

Course Code PCS 821

Course Title: Peace, Multilateralism and the UN (**Elective**)

Credit Hours: 3

Course Objectives

This course intends to provide students with a profound understanding of the ways in which international cooperation tackles global challenges. Students will examine the historical development and core principles of the UN, assess its structure and effectiveness in fostering peace and addressing global issues such as conflict, climate change, and human rights. The course will assist them in evaluating the roles of different actors in multilateral diplomacy and comprehending the legal and ethical complexities of international interventions. Ultimately, students should develop the analytical skills necessary to critically participate in discussions about the UN's initiatives aimed at creating a more peaceful and cooperative world.

Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of multilateralism and the UN system; and
2. Analyze major international challenges like armed conflict, human rights violations, climate change, barriers to free trade, underdevelopment, lack of access to technology, and innovation.

Course Contents

- a. Establishment of the UN System UN Charter and UN Principal Organs
- b. UN Security Council: Powers and Limitations
- c. International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- d. Environment (UNEP, UNDP, WB)
- e. Environmental Security (WMO, ISDR, HABITAT)
- f. Climate Change (UNFCCC, WMO)
- g. Peacekeeping Operations. Peace Building Mechanisms
- h. Human Rights Mechanisms
- i. International Criminal Tribunals (ICTs)

- j. International Co-operation and Development (UNDP, World Bank)
- k. World Trade Organization (WTO) and UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- l. Global Health (WHO)
- m. Science and Technology (UNESCO)
- n. Food and Agriculture (FAO, IFAD)
- o. Future of UN

Nature of Assessment

Nature of Exam	Duration	Frequency	Weighting (%age)
End semester exam	3 hours	1	30 – 50
Mid Term	2 hours	1	15 – 25
Quizzes	-	Minimum: 3	05 – 15
Class Participation	-	-	0 – 5*
Assignments / Project(s) / Case Studies	Own time	-	10 – 40

*Shall be allocated only if there are no case studies.

Details of lab work/workshop practice (**Not applicable**)

Recommended Readings

- Aginam, Obijiofor, John Harrington and Peter K. Yu (eds), The Global Governance of HIV/AIDS: Intellectual Property and Access to Essential Medicines. Cheltenham: Edward Elger Publishing Limited, 2013.
- Otsuki, Kei. Sustainable Development in Amazonia. Routledge, 2013.
- Clammer, John. Culture, Development and Social Theory. Zed Books, 2013.
- Vesselin, Popovski, and Mónica Serrano. After Oppression: Transitional Justice in Latin America and Eastern Europe. Tokyo: UN University, 2012.
- Heo, Emilia Seunghoon. Reconciling Enemy States in Europe and Asia. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

- Khan, Shaharyar M. *The Shallow Graves of Rwanda*. New York: I.B. Tauris, 2000.
- Taylor, Paul, and A.J.R. Groom (eds). *The UN at the Millennium*. London: Continuum, 2000.
- Karns, Margaret P., Johnson, Tana, & Mingst, Karen A. *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*. (Most recent edition: 4th Edition, 2024).
- Baylis, John, Smith, Steve, & Owens, Patricia (Eds.). *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. (Most recent edition: 9th Edition, 2023)
- Hoffman, Frank G. *Conflict in the 21st Century: The Rise of Hybrid Wars*. Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, 2007.
- Rid, Thomas. *Cyber War Will Not Take Place*. Oxford University Press, 2013 (book publication; earlier journal article in 2011).
- Singer, P.W. & Brooking, Emerson T. *Likewar: The Weaponization of Social Media*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.
- Nye Jr., Joseph S. *Cybersecurity and Power: The Global Digital Divide*. (Often referenced in his articles, a key article is "Cyber Power" from Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, May 2010).
- McLeman, Robert A. & Gemenne, François (Eds.). *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Displacement and Migration*. Routledge, 2020.
- UN-Habitat Publications: Their flagship reports, such as the *World Cities Report* (latest edition is 2022) and various policy briefs on urbanization, climate resilience, and forced displacement in urban settings (ongoing).
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) reports: Their *Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)* is published annually (e.g., GRID 2024).
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) publications: Their *World Migration Report* is published biennially.
- Reports from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Their *Global Trends* report is published annually (e.g., 2024 edition).
- "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" (2018) and "Global Compact on Refugees" (2018). (Key UN policy documents).

- Thakur, Ramesh. *The United Nations, Peace and Security: From Collective Security to the Responsibility to Protect*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Roberts, Adam & Kingsbury, Benedict (Eds.). *United Nations, Divided World: The UN's Roles in International Relations*. Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Acharya, Amitav. *The End of the American World Order*. Polity Books, 2014.

Policy Documents/Reports

- Breakey, Hugh, Angus Francis, Vesselin Popovski, Charles Sampford, Michael G. Smith and Ramesh Thakur, *Enhancing Protection Capacity: Policy Guide to the Responsibility to Protect and the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts*, 12 November 2012.
- Ghali, Boutros. *An Agenda for Peace: Preventative Diplomacy, Peacemaking and Peacekeeping*. New York: United Nations, 1992.
- Luepschen, Claudia, Ruediger Kuehr and Federico Magalini, *Policy Brief No. 6, 2013: Towards Zero Waste in Industrial Networks: Policy Recommendations from the Zero WIN Project*.

Research Reports

- *Synthesis Report on Sub-regional Research in Asia and the Pacific: Global Environmental Partnership Nexus* December 2011.

Journals

- **Sustainability Science Journal** (Published by Springer on behalf of The Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science of the University of Tokyo (IR3S) and the United Nations University).

UN Documents

- "Our Common Agenda" report by UN Secretary-General António Guterres (September 2021).
- The "Pact for the Future" (Zero Draft: January 2024, subsequent revisions May, July, August 2024 for the Summit of the Future in September 2024). This document and its background papers are central to current reform discussions.

- UN Secretary-General's policy briefs related to "Our Common Agenda" and the Summit of the Future (e.g., "A New Agenda for Peace," July 2023).