

B.A Optional Course (IO 202): Introduction to the UN System

Monsoon Semester 2014

Tuesday & Thursday - 3.00 to 4.30p.m.

Room No. 112, School of International Studies

Course Teacher: Moushumi Basu

International Organizations provide an important prism for understanding the dynamics of international relations. By focusing in particular on the United Nations (UN), the course seeks to enable students to conceptually analyse the potential strengths and weaknesses of the UN system in dealing with problems of a global nature. The themes chosen for specific deliberations include a look at the UN's role in the maintenance of international peace and security, its contribution to social and economic development, the setting of norms human rights standards, and its partnerships with other international organizations (both inter-governmental and private) in tackling issues related to environment, health, organized crime, and trafficking. The course design is intended to offer students the chance to familiarize themselves with some of the pressing debates on global governance and enable them to identify the important challenges confronting the international community with regard to the problems and progress made in the field of international organization.

Evaluation: Continuous assessment based on class-room interactions, along with a mid-semester and an end semester examination.

Modules

The Need for International Organizations; 19th Century Developments; The League of Nations and the Establishment of the United Nations

- Claude, Jr. Inis L., (1971) *Swords into Plowshares: The Problems and Progress of International Organization*, 'Introduction', 4th edn. Random House, New York.
- Archer, Clive (2001), *International Organizations*, 3rd edn., Routledge :London.
- Virally, Michael (1981), 'Definition and Classification of International Organizations; A Legal Approach' in Abi-Saab, Georges, ed., *The Concept of International Organization* UNESCO, Paris, pp.50-66.

The United Nations System-Legal Framework and Structural Aspects

- Alger, Chadwick F. (2006), *The United Nations System: A Reference Handbook*, ABC-CLIO: London.
- Nicholas, H. G. (1975), 'Covenant and Charter' in *United Nations as a Political Institution*, 5th edn., Oxford University Press: London, pp.14-40.
- Luard, Evan (1994), *The United Nations : How it Works and What it Does*, 2nd edn., St. Martin's Press: New York .
- United Nations (2011), *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, United Nations, New York.

Armed Conflicts: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking and Peacebuilding

- Doyle Michael W and Sambanis, Nicholas (2007), ' Peacekeeping Operations' in Weiss, Thomas G. and Daws, Sam, ed., *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp.323-348.
- James, Alan (1990), *Peacekeeping in International Politics*, Macmillan, London.
- Karns Margaret P and Mingst, Karen A. (2005), *International Organizations : The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*, Indian edn., Viva Books , New Delhi, pp.277-324.

Meeting the Challenges of Development: Specialized Agencies of the UN

- Baehr, Peter R. and Gordenker, Leon (2005), *United Nations: Reality and Ideal* , 4th edn. Palgrave, Basingstoke, pp.125-145.
- Weiss, Thomas, et al (2005), *UN Voices : The Struggle for Development and Social Justice*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

Setting Norms and Standards in the Field of Human Rights

- Ramcharan, Bertrand (2007), ' Norms and Machinery' in Weiss, Thomas G. and Daws, Sam, ed., *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp.439-462.
- Karns Margaret P and Mingst, Karen A. (2005), *International Organizations : The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*, Indian edn., Viva Books , New Delhi, pp.424-446.

Networks and Partnerships in tackling Transnational Crime, Terrorism, Environmental Degradation, Health etc.

- Weiss, Thomas G. and Daws, Sam, ed., *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Boulden, Jane and Weiss Thomas G, ed., (2004), *Terrorism and the UN*, Indiana University Press , Bloomington, pp.151-196.

Evaluation of the UN System: Proposals for Reforms

- Smouts, Marie Claude (1999), 'United Nations Reform: A Strategy of Avoidance' in Schechter, Michael G., ed., *Innovation in Multilateralism*, Macmillan, Basingstoke, pp.29-41.
- Thakur, Ramesh, 'Reforming the United Nations : Changing with and for the times', *International Peacekeeping*, Vol.10, No. 4, Winter 2003, pp.40-61.

