Global Governance, Economic Development and Human Rights

Summer 2014
May 22 – June 14

Draft syllabus – specific field trips and individual class readings will be finalized closer to the start of the course!

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Course Summary
Global governance is the highly complex and dynamic process through which a multitude of public, private, and civil society actors having different, and sometimes conflicting, interests and perspectives seek to address common concerns. This course will critically examine contemporary global governance structures and efforts with a particular focus on development and human rights. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the many different roles that states, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations play on these critical governance issues in the early parts of the 21st Century.

This intensive course is designed for students specializing in international relations, public health, development studies, and other related fields. The course draws on the unparalleled resources of Geneva as a hub of global politics and policy-making. It combines rigorous coursework and extensive in-class discussions on key governance challenges with field trips to the offices of inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations working on development and human rights issues as well as topical presentations by professionals working in international affairs.

Attendance & Assignments
Great importance will be placed on regular attendance, active and productive class participation, and timely submission of assignments; there will be a penalty for irregular attendance and late submissions. The final grade for the class will be calculated as follows:

- Class Participation 40 points
- Individual Take-Home Essay 60 points
- Group Research Project 100 points

TOTAL 200 points

Students are required to complete one individual and one collective assignment in addition to active class participation.
CLASS PARTICIPATION (40 points)
Active student participation is critical to the course. Students should come to each class well prepared to engage in discussion and will to be called upon to speak their mind. It is also important that students participate actively in all field trips and interactions with professionals in the various international organizations that the course will connect with.

INDIVIDUAL TAKE-HOME ESSAY (60 points)
Students are required to write an individual essay analyzing the current state of global governance and long-standing efforts to reform central institutions. More detailed essay instructions will be handed out in class #2.

GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT (100 points)
Students will partake in a course-long group research project related to the ongoing development of Sustainable Development Goals – a major political process in contemporary global governance. Building off lessons from the Millennium Development Goals, and taking into account current economic, social and ecological needs and state interests, students will be asked to formulate a set of specific Sustainable Development Goals and present and defend these in class. Further instructions for the research project will be handed out in class #1.

Readings
There is one required book for the course:


All additional readings are either posted on the Blackboard Learn website under Course Documents (https://learn.bu.edu) or available on-line.

Academic Honesty
The American College Dictionary defines plagiarism as “Copying or imitating the language, ideas, or thoughts of another author and passing off the same as one’s original work.” Plagiarism is intellectual theft and violates the student honor code. Exact quotations must have quotation marks and the appropriate citation. Paraphrases, even if not exact quotes, must nonetheless have the appropriate citation. Submitting a paper written by someone else, whether ‘borrowed’ from a friend or purchased from a ‘service’, even if updated, constitutes plagiarism.

Using the Internet for research is encouraged, but plagiarizing resources is not allowed. Cheating of any sort, submitting the same work for more than one course, deliberately impeding the performance of others, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious offenses. As a general rule, if you have any doubts, give credit to the source; if you have any questions, talk to the instructor. Refer to the Academic Conduct Code, which will be strictly enforced: http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code.
Course Organization

Class #1

What’s This Thing Called Global Governance?

- UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals
- UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/
- IISD REPORTING: http://www.iisd.ca/sdgs/owg7/

Class #2

Global Governance and the United Nations

- UNITED NATIONS: http://www.un.org

Class #3

Field Trip to the United Nations

- UNITED NATIONS GENEVA: http://www.unog.ch/

Class #4

Field Trip to the US Mission to Geneva/the United Nations

- US MISSION: http://geneva.usmission.gov/

Class #5

Global Economic Governance

• THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION: http://www.wto.org
• INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND: http://www.imf.org
• THE WORLD BANK: http://www.worldbank.org

Class #6

Field Trip to the World Trade Organization

• WTO HISTORY: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Xp75Egtvi8

Class #7

Global Social Governance

• UN AND DEVELOPMENT: http://www.un.org/en/development

Class #8

Field Trip to the United Nations Refugee Agency

• UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE AGENCY: http://www.unhcr.org/www.unhcr.org/

Class #9

Field Trip to the International Committee of the Red Cross

• INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS: http://www.icrc.org/eng/

Class #10

Global Environmental Governance

• GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL OUTLOOK 5: http://www.unep.org/geo/geo5.asp
• UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME: http://www.unep.org
• MINAMATA CONVENTION: http://www.mercuryconvention.org

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Class #11

Field Trip to Environmental Treaty Secretariat/Organization


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Class #12

Sustainable Development Goals Project I


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Class #13

Sustainable Development Goals Project II

• STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND COURSE DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH PROJECT