INTERNATIONAL PEACE, SECURITY, AND THE ROLE OF MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS

Course Headed by Dr. Bruce Jones (Director) and Dr. Christine Wing (Senior Fellow) of the Center on International Cooperation at NYU

Office Hours: Dr. Wing will have office hours on the afternoon of the 21st and Dr. Jones will have them on the afternoon of the 22nd, located at CIC offices (418 Lafayette Street, Suite 543)

Overview. On major issues of peace and security - from conflict management to counter-terrorism to nuclear proliferation - international organizations, including the United Nations, are playing an increasingly important role. This course will introduce core concepts for understanding international peace and security institutions: the way they have evolved; the role of the US and other major states in that evolution; the roles currently played by major international peace and security institutions, and the contemporary politics of US relations with other states within these institutions. These issues will be explored as they play out particularly in the Middle East, the Gulf, and Southwest Asia. Where appropriate, CIC staff or outside experts and policymakers with detailed knowledge of the issues addressed in the course may assist with parts of the lectures.

Course Requirements.

1. Good preparation, daily attendance, and active participation. We will be covering a large amount of material in a short period, and is essential that students keep up with the reading and attend each class. All readings not available on the web or via NYU Home will be made available through Blackboard. In addition to assigned reading, students should read the international news in at least two major US newspapers each day, as well as at least one paper from outside the US. (25%)

2. One class presentation summarizing a reading for that day, and including 3 questions for class discussion. These presentations will be scheduled on the first day of class and should be roughly 5-10 minutes in length before discussion. (25%)

3. One paper (8-10 pages), selected topics will be provided on day 1 (50%)

There are no prerequisites for the course, although it is assumed that students will bring some familiarity with international issues and the study of international affairs. If for some reason you cannot attend a class due to sickness or an emergency please let us know in advance if possible. We understand these things do happen, but missing classes without justification may result in the lowering of a final grade.
Course Structure:

**Day 1: Overview.** The course will begin with an introduction to core concepts in the study of multilateralism; and an overview of the evolution of the multilateral system as it exists now, with an emphasis on international institutions that are significantly involved in the Middle East, Gulf, and Southwest Asia. We will also schedule class presentations on this first day.

Readings: (please have readings finished for class discussion on this day)


**Day 2: State building/peace operations.** State building and Peacekeeping operations have not only seen increased relevance in both the post-Cold War and 9/11 worlds, but are also becoming interlinked in the form of ‘multidimensional’ peace operations. The emergence of this phenomenon has led to great pressure on the multilateral system’s ability to respond to civil war and failed or failing states, especially when understood in the context of the current shifting of power in international politics. We will focus on the current mechanisms for statebuilding and peacekeeping operations, keeping an eye to understanding the factors that both enable and hinder effective response. Presentations will also begin on this day.

Readings: (Please choose at least three)

Days 3: **International efforts to control nuclear weapons.** Multilateral institutions play an important role in controlling the dangers posed by nuclear weapons. We will begin with a brief overview of nuclear weapons and the challenges they pose, and will then “map” the existing set of nuclear-related institutions. We will look at the obstacles and opportunities that face several key institutions; at how the international environment shapes the ability of these institutions to function; at efforts to evaluate their effectiveness; and at how the institutions are likely to evolve.

Readings: (additional reading material may be added on day 1 of course)

**Required**

2. Joseph Cirincione et al., *Deadly Arsenal: Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Threats* (Carnegie, 2005). Pgs. 1-55 (read all sections on nuclear weapons and skim sections on chemical and biological weapons) and Appendix A: NPT Treaty Text.

**Suggested:**


**Day 4: Regional applications: how multilateral institutions function in ongoing conflicts.** In this final section, informed by the key concepts and historical lessons from previous days, we will discuss how key international institutions both shape, and are shaped by, the political dynamics that are unfolding in the Middle East, Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. How would we assess the net effect of these institutions’ involvement? What factors account for their success or failure? How does their role influence that of key states? Could they function more assertively and usefully?

Readings: (Please choose at least three)


6. Selected articles on Iran (posted on Blackboard)