

HC 213 United Nations and International Corporations - Spring 2006

- Instructor: Professor Ahmad Kamal, Ambassador of Pakistan (retired)
- Classroom Instructor: Pat Szczerba
- Class dates: Thursdays, March 30 to June 8, 2006
- Class time: 6 pm to 9 pm
- Classroom: Lewis 1311
- Prerequisites: Email account, email skills, regular access to the Internet; recommend College Writing, Critical Thinking, Research Seminar
- Competencies: FX, H1C, H5; negotiate FX competency: Can analyze the role of the multilateral system in its activities in human rights, labor, trade and financing for development, and assess how these issues impact international business and corporations.

Special Features

This course is given and managed by Professors Kamal and Pat Szczerba .

The United Nations panel presentations and discussions will be conducted via videoconferencing from 6pm to 7:30pm by Ambassador Kamal and guests who will be located in New York City at the United Nations. Pat Szczerba will conduct introductions and follow-up discussions before and after the videoconference presentations. Homework will be sent to Ambassador Kamal via email, graded and returned via email.

Course Description

In this course, students will speak with international experts about the most pressing issues facing companies conducting international business today, including globalization, international labor rules, human rights issues in foreign countries, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, cross-cultural understanding, how to do business with the United Nations, and other related international business issues. Each week an international business expert at the United Nations will address one of the above issues and students will be encouraged to engage in vigorous dialogue.

The course will introduce students to the application and the study of the role of and influence of the United Nations and other international organizations and global issues, and how international policy is formed and implemented with other nations and other stake-holders. The course will discuss a brief history of the United Nations, the rise of influence and responsibilities of international and non-governmental organizations, the importance of international organizations in multilateral trade and financial transactions, and the growth and implementation of international norms and laws.

The transition from the end of the Twentieth Century to the beginning of the Twenty-First Century coincides with a period of exciting and fundamental change in international relations, characterized by an increasing awareness and debate about the role of the international public and private sectors in an ever shrinking world. Never has the challenge been greater for international organizations and international corporations as they come to terms with the problems connected with the regulation of the international commons, the challenge of international terrorism, the promotion of economic and social development, the debate about corporate social responsibility, the enforcement of global trade and human rights norms, the controversies over the work of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Bank and the impact of terrorism on trade and financial flows. All this is being done under relentless public scrutiny.

It is imperative then that those who choose to explore or undertake corporate work in this globalised world thoroughly grasp the context in which they will work.

The United Nations sets the rules, regulations and standards for international trade and global business. This course will present an overview of these major procedures that are guiding international business.

Because this class is concerned with strengthening the basic preparation of students for business in a real-world international setting, the course will make extensive use of electronic communication and web-based materials. All students will be required to maintain email accounts that are checked on a daily basis, and join a class Listserv for the sharing of course information. Assignments will be submitted via email, and grading will be done in the same fashion.

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

- build up a critical view of the multi-lateral system in all the different sectors of its activity, particularly in its impact on international business and corporations
- identify major labor and human rights rules, regulations and standards affecting international business
- describe how companies can do business with the United Nations
- understand why a growing number of corporations are adopting the Global Compact and how it is affecting their international business transactions
- understand how major labor and human rights statutes are followed and not followed by companies conducting business outside the U.S.
- explain the role of governmental and non-state actors in international politics and economics
- identify and define the role of international institutions and non-governmental agencies in the areas of interest to corporations
- synthesize information and articulately ask questions and state positions
- describe a variety of global business issues and the roles and responsibilities of the relevant national, regional, and international actors involved in particular topics

Required Readings

1. In keeping with the rapidly changing international environment and the course emphasis on the use of technology in learning, various required website and electronic readings, which will be the basis for class discussion, will be listed for each class. Additional materials may be distributed from time to time via email.
2. In order for students to be aware of current events and contribute fully to class discussions, the reading of at least one leading daily American newspaper (for example the [New York Times](#) or the [Washington Post](#)), and one major foreign weekly ([The Economist](#)) is required. All are available over the Internet.
3. Students will also find it most useful to regularly read the [Foreign Affairs](#) magazine, published by the Council for Foreign Affairs six times a year.
4. Some useful websites which can be constantly consulted are the following:
[The United Nations](#)
[Global Policy](#)
[UN Foundation](#)
5. A useful text which can serve as background reading for class discussions is: Ziring, L. & Riggs, R, & Plano, J, (2000). *The United Nations, International Organization and World Politics*. Orlando : Harcourt College Publishers.
6. In addition, the following reference text can also be consulted as and when required: *The United Nations Handbook*, 2005 Edition, published by the New Zealand Foreign Office.

Website / Blackboard / ListServ

A website will be maintained for this course that will contain basic course information and student photos and short bios. Pictures will be taken the first two classes. Homework and grades will be posted on Blackboard that has password access. It is not available to the public. Professor Kamal will maintain a listserv.

Class Policies

Class Participation: Class participation is essential in this course, and therefore, timely and regular class attendance is mandatory. Class attendance will be marked during the first minute of each class. Attendance will be graded.

Except for serious emergencies, and medical reasons, which must be brought to notice immediately over email, absences will not be "excused" during this semester. It should be clearly noted that almost one-third of the Final Grade is dependent on attendance.

Drafting: Particular emphasis will be placed in this class on building up an ability to draft homeworks and papers in a grammatically correct and logical manner, in presentations that can carry weight and conviction with the reader. The same will hold true of oral presentations in class.

Email: Because of the importance attached to e-mail and web pages, all students must have proper e-mail accounts, and must check them regularly every day. (All email addresses will be collected in the first class). Students should also maintain a group address (Listserv) of all classmates, including the Professor, so that messages of common interest can be circulated to all. Blackboard may also be used as a user-friendly medium.

Reference Formula

All assignments are to be sent as email attachments in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect formats exclusively. All assignment submissions must also contain the following four-part Reference Formula in FOUR places, namely:

1. as the only "subject" of the email
2. as the only first line of the text of the email
3. as part of the "header" of the attached assignment
4. as the "filename" of the attachment.

Formula: initials of university - course symbol - initials of student - assignment number

Example: DPU.UN.XXX.A#

DPU stands for DePaul University, UN stands for United Nations course, XXX are the student initials in capital letters, and A# is the assignment number.

Homework email: Insert into the Subject line: DPU.UN.XXX.A# [no other information]
Repeat the formula as the first line of the email. Skip a line. Write note. Write name.
Repeat the formula at the top of the homework paper.

Homework Assignments

All homework and other instructions will be given through e-mail (and/or over Blackboard). All students are therefore expected to provide their e-mail contacts, and to check and respond over this medium regularly. Homeworks are normally to be submitted electronically. There will be six drafting assignments ranging from one page to four pages each.

NOTE: The drafting formula of introduction, facts, analysis and conclusion is extremely useful in other classes and in the workplace. This critical thinking procedure is so valuable that students in last year's class met a writing faculty to suggest that it be implemented across SNL.

Homeworks

- TBA

Grading Policy

In judging the quality of all assignments, the total grade for each of these will be divided into three portions, one-third for the quality and formatting of the presentation, one-third for the factual accuracy of research, and one-third

for the strength and persuasiveness of the opinions expressed. Extra weight will be given for any visible improvement of work manifested over the semester.

Grading Scale

- A+ 98-100
- A 94-97
- A- 90-93
- B+ 88-89
- B 84-87
- B- 80-83
- C+ 78-79
- C 74-77
- C- 70-73
- D 60-69
- F 59 or less

Grading Structure :

Attendance and Class Participation 30%

Homeworks 70%

Policy on Plagiarism

Students are expected to observe the University's established guidelines regarding academic integrity, including the following statement regarding plagiarism, as quoted from the University's "Handbook for Undergraduate Studies":

Plagiarism is a major form of academic dishonesty involving the presentation of the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following:

- The direct copying of any source, such as written and verbal material, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores, whether published or unpublished, in whole or in part, without proper acknowledgment that it is someone else's.
- Copying of any source in whole or in part with only minor changes in wording or syntax even with acknowledgment.
- Submitting as one's own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else. This includes research papers purchased from any other person or agency.
- The paraphrasing of another's work or ideas without proper acknowledgment.

Plagiarism, like other forms of academic dishonesty, is always a serious matter. If an instructor finds that a student has plagiarized, the appropriate penalty is at the instructor's discretion. Actions taken by the instructor do not preclude the College or the University taking further punitive action including dismissal from the University.