



Course Outline

Course Code LAW-363	Course Title International Organisations	ECTS Credits 6
Prerequisites N / A	Department Law	Semester Fall
Type of Course Core	Field International Relations	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Lecturer Dimitrios Kourtis	Year of Study 2 nd
Mode of Delivery Face-to-Face	Work Placement N / A	Corequisites N / A

Course Venue	Course Day and Time Monday, 6.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	Telephone
Office M108D	Email kourtis.d@unic.ac.cy	Student Consultation Hours Thursday, 12.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- To explore the historical, political, and legal cornerstones of international organisation.
- To analyse, theorise, and systematically explain the process of establishing an international organisation as an independent subject of international law.
- To present the sources of the law of international organisation.
- To explore the fundamental constitutional international legal principles of international organisation.
- To provide a clear picture about the core-concepts of international institutional law.
- To elaborate on the function, mission, mandate and contribution of the United Nations as the only truly universal international organisation (IO) entrusted with special competences especially in the field of international peace and security.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Demonstrate the utility of, and a brief introduction to international organisations.
2. Understand, debate, and demonstrate the basic principles of international institutional law (sources, methods of interpretation, constitutional documents, and relation with general international law).
3. Assess the role of international organisations in international society and a context within which the functions of such organisations can be analysed and understood.
4. Report on the United Nations as the only truly international organization, its birth and structure.
5. Integrate the philosophy, record, and workings of the United Nations.
6. Appraise a context within which the functions of such organisations can be analysed and understood.
7. Expose the inadequacies of the United Nations in dealing with fundamental threats to humanity.

Course Content:

- 1. International Organisations (IOs): A very brief introduction**
- 2. Forms of international organisation**
- 3. IOs and International Law**
- 4. Introduction to the law and politics of IOs**
- 5. International Institutional Law**
- 6. Legal Capacity and Decision-Making**
- 7. Principles of Governance**
- 8. Assessing the Legality of IOs' Decisions**
- 9. IOs, Attribution, and International Responsibility**
- 10. Immunities and Privileges of IOs**
- 11. The Settlement of Disputes**

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, class discussion, group exercises, case studies, quizzes and discussion fora, presentations.

Assessment Methods:

Presentations, class assignments, midterms, and final exams.

Assessment:

Assessment Type	Weight (Percentage)
Final Exams	50%
Midterm Exams	30%
Assignments	20%

Attendance:

Attendance is obligatory and will not be graded separately. Nevertheless, active engagement and participation, especially during our weekly sessions and in our assignments will be taken into consideration

Course Requirements:

- **Plagiarism/Cheating**

Academic plagiarism and cheating related to examinations or to written work is considered a major disciplinary offence.

- Plagiarism means to take and use another person’s work, whether such work is made up of code, formulas, ideas, language, research, strategies, writing or other form(s), and to pass it off as one’s own by failing to give appropriate acknowledgement in order to gain unfair advantage.

- Cheating means seeking to obtain an unfair advantage in an examination or in other written or practical work required to be submitted or completed by a student for assessment. Cheating refers to any kind of dishonesty in connection to assignments or examinations; it applies to both giving and receiving unauthorized help.

Plagiarism in all assessment work is a serious offense, which leads to severe punishment.

- **Participation**

Participation is obligatory. The course will not be conducted ex cathedra, but through oral and visual interaction, collaborative projects, and mutual exchanges.

- **Preparation for each weekly meeting/lesson**

Students are expected to study the reading materials included in the Notes and Materials File of each weekly session in order to be prepared to participate in the debate, which will take place at the beginning of each lesson and have an overall idea about the topic that will be discussed during each weekly session.

- **Essays**

All essays and assignments must be submitted electronically through Moodle in a Word (.doc/.docx) or .pdf. All forms of plagiarism will be traced through *Turnitin* and other relevant applications and will be met with severe punishment.

- **Make-up Tests/Exams**

Make-Up Tests (Midterms, Final Exams) will not be conducted, unless the student can prove beyond reasonable doubt the she/he was absolutely impeded from sitting the exam. Health reasons, officially

certified by a responsible medical doctor, and force majeure (strike, black-out, extreme weather conditions affecting participation) situations will be assessed individually.

- **Final Exams**

Final exams will always include a written examination, where students will have to provide fully reasoned answers in one to three hypothetical case studies OR answer a major theoretical research question, based on their overall knowledge, critical thinking, and practical understanding.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Meaning	Numerical Grades 0 - 100	Grade Points 0 - 4
A	Excellent	93-100	4.0
A-		90-92	3.7
B+	Very Good	87-89	3.3
B		83-86	3.0
B-		80-82	2.7
C+	Good	77-79	2.3
C		73-76	2.0
C-		70-72	1.7
D+	Poor but Acceptable	67-69	1.3
D		63-66	1.0
D-		60-62	0.7
F	Failure	0-59	0.0

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations</i>	Jacob Katz Cogan, Ian Hurd, and Ian Johnston (eds)	Oxford University Press	2016	9780199672202
<i>Principles of the Institutional Law of International Organizations</i> (2 nd edn)	C. F. Amerasinghe	Cambridge University Press	2005	9780511614224

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice</i> (2 nd edn)	Ian Hurd	Cambridge University Press	2014	9781107612617

Weekly Schedule:

Week	Topic	Assigned Reading Workload*
1	International Organisations (IOs): A very brief introduction	OxHBIOs Chap. 1, 4, 5 Principles Inst. L. Chap. 1
2	Forms of international organisation	OxHBIOs Chap. 6, 7, 8
3	IOs and International Law	OxHBIOs Chap. 2
4	Introduction to the law and politics of IOs	OxHBIOs Chap. 3
5	International Institutional Law	OxHBIOs Chap. 44, 45 Principles Inst. L. Chap. 2, 4, 14
6	Legal Capacity	OxHBIOs Chap. 46 Principles Inst. L. Chap. 3, 15
7	Midterm Exams	
8	Principles of Governance	OxHBIOs Chap. 52, 53, 54, 55
9	Assessing the Legality of IOs' Decisions	OxHBIOs Chap. 47 Principles Inst. L. Chap. 5, 6, 7, 8
10	IOs, Attribution, and International Responsibility	OxHBIOs Chap. 48 Principles Inst. L. Chap. 12, 13

11	Immunities and Privileges of IOs	OxHBIOs Chap. 49 Principles Inst. L. Chap. 10
12	The Settlement of Disputes	Principles Inst. L. Chap. 16
13	Study Week	
14 -15	Final Exam	

*** AND: 1. Instructor's Notes for each weekly session, 2. Reading materials provided by the Instructor on a weekly basis.**