PEACE, MULTILATERALISM AND THE UN

(PCS 821) - CHs: 3.0

1. **Course Introduction and Objectives:** The course will present students with the institutional and policy tasks within the UN System. The course will examine major challenges i.e. armed conflict, human rights violations, climate change, barriers to free trade, under-development, lack of access to technology and innovation. These challenges are complex, multidimensional and can only be solved multilaterally. In addition, the challenges are pressing, however, the solutions cannot be quick fixes. The decision-makers should think about the effects on future generations, when addressing the most pressing issues of today. The UN System, with its large potential for international cooperation needs to become a global leader of sustainability, offering long-term strategies, uniting all actors towards solving global problems.

2. The core mandate of the UN originally was to maintain international peace and security and the course will study the shortages and advantages of the security mechanisms, the problems and the achievements of the UN organs to deal with threats to the peace. It will discuss many other ways the UN and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programmes) affect our lives and make the world a better place. The Organization's work on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment, disaster risk reduction, international health, and climate change are introduced providing an overview of problems, mechanisms available, impacts, challenges and potential to grow.

3. **Outcomes:** Students should be able to

   a. Demonstrate knowledge of multilateralism and the UN system; and

   b. Analyze major international challenges like armed conflict, human rights violations, climate change, barriers to free trade, under-development, lack of access to technology and innovation.

4. **Contents:** The recommended outline of lectures will be as follows:

5. **Topic 1: UN System: Origin & Structure**

6. **Lecture 1: Establishment of the UN System UN Charter and UN Principal Organs**

   a. San Francisco Conference

   b. The UN System and the Cold War

c. UN Charter. Purposes and Principles of the UN

d. UN Charter as International Constitution: Legislative, Executive and Judicial Division of Authority

e. UN General Assembly, its Sessions and Committees

7. **Lecture 2: UN Security Council: Powers and Limitations**

a. Powers of the Security Council

b. Limitations: Legal, Political, Institutional

c. Right of Veto

d. UN Charter as International Constitution: Legislative, Executive and Judicial Division of Authority

e. Reform of the Security Council

8. **Lecture 3: International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

a. International Adjudication: ICJ Dispute Resolution Mechanisms. Nicaragua v. US - Issues of Jurisdiction & Admissibility

b. ICJ Advisory Opinions: Legality of Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons

c. ICJ and the 'judicial review' of Security Council resolutions. Lockerbie (Libya) and Genocide (Bosnia) Case

d. Reform of the Security Council

9. **Topic 2: Climate Change**

10. **Lecture 1: Environment (UNEP, UNDP, WB)**

a. Rise of environmental concerns in the global agenda

b. Challenges: Millennium eco-systems assessment

c. Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and priority concerns

11. **Lecture 2: Environmental Security (WMO, ISDR, HABITAT)**

a. GEOSS: Global earth observation system of systems

b. Disaster risk reduction

c. Recovery and reconstruction: Housing

12. **Lecture 3: Climate Change (UNFCCC, WMO)**

a. IPCC reports

b. Projected global warming impacts

c. Projected global dimming impacts

13. **Topic 3: Peace and Human rights**

14. **Lecture 1: Peacekeeping Operations. Peace Building Mechanisms**

a. UNDPKO and Traditional and Second generation Peacekeeping.

b.   Conflict Relapse and need of Peace building

c.   Establishment of the Peace Building Commission

d.   Achievements and Shortages: Burundi, Sierra Leone etc.

15.   **Lecture 2: Human Rights Mechanisms**

a.   Human Rights Council. Establishment. Critical Assessment of its work

b.   Protection of vulnerable groups by UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against* Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), UN Children Fund (UNICEF)

16.   **Lecture 3: International Criminal Tribunals (ICTs)**

a.   International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY)

b.   International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

c.   International Criminal Court (ICC)

d.   Universal Jurisdiction

17.   **Topic 4: International Cooperation and International Organisations**

18.   **Lecture 1: International Co-operation and Development (UNDP, World Bank)**

a.   Conceptualizing human development: HDI and Human security

b.   Achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

c.   International cooperation: achievements and challenges

19.   **Lecture 2: Trade World Trade Organization (WTO) and UN *Conference on Trade and Development* (UNCTAD)**

a.   Evolution of WTO

b.   Globalization and Trade

c.   IPO and Development challenges

20.   **Lecture 3: Global Health (WHO)**

a.   WHO Framework

b.   Infectious deceases, AIDS etc.

c.   Global health delivery

21.   **Topic 5: Science, Technology, Food & Agriculture**

22.   **Lecture 1: Science and Technology (UNESCO)**

a.   Higher education in a globalised world

b.   Education for Sustainable Development: vertical and horizontal integration

   c.   Science and Environment: the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

23.   **Lecture 2: Food and Agriculture (FAO, IFAD)**

   a.   Food security, status and projections

   b.   Agro diversity for sustainable food production

   c.   Investment in food production

24.   **Topic 6: Future of UN**

25.   **UN System: Way Ahead**

26.   Student Presentations

27.   **Assessment**

   The students will be assessed through quiz tests, presentations and an end of term test. The three hour test will consist of five questions from which students will be required to answer two questions.

28.   **Reading List (**Annual Reports)

   The First Four Years, 2009–2012, UNU-ISP, Published: April 2013. (**Books)**

   a.   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.

   b.   Otsuki, Kei. *Sustainable Development in Amazonia*. Routledge, 2013.

   c.   Clammer, John. *Culture, Development and Social Theory*. Zed Books, 2013.

   d.   Vesselin, Popovski and Mónica Serrano. *After Oppression: Transitional Justice in Latin America and Eastern Europe.* Tokyo: UN University, 2012.

   e.   Heo, Emilia Seunghoon. *Reconciling Enemy States in Europe and Asia*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

   f.   Khan, Shaharyar M. *The Shallow Graves of Rwanda*. New York: I.B Tauris, 2000.

   g.   Taylor, Paul, and A.J.R. Groom (eds). *The UN at the Millennium*. London: Continuum, 2000.

29.   **Policy Documents/Reports**

    a. 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.

    b. Ghali, Boutros. *An Agenda for Peace: Preventative Diplomacy, Peacemaking and Peacekeeping*. New York: United Nations, 1992.

    c. 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

30. **Research Reports**

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

31. **Journal**

        a. **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).