MA Program in Political Science –
United Nations & Global Policy Studies
Fall 2018 Course Descriptions

790:500:90 | Introduction to the United Nations - Dr. Dilafruz Nazarova | Online

This course will first introduce students to the historical, theoretical and practical foundations of the United Nations and its predecessor. Students will be able to define the United Nations structure and functioning, and explain the UN’s main organs and their development. After establishing foundational and structural understanding of the United Nations, this course will then discuss UN’s influence as an intergovernmental organization for public policy and international norm setting in the areas of security, peacekeeping, human rights and development. The international legal underpinnings that guide the UN will be highlighted throughout the course. This course will also discuss the UN as a bureaucracy and examine current and potential structural and operational challenges that lie ahead.

790:501:01/02 | Theory and Method in the Study of Global Affairs- Dr. Eric Davis/Dr. Ecatarina Locoman - Monday 6:00-8:40pm | HCK 612/MMC N462

The world is in crisis. An unstable global economy, increasing environmental degradation, and growing income inequality are exacerbated by civil strife, massive trans-national migration, terrorism and the erosion of national identities. Throughout the world, nationalism is under threat as nation-states see traditional forms of communal identity eroded. These problems cry out for conceptual, empirical and policy analysis. Why is the global arena facing these challenges and how can we both explain them and find solutions to them?

790:512:01 | Politics of Globalization in Theory and Practice - Dr. Roland Rich-Monday 3:00-5:40pm | HCK612/MMC N462

Globalization is the defining theme of the world’s political economy. The end of the Cold War allowed for a new paradigm to take hold and, under American tutelage, globalization became the globe’s leitmotif. It is reflected primarily in the freedom to trade goods around the world. Next came a radical liberalization of financial flows, unaccompanied by any international oversight and often lacking effective domestic oversight. There was only the most limited liberalization of labor flows. While respecting the economic discourse that has characterized the discussion of globalization, the course will attempt to link it to the political aspects shaking both domestic and global governance.
International Criminal Law and Anti-Corruption - Dr. Steven Adelkoff |Online

This online course will examine International Criminal Law (ICL), with an emphasis on modern global criminality. First, we will explore the history and development of ICL, with special attention to the Ad Hoc International Tribunals and the International Criminal Court (ICC). The practical aspects of illegal behavior that extends beyond sovereign borders will be explored through analysis of modern crimes of international concern, such as terrorism financing, anti-money laundering and tax evasion. We will ask: how do international criminal networks finance themselves? How are governments responding? And what will the future of international crime look like? Notably, students will also engage in a detailed overview of the efforts from the international community to leverage the most critical tool we have for fighting international crime, the global monetary system.

Human Rights and the United Nations - Dr. Engy Abdelkader |Online

This is an interdisciplinary course that explores international human rights and the UN from a historical, political and legal perspective. Throughout the course of the semester, students will engage critically with course material as we delve into policy discussions and contemporary debates surrounding a spectrum of related issues, from preventing mass atrocity crimes to the use of drone warfare in counter-terrorism. Course materials encompass international treaties and UN source documents as well texts from political scientists, legal academia, NGOs and news outlets.

Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and the United Nations - Dr. Mona Krook - Tuesday 6:00-8:40pm | HCK 612/MMC N462

The course provides a comprehensive introduction to gender analysis and gender equality approaches within the United Nations system, theoretically grounded in work on transnational activism, international norms, and international organizations. The course seeks to introduce students to basic concepts and debates on feminism and globalization.

Politics, Economics and Security in East Asia - Dr. Roland Rich - Thursday 6:00-8:40pm | HCK 612/MMC N462

This course will examine the politics, economics and security of East Asia from the perspective of regionalism. The rationale for regionalism has a mix of political, economic and strategic factors and the course will examine each. While the foundational institutional architecture is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the key change is the rise of China which is stressing existing structures. The areas of friction include the South China sea, emerging trade agreements, and the rules-based international system.
The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region faces a myriad of security concerns, including transnational terrorism, fundamentalism, illicit arms trades, and proliferation of WMDs. Patterns of development, violence, forced migration, and effects of climate change in MENA are but some of the factors pushing the issue of water and hydro politics on to states’ national security agenda. This course focuses on the conceptual framework, theories and empirical evidence linking this vital natural resource to matters of security, conflict and cooperation in MENA. Domestic and trans-boundary water issues, international water resource problems, water provision and water diversion policies, in addition to water management will be discussed through a number of case studies including: Jordan, Yemen, Egypt, Israel, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

The course of Global Environmental Politics reflects upon a central challenge of our times - environment. The environmental challenges of the twenty first century include climate change, protection of biodiversity and endangered species. These issues are global in nature and require political approach from the global community. As, the case of the US first signing and then pulling out of the Paris Accord demonstrates, achieving international cooperation on environmental protection has proven to be one of the greatest challenges of the modern age.

Public health infrastructure includes many systems and components integrated to allow proper operation and function to various public health agencies and elements including human, organizational, informational, legal, policy, and many other resources. Security in Critical Infrastructure is about making data available to only authorized and authenticated users and ensuring reliability of system’s operation with confidentiality and integrity. It is a balance between having the right mix of policies, strategies and tools to secure the environment. In this course student address public health as part of the critical infrastructure of the health sector and assess various vulnerabilities and provide better understanding to threats associated with them. Defense- in-depth security model is required for Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) and we need to ensure protection is enforced in all layers.

Research Internship in United Nations & Global Policy Studies—Dr. Eric Davis (Hours by Arrangement)
Internships add an important component to a students’ dossier when they apply for a career position after receiving the MA degree. They also provide an opportunity to gain hands-on experience, engage in extensive research and to make an important contribution to society. Hence, this three credit course offers students an opportunity to gain practical experience in the field of international politics, international relations and development of global policies through working with agencies and organizations.

790:599:01 | Capstone Seminar in the United Nations & Global Policy Studies
Dr. Robert Kauffman – Wednesday 6:00-8:40pm|HCK 612/MMC N462

The Capstone Course is the final stage of the Rutgers MA Program in Political Science – United Nations and Global Policy Studies. It brings together the various strands of the program providing students with a rounded and in-depth understanding of the curriculum concentrations dealt with in the MA program. Capstone courses often reflect the research interest of the professor overseeing the course and the theme of this capstone course is Does Democracy Matter? The theme is sufficiently broad to encompass issues of rights, development, conflict and socially responsible business, and students will be expected to work on several of these issues in writing a policy brief and a review essay and delivering an academic lecture.

790:621:01 | Narratives of Wealth, Inequality and Power Dr. Eric Davis – Wednesday, 12:00-2:40pm |HCK 313 ONLY

What explains the rise of populism and illiberal democracy? This seminar examines the threat populism poses to democracy through the prism of wealth, inequality and power. Using 5 case studies, the United States, France, Germany, Hungary and Turkey, the course analyzes how an ill-defined political discourse has been able to acquire wide political support.