The education programme of the course
History, Theory and Practices of International Organizations
Government and International Relations
(41.03.05: School of Government and International Relations)

The Programme «Government and International Relations»
(code - Б 029)
Qualification - The bachelor
The form of study - full-time education

The course program developed by Roman Reinhardt, 2017

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The course “History, Theory and Practices of International Organizations” is elaborated in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor’s Program in International Affairs (program track “Government and International Affairs”).

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Director of the MGIMO library____________________ Marina Reshetnikova
The program is approved by Department of Diplomacy on
_________________________
Head of Department_________________________ Prof. Alexander Panov
PART 1: INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION, COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TEACHING METHODS

1.1 General information

Template
- Full course title: History, Theory and Practices of International Organizations
- Type of course: Compulsory
- Level of course [B.A.]
- Year of study: [2nd]
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 2
- Name of lecturer(s) and office hours:
  Roman Reinhardt, PhD
  Senior Lecturer, Department of Diplomacy
  Office hours: Thursday 1PM-4PM, office 2177
  E-mail: don.reinhardt@mail.ru

1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to provide students with foundational knowledge and sound understanding of international organizations as actors on the world arena, to introduce students to key principles of their functioning, including the respective policy-making and decision-taking mechanisms, to orient students to perceive their role in modern politics and multilateral diplomacy, to provide students with acute insights into the working processes of different types of international organizations.

Learning outcomes:
By the end of this course students should be able to:
- comprehend the historical evolution and genesis of international organizations;
- understand the role and place of international organizations in world politics and the modern system of diplomacy;
- distinguish between different types of international organizations and specifics of their functioning;
- analyze the activity of given international organizations with regard to current geopolitical juncture and the key challenges in international affairs;
- perform applied case studies of international organizations’ activity with recourse to an interdisciplinary and system approach;
- critically evaluate and qualitatively estimate the potential of international organizations in crisis management;
- consider the recent trends in development of international organizations taking into account the newest studies on the topic;
- work with the information resources of international organizations, including websites, press releases, yearbooks and specialized literature;
- realize the specifics of working in an international organization, professional and soft skills necessary for this type of occupation;
- acquire independent learning ability required for continuing professional study of the subject.

1.3 Course requirements and grading plan

Course requirements
Students will be required to attend not less than 90% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. Conscientious reading of the assigned materials is compulsory. Students will also be required to prepare one essay and submit it in time.
Grading plan

• Class participation – 5%
  Students are expected to attend all the lectures seminars and participate in class discussions; since the course is highly interactive, it is essential that students attend the seminars having read the materials for that day’s class.

• In-class tests – 25%
  Students will write three tests during the semester. Dates of test classes are defined by the instructor and communicated to the students at the first class of the respective course.

• Response papers – 5%
  The students are expected to submit response papers to the readings at least one day before the seminar class. Such papers should include descriptions of the reading’s main points, hypotheses, research strategies, and student’s own point view on a topic or problem concerned. Response papers help substantially to improve the discussion quality at seminars.

• In-class issue presentation – 10%
  Such a presentation (up to 15 minutes) is performed by each student at least once in the term. The presentation will be based on the week’s additional readings. The presenter should supply a brief summary of the argument but offer a critical interpretation of the reading by drawing out the key ideas of the text, linking them with others already covered, and registering agreements and disagreements. The presenter should also attempt to consider how the given argument could be framed differently. A few critical questions should further be offered for the class to discuss collectively. The presenter will be given a short written feedback after the presentation, including the grade, which can be followed up by consultation during office hours.

• Essay in-class presentation – 5%
  The essay is to be presented and consequently discussed at a seminar.

• Oral exam – 50% (in class, 30 minutes).
PART 2. COURSE CONTENT

2.1 Types of work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of work</th>
<th>Academic hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total for lectures, seminars and written exam</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written tests and/or exam</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Written and oral home assignments</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for lectures, seminars and written exam</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2. Course content and readings by topic

**Topic 1. Theoretical and methodological framework of international organization studies**

Lecture 1.1. International organizations as actors on the world arena.

*Summary:*
- Interdisciplinary and system approach to the subject;
- Definitions and different concepts of international organizations;
- Typology and classification of international organizations;
- Analyzing and modelling an international organization’s functioning: main criteria, objectives and organizational structure;
- Role and place of international organizations in modern international relations and multilateral diplomacy.

Seminar 1.1. Model of an international organization and its applicability.

- Compulsory readings:
- Further readings:
- Internet resources:
  1) UIA. Union of International Organizations. The Yearbook of International Organizations. [http://www.uia.org/yearbook](http://www.uia.org/yearbook)
  3) Jean and Alexander Heard Library. Resources on International Organizations and NGOs: General Sites. [http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/GOVT/PSCI/internationalorgs](http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/GOVT/PSCI/internationalorgs)
Lecture 1.2. History of international organizations.

Summary:
Theoretical and ideological background of international organizations;
Evolution of the idea of an international organization in political science;
Prototypes of international organizations and their appearance ad litteram;
Genesis of international organizations and their evolution with regard to changing geopolitical and economic reality;
Recent trends in international organizations’ development.

Seminar 1.2. International organization in the Realist, Liberalist, Neomarxist and Constructivist paradigms of international relations.

- Compulsory readings:

- Further readings:

- Internet resources:

Topic 2. United Nations as the most prominent international organization


Summary:
Institutional aspects and core mechanisms: prerequisites of establishment and brief history, membership, UN Charter, principal organs, subsidiary organs, UN System Agencies; Activity: peacekeeping and security, promoting human rights, sustaining economic development and humanitarian assistance, supplementary tasks; Negotiations within the UN; Estimations of UN capacities and its potential as mediator, peacekeeper and the world’s chief intergovernmental organization; Criticism and call for UN reforms; New challenges and role in contemporary crises management.
Seminar 2.1. Modelling the functioning of the UN and examining its role in crisis management (Ukraine, Syria, Iran, North Korea and others).

- Compulsory readings:

- Further readings:

- Internet resources:

Lecture 2.2. International organizations of the UN system.

Summary:

- Economic agenda of the UN: current state of affairs and key challenges;
- Specialized economic agencies: International Monetary Fund, International Labour Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization;
- World Bank Group: founding as a part of the Bretton Woods system, organizational structure and executive bodies, World Bank Group agencies, evaluations of impact on economic development and ostracism, latest changes and trends;
- Bodies working on transport and communication issues: International Civil Aviation Organization, International Maritime Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Universal Postal Union;
Seminar 2.2. Comparative analysis of specialized UN agencies’ institutional framework.

- Compulsory readings:

- Further readings:

- Internet resources:
  12) Universal Postal Union. http://www.upu.int/

**Topic 3. International economic organizations**


**Summary:**

World Trade Organization (WTO): brief history, principles of the WTO trading system, functions and organizational structure, dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO, accession and membership, Russia’s accession to the WTO, Doha Agenda and future of the WTO;
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Bank for International Settlements (BIS): brief history, objectives, activities, organizational structure, membership; Regional and sub-regional banks of development; Typology and variety of sectoral and regional economic organizations and multilateral cooperation frameworks.

Seminar 3.1. Case studies: WTO disputes (1) and Analysis of a sectoral economic organization’s activity on the example of the International Coffee Organization (2).

- Compulsory readings:

- Further readings:

- Internet resources:
  6) OECD Data.https://data.oecd.org/

Topic 4. International organizations within regional integration groups
Lecture 4.1. International organizations as decision-taking and policy-making bodies of regional integration groups.
Summary:
History of regional economic integration;
Stages of regional economic integration;
European Union (EU): hybrid system of supranational and intergovernmental decision-making, seven principle decision-making bodies, agencies and other bodies of the European Union, reforms of the European Union institutional framework;
Eurasian Economic Union: history, key principles and objectives, institutional structure;
Institutional frameworks of such integration groups as North American Free Trade Agreement, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation;
Regionalism vs internationalization.

Seminar 4.1 Comparative analysis of regional integration groups’ institutional frameworks.

- Compulsory readings:

- Further readings:

- Internet resources:
  14) Info SCO. http://infoshos.ru/en
Topic 5. Non-governmental and private international organizations
Lecture 5.1. Role of non-governmental international organizations on the world arena.
Summary:
Emergence of non-state actors and their role in world politics and economy;
Variety, typology and classification of non-governmental international organizations;
Rising influence of non-governmental international organizations on international policy issues.

Seminar 5.1. Case study of three different non-governmental international organizations.

- Compulsory readings:

- Further readings:

- Internet resources:

Topic 6. Professional dimension and human resources of international organizations
Lecture 6.1. Working in an international organization: who and how?
Summary:
Professional training of an international organization civil servant: competences, knowledge, soft skills;
Schools and study centers for future international organization workers;
Working conditions and careers prospects in different international organizations.

Seminar 6.1. Professiogramme of an international organization employee.

- Compulsory readings:

- Further readings:
Internet resources:
1) UN Job Finder. http://unjobfinder.org/

2.3. Essay topics/Exam Questions
1. Definitions and different concepts of international organizations
2. Typology and classification of international organizations
3. Role and place of international organizations in modern international relations and multilateral diplomacy
4. Evolution of the idea of an international organization in political science
5. Prototypes of international organizations and their appearance ad litteram
6. Genesis of international organizations and their evolution with regard to changing geopolitical and economic reality
7. International organization in the Realist and Liberalist paradigms of international relations
8. International organization in the Neomarxist and Constructivist paradigms of international relations
9. Prerequisites of UN establishment and its brief history
10. UN Charter: overview and key points
11. UN principal organs: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Secretariat, International Court of Justice, United Nations Trusteeship Council
12. UN System Agencies
13. Main objectives of the UN: peacekeeping and security, promoting human rights, sustaining economic development and humanitarian assistance, supplementary tasks
14. Negotiations within the UN
15. Estimations of UN capacities and its potential as mediator, peacekeeper and the world’s chief intergovernmental organization
16. New challenges and role of the UN in contemporary crises management
17. International Monetary Fund
18. International Labour Organization
21. Participation of Russia in the World Bank Group structures
26. Brief history of the WTO: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, rounds and negotiations, founding, Marrakech agreement
27. Principles of the WTO trading system, functions and organizational structure;
28. Dispute settlement mechanisms of the WTO
29. Russia’s accession and participation at the WTO
30. OECD: brief history, objectives, activities, organizational structure, membership
31. BIS: brief history, objectives, activities, organizational structure, membership
32. Regional banks of development
33. Typology and variety of sectoral and regional economic organizations and multilateral cooperation frameworks
34. Hybrid system of supranational and intergovernmental decision-making in the European Union
35. Key institutions of the European Union
36. Institutional framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, its executive bodies
37. Institutional frameworks of integration groups: North American Free Trade Agreement, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
38. Variety, typology and classification of non-governmental international organizations
39. Professional training of an international organization civil servant: competences, knowledge, soft skills
40. Working conditions and careers prospects in different international organizations

2.4. Exam timing
- Fall semester tests – last week of December; exams January 10-25
- Spring semester tests – last week of May; exams June 1-25

2.5. Consolidated reading list (in alphabetic order)

Compulsory literature:

Supplementary literature:

Internet resources:
33) OECD Data. https://data.oecd.org/
47) UN Job Finder. http://unjobfinder.org/
53) Universal Postal Union. http://www.upu.int/
PART 3. FINAL REMARKS

Template

- Plagiarism is considered as a severe violation and as an indication of incompetence in the course. Plagiarism is understood as making of one’s text using compilation method for other people’s publications, even connected with own phrases and sentences. Collective performance of individual tasks is also unacceptable. Proved plagiarism an F-mark is given regardless of the fulfillment of all other requirements.
- Assignments are to be handed in on the due date. Late submissions will translate into the lowering of the grade by 1/3 of a grade for each day of delay.
- Students are asked to keep a copy of all work submitted for evaluation.
- Add your own remarks if necessary.