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:


Other required readings listed below are available online.

Additional resources can be found at the following web sites:


- [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) Official UN site with links to all UN organizations and agencies
- [www.unwire.org](http://www.unwire.org) Daily newsletter on UN activities with links to other sites
- [www.unfoundation.org](http://www.unfoundation.org)
- [www.aei.org](http://www.aei.org) American Enterprise Institute site
- [www.brookings.org](http://www.brookings.org) Brookings Institution
- [www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org) Heritage Foundation
- [www.state.org/p/io](http://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](http://www.whitehouse.gov)
- [www.library.yale.edu/UN/](http://www.library.yale.edu/UN/) Yale University’s United Nations Scholars Workstation, with links to other sites
- [www.wfa.org](http://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:**


*Suggested Readings:*


Jesse Helms, “Saving the UN,” Foreign Affairs, September 1996, pp. 2-17


**Tuesday, February 15:**

**Part I: Intra-State Conflicts and Peace Operations**

*Readings:*


**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


Suggested Readings:

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


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


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


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