

International Organisations - Economic Diplomacy

Course code: 4VG32NAK21M

Course name : International Organisations - Economic Diplomacy

Course name (Hungarian): International Organisations - Economic Diplomacy

Number of hours per semester: 2+2

Credits: 6

Fall/Spring: Spring

Language: English

Prerequisites: None.

Course type: Master

Department: [Világgazdasági Intézet](#)

Course leader: [Szent-Iványi Balázs](#)

Course description: The aim of course is to discuss the practice of international organisations and global governance in today's world economy and some related theoretical issues. The question of global governance is a key issue in international relations, and the organisations discussed in this course all represent initiatives aimed to create such arrangements in their respective issue-areas. These organisations effect international politics, economics and business, therefore anyone wishing to work in such fields needs to have a thorough understanding of their operation. Organisations such as the United Nations (and its specialised agencies), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), shall be, among others, analysed. Based on theoretical considerations on international cooperation, the operation, achievements and drawbacks of these organisations will be discussed using several case studies

Course requirements during the semester:

Examination requirements:

Assessment, grading: The final grade is composed as follows:

Four best quizzes 20 per cent

Final exam 50 per cent

Group presentation 20 per cent

Class activity + discussant 10 per cent

There will be five quizzes during the semester. These will be written at the beginning of the classes, and will be based on the reading material for that class and the previous week only. They will include a maximum of 5 short questions which can be answered in about 10 minutes. Out of the five quizzes, the four with the best results will count as part of the final grade (hence students can miss one quiz). There is no possibility to resit the quizzes.

The final exam at the end of the semester will cover all material in the readings and issues discussed in class (even if it was not covered in the readings). It will include one longer, essay-type question and shorter questions similar to those in the quizzes. Students can take the exam on any of these three dates.

Class activity points will be based on how regularly students contribute meaningfully to discussions. Class attendance sheets will be taken. Anyone missing more than 25 percent of classes (4 classes) will not pass the course. It is the responsibility of the students to arrive on time. Those who are studying abroad during the semester or having any obstacle preventing them from class participation should contact the lecturers during the first two weeks. Any excuses after the second week are not accepted.

Group presentations and class activity will be assessed using bell curve grading. Final grades are awarded according to the Faculty of Economics grading scale. Grades are non-negotiable. Please take into account that any complaints concerning the points of the final written exam (except for obvious adding mistakes) will result in a re-evaluation of the entire test.

Aims, objectives and description of the course: Date of class Topics to be discussed, readings required for the class

Week 1

3 February Topics: Introduction: concept, framework and requirements of the course. Thinking about international organisations. Guidelines for group presentations (András Tétényi)

Week 2

10 February

Topics: The concept of global governance. Theoretical approaches to international cooperation I: Liberalism, Realism, Neoliberal Institutionalism, Game Theory. Revision and practice in game theory. (Krisztina Szabó)

Reading: Karns - Mingst chapters 1 and 2 up to page 59

Week 3

17 February Topics: Theoretical approaches to international cooperation II: Functionalism, Regime Theory, Constructivism and Critical Theories. The history of international organisations (Krisztina Szabó)

Reading: Karns - Mingst remainder of chapter 2 and chapter 3

Week 4

24 February First Quiz!

Topics: Basic principles and organisation of the United Nations. The six main organs. Operation of the UN, past and present experiences. Performance of the Security Council. The UN in the 21st century. (István Kollai)

Reading: Karns - Mingst chapter 4

First presentation due: case study of how the Security Council dealt with (solved or failed to solve) a specific international (non-security related) conflict.

Week 5

3 March Topics: Specialized agencies, programs and funds of the United Nations: ILO, FAO, UNICEF, UNCTAD etc. A closer look at the WHO and the issue of global health. (István Kollai)

Reading: Karns - Mingst chapter 4

Second presentation due: case study of a UN specialised agency, how it works, what constraints it faces and how effective it is in achieving its mandated goals

Week 6

10 March Second Quiz!

Topics: Regional organisations I. Comparison with universal organisations, pros and cons.

Organisations in Europe. A closer look at NATO. (Krisztina Szabó)

Reading: Karns - Mingst Chapter 5 (until page 205)

Third presentation due: case study of a regional organisation, how it works, what constraints it faces and how effective it is in achieving its mandated goals

Week 7

17 March Topics: Regional organisations II. Organisations in Africa, Asia and Middle East. A closer look at the OECD. (István Kollai)

Reading: Karns - Mingst Chapter 5 (from page 205 - 239)

Fourth presentation due: case study of a regional organisation, how it works, what constraints it faces and how effective it is in achieving its mandated goals

Week 8

24 March Third Quiz!

Topic: Non-state actors with a special focus on international non-governmental organisations (NGO's) (István Kollai)

Reading: Karns – Mingst chapter 6

Fifth presentation due: case study of a major international NGO, what activities it has, how it is financed, what impact it has.

Week 9

31 March Topics: Security Governance and maintaining international peace (Krisztina Szabó)

Reading: Karns – Mingst chapter 7

Sixth presentation due: case study of a peace keeping intervention. What were the conditions of the intervention, why did it occur and what were the outcomes?

Week 10

7 April Fourth Quiz!

Topics: Global Economic Governance I. IMF, WB (Krisztina Szabó)

Reading: Karns – Mingst chapter 8 (pages 379 - 396)

Seventh presentation due: case study of the World Bank's activities in a selected developing country. What is the World Bank's strategy, what projects does it finance and how could we evaluate it?

Week 11

14 April Topics: Global Economic Governance II. (István Kollai)

Reading: Karns – Mingst chapter 8 (pages 396 - 425)

Eighth presentation due: case study of a trade dispute at the WTO. What was the issue, what were the arguments, and what was the decision? How was it implemented?

Week 12

28 April Topics: Protection of human rights, with special emphasis on the activities of the OSCE (István Kollai)

Reading: Karns – Mingst Chapter 10

Ninth presentation due: case study of an ICJ case. What was the dispute, what was the decision, and how was it implemented? Was the conflict solved?

Week 13

5 May Fifth Quiz!

Topics: Human security: Protecting the environment and health (Krisztina Szabó)

Reading: Karns – Mingst Chapter 11

Tenth presentation due: case study of the Paris Climate Conference. What were the opposing national interests? How would you evaluate the outcome?

Week 14

12 May Conclusions of the course. Review for the final exam, assessment of students. (Krisztina Szabó – István Kollai)

Course schedule:

Learning outcomes:

Course assessment during the semester:

Assignments: 1. Regular reading

Students are expected to read approximately 40-45 pages for each class in advance. This is a prerequisite for being able to participate in the class discussions. Students may be called upon any time in class to answer questions related to the assigned readings. Failing to answer questions will result in lower class activity points.

2. Group presentations

In the first and second class, students will be divided into groups and they will work together on a case study presentation. On each seminar starting from week 4, a group of students will present their results, followed by discussion. Each presentation should be around 30 minutes, PowerPoint is required. Another pre-appointed student group will serve as a discussant, and will have to comment the presentation in 5 minutes, focusing on how well the presenting group has solved the task. Preparing a quality case study is the collective responsibility of the group, and it is entirely up to the

group to organise themselves and their work and prevent free-riding. Hence, everyone in the group will get the same amount of points for their work regardless of their individual performance within the group. The only exception is when a student fails to show up on the seminar over which her/his group is presenting or discussing. In this case, she/he will be given half the amount of points compare to what the group as a whole gets. The presenting group must send their ppt presentation to the lecturer and to the commenting group at least 24 hours before their presentation is due. Failing to do so will result in points being deducted. The issues related to preparing a quality presentation will be discussed on the first seminar and presentations will be assessed along those lines.

Program's name:

Readings:

Compulsory readings:

- • Margaret P. KARNs and Karen A. MINGST: International Organizations. The Politics and Process of Global Governance (Lynne Rienner, Boulder and London, 2015)
- Mingst, Karen A., and Margaret P. Karns (2016): The United Nations in the 21st century. Westview Press
- • Hurd, I. (2013). International organizations: politics, law, practice. Cambridge University Press..
- • Glennon, M. J. (2003): Why the Security Council Failed. Foreign Affairs, May-June.
- • Johnson, T. (2009): The World Health Organization. Council on Foreign Relations Background.
- • Garrett, L. (2007): The Challenges of Global Health. Foreign Affairs, January-February.
- • Brzezinski, Z. (2009): An Agenda for NATO. Foreign Affairs, September-October
- • Dreher, A., et al. (2009): Global horse trading: IMF loans for votes in the United Nations Security Council. European Economic Review 53: 742-757.
- • Mallaby, S. (2005): Saving the World Bank. Foreign Affairs, May-June.
- • Wade, R. H. (2003): What strategies are viable for developing countries today? The World Trade Organization and the shrinking of 'development space'. Crisis States Programme Working papers series no.1
- • Kurtzman, J. (2009): The Low-Carbon Diet: How the Market Can Curb Climate Change. Foreign Affairs, September-October.
- • Marcussen, M. (2001): The OECD in search of a Role: Playing the Idea Game. Presented at the ECPR Workshop, Grenoble, 6-11 April 2001
- • Bennett, L. – Oliver, J. K. (2002): International organizations. Principles and issues. Seventh edition. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs. Chapter 8.
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Recommended readings:

- • Leroy BENNETT – James K. OLIVER: International organizations. Principles and issues. Seventh edition. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 2002.
- • Volker RITTBERGER – Bernhard ZANGL: International organizations. Polity, Politics and Policies. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2006.
- • Current issues of the journal 'International Organization' and the magazine 'Foreign Affairs'.
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Course professor(s)/lecturer(s):