

A More Secure World, Part 4, Section XVIII, The Commission on Human Rights

Dinah L. Shelton, "Human Rights," in Managing Global Issues, edited by P. J. Simmons and Chantal De Jonge Oudraat, Brookings Institution Press, 2001, pp. 424-468

"The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights," in The Briefing Book on International Organizations in Geneva, available on line at

www.genevabriefingbook.com/chapters/unhchr.html

Suggested Readings:

Ruth Wedgwood, "Fiddling in Rome: America and the International Criminal Court," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2001

Marc Grossman, "The U.S. Decision to Withdraw from the ICC," available at www.state.gov/p

Part II: Terrorism and International Crime

Readings:

Phil Williams, "Crime, Illicit Markets, and Money Laundering," in Simmons and Oudraat, pp. 75-105

A More Secure World, Part 2, Sections VI and VII, pp. 47-55

Marc L. Ostfield, "Bio-terrorism as a Foreign Policy Issue," *SAIS Review*, vol. XXIV, No. 1, Winter-Spring 2004, 00, 131-145

Thursday, February 24: Student Presentations and Concluding Observations

Readings:

Simmons and Oudraat, "From Agenda to Accord," in Simmons and Oudraat, Chapter 17, pp. 663-690

A More Secure World, Part 4, "A More Effective United Nations for the Twenty-first Century," pp. 75-93

GMoose: 01/17/2005