A. Course Description:

This course will focus upon the legal and policy issues raised by the development and functioning of intergovernmental organizations. It will encompass a course in United Nations law and a comparative study of international organizations organized over 14 weeks. Issues relating to rulemaking, trusteeship, human rights, dispute settlement, and enforcement will be central to this course. Parallel with the discussion of these themes the focus each week will be upon a different organization, from a list including the UN, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Association (WIPO), the European Union (EU), the African Union (EU) and the Organization of American States (OAS). It will consider, among other topics, the privileges and immunities of international organizations, relations between the United States and the United Nations, the past role of and future composition of the Security Council, and the recent restructuring of the U.N. human rights mechanisms.

B. Texts:


A number of handouts will also be assigned and made available on the class website

C. Course Requirements and Grading

The first few class sessions will consist largely of lectures and class discussion about the nature, structure and functioning of international law and organization in general. At this stage, the goal will be to ensure that all students in the course have a basic grasp of what international law is, and of how it is created and develops. After the first week or so we will shift to a more seminar-like format emphasizing student participation.

In addition to the assigned readings, the class will discuss topics from current events relating to the law of international organizations. Every student is expected to contribute to this discussion by briefly researching and presenting at least one such topic to the class. Topics should be defined ahead of time in consultation with me. Everyone will be expected to contribute to the discussion in class. *Students will be evaluated and graded on the basis of their overall contribution to discussions as well as on the basis of the presentations, and of course the final exam.*

Attendance and participation are absolutely essential. Unexcused absences will result in a reduced grade or failure according to the circumstances.
Topics and Readings

I. The History of International Law and Organization: A Basic Framework

Frederic L. Kirgis, Jr., *Enforcing International Law*, The American Society of International Law Newsletter, January 1996

**A First Look at the United Nations**
Read: The UN Charter
Consider what are the key aspects of the structure, and of the mission of the United Nations? Is the mechanism adequate to achieve the mission?
Text pages 1-21 (on the Legal Status of International Organizations)

II. Voting Procedures in International Organizations

**Voting and Decision-Making**
Text pp. 188-237

**The Bretton Woods Institutions: The World Bank and IMF**
Text pages 295-302, 564-575

III. Membership, Representation & Withdrawal

Text pp. 137-158, 176-187

**Withdrawal or Withholding of Financial Support**
Text pp. 238-257

**UNESCO**
Text pages 257-273, 576-581

Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, Adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 19 October 2005


IV. International Technical Cooperation and the Theory of Functionalism; Critiques of International Organizations Including Charges of Politicization

WIPO and the ICC as Technical and Political Organizations Respectively


News Articles on UN Critiques
- Deaglán de Bréadún, Despite its many flaws and failings, the world still needs the UN, THE IRISH TIMES, September 18, 2006, p. 14.
- Jonah Goldberg, U.N. is unfit to fix things in Middle East, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH (Ohio), July 26, 2006 at Pg. 11A.

V. Rule Making Powers

Text pp. 274-275, 333-387

The UN Security Council and General Assembly


The Uniting for Peace Resolution, UNGA Res. 377 (V) A (1950), 3 November 1950

VI. The European Union: Regional Supranationalism


Rights and Immunities of International Organizations and the Duties of Host Countries

Text pages 54-68, 79-92, 104-121

VII. Dispute Settlement and Interpretative Powers

Text pp. 415-443,

The International Court of Justice
Text pp. 481-521
ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, 8 July 1996


VIII. Enforcement Techniques
Text pp. 522-564, 581-600, 617-638, 642-688

**The International Labour Organization (ILO)**

Text pages 274-295, 388-414

IX. Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, Trusteeship & Hegemonic International Law
Text pp. 716-721, 731-785, 841-851

**Hegemonic International Law & Limits Upon the Supranational Powers of the Security Council**
Kofi A. Annan, Speech at Truman Library (US) 11 December 2006.

X. Sovereignty and Intervention: Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect
Text pp. 852-890

**The NATO Bombing of Serbia – US Intervention in Iraq—UN Response to Atrocities in Darfur**
Kofi A. Annan, Two concepts of sovereignty, THE ECONOMIST, 18 September 1999

XI. Protecting Human Rights Through International Organization (I)

**Development of the UN Charter-Based Human Rights System and the New UN Human Rights Council**
XII. Protecting Human Rights Through International Organization (II)

The European Human Rights System

Text pp. 1030-1039, 1068-1084


The African Union and Human Rights (Topic)


Materials on the New African Court of Human Rights:

- African [Banjul] Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Exerpts)
- PanAfrica; AU Court of Justice to Operate Soon, AFRICA NEWS, January 25, 2006.

XIII. The WTO and the International Organization of Trade


XIV. Non-Governmental Organizations

A. Amnesty International