POLS 3240.03 Multilateralism I  
The United Nations, Regional Organizations and International Law  
Course Director: Kirk Atkinson  
York University  
Fall 2014

Lecture: Wednesday 11:30 – 2:30 pm. RS 174  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 4:00-5:00 pm  
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Degree credit exclusions: If you have taken GL/POLS 3615.06 or GL/ILST 3615.06, you are not eligible to take this course. Validate this with the POLS department

PLEASE READ THIS OUTLINE CAREFULLY, AS REGISTRATION IN THE COURSE CONSTITUTES ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED THEREIN

Format: 3-hour lecture per week; students having questions on the readings are encouraged to raise them during the lectures.  
Themes and Aims: Purpose of the course is to familiarize students with the history, evolution, characteristics, and political effects of contemporary multilateralism, or the system of coordinating principles, norms, and rules of conduct in relations amongst three or more states in particular issue areas. In particular, the course will introduce students to intergovernmental/international organizations and international law as institutional and normative modalities of multilateralism. In the former case, the focus will be on the United Nations System and the management of global peace and security in addition to other global governance issues, such as humanitarian intervention. The course will also look at the European Union and other regional intergovernmental organizations in South East Asia and the Middle East. With respect to international law, the course will concentrate on international human rights, humanitarian intervention, and international criminal law.

Student will be expected to become familiar with different contending perspectives on multilateralism - realist, liberal, Marxist, feminist and social constructivist approach - as well as others that occasionally come up in lectures or readings. These approaches offer different perspectives on the history, evolution, nature, impact, and future of contemporary multilateralism, intergovernmental organizations and international law as modalities of regulating international relations as well as global relations among states and non-state actors. Most of the themes and issues covered in the course will cover the range of westphalian and post-westphalian framework.

Assignments due dates:  
Critical review essay on one of the weekly themes from the course outline; the object of this exercise is to formulate an analytical thesis on the theme you choose and critically analyze any four articles in defense of your thesis. In the event, your weakly readings
have less than four articles you must choose the additional articles from outside sources, academic journals or scholarly books. Page length 6-7 pages excluding title and bibliographical page. The marks will be based on the clarity, coherency, relevancy and analytical sophistication of your thesis and critical analysis including effective integration of the reading into your analysis. **Due at the beginning of class Oct. 15: 2014, 25%**

**Essay2** (topics to be assigned; length 10 to 12 pages excluding title and bibliographical pages). **Due at the beginning of class Nov. 19: 30%**

**Lecture attendance and participation:** 10%

**Final Exam:** 35% exam period

**You’re allowed to miss one lecture without penalty on your attendance/participation mark; subsequent missed classes will have a penalty of 1 percent per day.**

**Course Kit (available from the York Bookstore)**

**Web-based online readings:** Additional articles may be assigned or some readings may be substituted for others.
Sept. 10. Introduction to the Course and subject of Multilateralism

Sept. 17. Why Multilateralism matters

Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst, The Challenges of Global Governance, pp.1-32

Sept. 24. Historical and contemporary Perspectives on Multilateralism: Types of Multilateralism, and Intro., to International Organization

Robert Cox, “Multilateralism and World Orders”, pp.49-68

Oct. 01. Contending Theories of International Organizations


Oct. 08. The UN and International Security: Case Study: Looking at US foreign and military action in the Iraq War versus its approach in managing conflict in Asia Pacific

Brendan Taylor, “The Bush Administration and Asia-Pacific Multilateralism – Unrequited Love”
Oct. 15. Regionalisms and Regional International Organizations: Case Studies: European Union, NATO and the Arab League

John S. Duffield, “NATO's Functions after the Cold War”, Political Science Quarterly > Vol. 109, No. 5 (Winter, 1994), pp. 763-787
Michael Barnett, “Institutions, Roles, and Disorder: The Case of the Arab States System”, International Studies Quarterly > Vol. 37, No. 3 (Sep., 1993), pp. 271-296
Thomas Christiansen, “European and Regional Integration”, in John Baylis and Steve Smith, eds., The Globalization of World Politics, 2nd edn., pp. 84 (Kit)

Oct. 22. Representation and Accountability in International Organization; Non-governmental Organizations and the New Diplomacy/New Multilateralism: Case Study: The Treaty to Ban Land Mines; Diplomacy from Below; Stateless Nations


Nov. 05. Introduction to international law a feminist reading: Historical and Theoretical Perspectives.

Rosalyn Higgins, Problems and Process: International Law and How we Use it, Oxford University Press, Ch.1, pp. 1-17
Shirley Scott, International Law and World Politics Entwined

Nov. 12. Introduction to International Law: Human Rights and international Law. Case Study: What is the nature of International Human Rights Regime? (including discussion of debates over universalism from the third world perspective, Asian values, cultural relativism, political-centrism, feminism)


Nov. 19. Humanitarian Intervention and international Law
(What triggers humanitarian intervention and what are its political effects; what does it tell us about the nature and enforcement of human rights law through the UN?) Case studies: Kosovo and Rwanda, etc.,


Dec. 03. World order the next Evolutionary Phase, can the United Nations keep pace?
And brief recap of the course.


J. Martin Rochester “Global Policy and the Future of the United Nations”,
*Journal of Peace Research* (May, 1990), pp. 141-154