

# COURSE SYLLABUS

**POLS 4503 International Organizations**  
**University of West Georgia**  
**Department of Political Science**

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**Office Hours:** M & W 10:45a – 12:30p & 3:15p – 4:45p; Tues. 2p – 4p

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## **Course Description and Objectives:**

This is an analysis of international organizations with an emphasis on the United Nations. The course examines the role of the UN in peacekeeping, collective security, economic development, and human rights.

The course will begin by establishing what an international organization is. International organizations are created to foster global governance. Therefore, the course will then explore what is meant by global governance, what challenges may inhibit global governance, and how this concept relates to more general theories of international relations.

The bulk of the course will be devoted to developing an understanding of specific international organizations. These will include the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organizations, among others. The course will also cover how these entities affect world politics by examining several case studies. The United Nations will receive the bulk of our attention. We will examine the roles that the UN have played in a variety of issue areas, such as international security and human rights.

This fully online course is largely based on independent study. The instructor will contribute supplemental information and guide the discussions. The class discussion is the ‘classroom’ part of the course.

This is an advanced undergraduate course and is therefore not designed to be easy. It is designed to be illuminating and rewarding!

## **Learning Outcomes:**

Student completing POLS 4503 will be able to:

1. Define an international organization and describe the role that they play in international politics.
2. Discuss the concept of global governance, including how various theories of international politics relate to this concept.
3. Explain the history as well as describe the organization and mission of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization.
4. Explain the different types of international institutions and identify examples of each.
5. Appraise the state of global governance.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of various international institutions and critique the role that they play in global governance.

**Required Texts:**

All reading is *required* reading. You must do the reading if you wish to succeed in this course.

- 1) Gutner, Tamar. 2017. *International Organizations in World Politics*. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press.
- 2) Mingst, Karen A., Margaret P. Karns, and Alynna J. Lyon. 2017. *The United Nations in the 21st Century*. 5th ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

**Suggested Supplemental Text:**

- 1) Karns, Margaret P., Karen A. Mingst, and Kendall W. Stiles. 2015. *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*. 3rd ed. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

**Course Requirements**

This is an advanced undergraduate course and the course requirements reflect this. The final course grades will be based on the following criteria:

**1) Reading Response Papers (25%):**

The students will be required to write a short paper for every module (essentially every week) in response to that module's assigned reading. These will be in response to a prompt. The papers should be about 300 words in length. They must be professionally written. The two lowest will be dropped from the grade calculation.

**2) Discussion Participation (25%):**

There will be a discussion forum for each module (essentially each week). Further instructions and grading criteria can be found within the course. The two lowest will be dropped from the grade calculation.

**3) Case Study Paper (30%):**

This is the major project for the course. The student will have to research an international institution and critically discuss a case of its involvement in world politics. The project will be spread over the duration of the course and broken into three parts: actor and case proposal (i.e. topic selection), annotated bibliography, and final paper. The final paper should be approximately 10 typed, double-spaced pages with 12 point font and one inch margins. Additional information on this assignment will be presented in the course.

**4) Final Exam (20%):**

There will be a written final exam. This will be in the format of a more substantial response paper. The students will be asked to respond to a question or prompt from the instructor. It will be at home and open book. The response will be no more than 5 typed, double-spaced pages with 12 point font and one inch margins.

\*Note: additional information on these requirements can be found elsewhere in the course.

## **Final Course Grades**

All graded components of the course will combine in the manner outlined above and will result in a 0-100 percent score. This will be used to determine a student's final course grade as follows:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 0-59%

## **CourseDen**

CourseDen will be this course's official website. The schedule, grades, and important announcements will be posted there and it is the student's responsibility to check it regularly.

The direct url is: <https://westga.view.usg.edu/d21/home>

## **Technology Note:**

It is the student's responsibility to maintain access to a reliable computer and internet connection. Students must reasonably ensure that their internet connection and computer are functional and reliable. In the event that a technology problem prevents an assignment from being completed, it is the student's responsibility to provide evidence to substantiate this. To avoid potential problems, it is expected that the student will plan properly and take advantage of all of the resources, especially campus resources, available to the student.

The instructor is not tech support! If the student experiences problems with CourseDen, it is the student's responsibility to seek out a solution. \*Basically, be adults and try and solve your own problems!\*

## **Attendance Policy**

It is the student's responsibility to engage with this online course.

## **Make-up Policy**

Exemptions to deadlines are available only to students with a documented medical or personal emergency (i.e. death in the family). In order for a make-up to be offered, the student must provide the instructor with documentation of the emergency that prevented them from being able to adhere to the relevant deadline. The student has two complete business days from the deadline to provide this documentation to the instructor.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the denial of a make-up exam or quiz and an automatic zero for that exam or quiz.

## **Email Policy**

Email is a valuable communication tool. Students are expected to check their University of West Georgia email address on a regular basis. Important course announcements will be distributed via email. The instructor will make every effort to respond to substantive questions via email as quickly and completely as reasonably possible. Some matters are better addressed during office hours. The instructor will not tolerate, and will not respond to, emails concerning matters *that are clearly addressed in this syllabus or on the course's website*.

The instructor will not provide grades over email. Scores for all graded material will be posted on CourseDen. The student can use this information, and the breakdown used for the final grades above, to determine their progress.

For the sake of efficiency and professionalism, the following guidelines must be followed for all email communications:

- Please avoid using the email utility in CourseDen. The instructor will respond to you faster if you email him at [dmclean@westga.edu](mailto:dmclean@westga.edu).
- Emails to the instructor must be sent from the student's official University of West Georgia email address (i.e. [super.student@my.westga.edu](mailto:super.student@my.westga.edu)). Emails from any other address will be ignored.
- Please include POLS 4503 in the subject line of the email.

### **Office Phone Policy**

Students should only expect that the instructor will be available via phone during the scheduled office hours. It should be expected that emails will prompt a faster response than a voicemail. The instructor can often be found on Google Hangouts, use [dmclean@westga.edu](mailto:dmclean@westga.edu) to locate him.

### **Extra Credit Policy**

There will be no extra credit in this course that is not made available to all students. There will be no individually offered extra credit – don't ask!

### **Common Language for Course Syllabi**

For important policy information, i.e., the UWG Honor Code, Email, and Credit Hour policies, as well as information on Academic Support and Online Courses, please review the information found in the **Common Language for Course Syllabi** documentation at <https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>. Additions and updates are made as institution, state, and federal standards change, so please review it each semester.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student found in violation of university policy will automatically receive a grade of "F" for the course. The university's honor code can be found at the following link:

<https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Participation in class discussion is essential. However, it is probable that some of the topics discussed in this class will stir strong emotions among some students. *Class discussions must be kept civil and respectful at all times*. Any behavior to the contrary will absolutely not be

tolerated and the offending student or students will be asked to leave. The classroom is not a cable news show and must not resemble one!

### **Assumption of Adulthood**

This is a college course. All students are assumed to be adults and will be held to adult standards of accountability and decorum. You are expected to familiarize yourself with the requirements of the course. You are expected to meet the requirements of the course without having to be reminded of such clearly posted things as exam dates. It is expected that you will do the required reading for the course. It is expected that you will complete all required assignments. If you have questions, you are expected to ask the professor to seek clarification.

### **Students with Disabilities and Accessibility Policy**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. *Please notify the instructor immediately* if you have a disability that requires accommodation.

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services: <https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php>

### **Other Important Links**

- UWG Online: <https://uwgonline.westga.edu/technology-requirements.php>
- Online Counseling - <https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/online-counseling.php>
- Student Handbook - <http://www.westga.edu/handbook/>

### **Course Schedule**

The course schedule will be published on CourseDen.