



**PS 431: The United Nations and Global Order, Spring 2014**  
**Tuesday 18:00 - 20:45**  
**0G108 Caldwell Hall**

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*Hyperlinks are included throughout this syllabus.  
Therefore digital copies are suggested over print copies*

**Instructor:**

M. Joel Voss, PhD, LL.M  
1911 Building, Suite 107E  
919-515-7999  
mjvoss@ncsu.edu  
www.mjoelvoss.com

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 16:00 - 17:50 or by appt.

**Textbooks:**

Thomas Weiss and Sam Daws, *The Oxford Handbook of the United Nations*, Oxford University Press, 2009. \$49.95 new and \$37.50 used

Thomas Weiss, David P Forsythe, Roger a Coate, and Kelly-Kate Pease, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, Westview Press, 2013. \$47.00 new

UN Website - For most classes, a particular UN website will be listed. This is for browsing purposes and is highly recommended.

Both books are available from the NC State Bookstore.

Any additional reading will be provided via hyperlink in this syllabus.

**Prerequisites:** PS 231 or PS 236 or PS 335

**Course Description and Objectives:** By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the United Nations and its role in contemporary world politics. This includes the functions and operation of central organs, commissions, and specialized agencies and the UN's role in addressing global issues including peacekeeping, arms control, human rights, economic and social development, and the environment.

## Grading:

Midterm .....	25%
- Take home essay exam consisting of roughly 2,000 words	
Final Paper .....	35%
- Extensive research paper (5,000 - 6,000 words or roughly 20 double spaced pages)	
Group Project and Presentation .....	
- Group Projects will consist of 2,500 word papers .....	
- And a substantial group presentation .....	
Participation .....	20%
- Active participation is required. This means reading the material and participating in class discussions. Good participation means that you participate at least once per week in a thoughtful manner. In addition, as part of a group of four, students will present discussion questions for two classes per semester. Attendance is also very important. Please see the attendance policy listed below.	

## Research Paper:

The research paper is part of the core of the course. Students may choose any topic related to the United Nations. They must then write a coherent, logically consistent research paper of the highest quality. This includes using an appropriate amount of scholarly sources and research.

## Turning in Assignments and Grade Policy:

All assignments should be turned into Moodle by 23:59 on the due date. Assignments should be PDF files and should be labelled with the students' last name.

Unexcused, late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 1/3 a letter grade per 24 hours late.

## Academic Honesty:

"The free exchange of ideas depends on the participants' trust that others' work is their own and that it was done and is being reported honestly. Intellectual progress in all the disciplines demands the truthfulness of all participants. Plagiarism and cheating are attacks on the very foundation of academic life, and cannot be tolerated within universities."

For more information, please see: NC State's Academic Integrity website

If you cheat, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

## University Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class. However, unforeseen issues do arise. Therefore, students are given two free absences. However, after these two absences, a third of a letter grade is assessed for each additional absence that is not excused.

For more information, please see the NC State's Attendance Policy website.

**Students with Disabilities:**

“Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 919-515-7653. For more information on NC State’s policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.01)”

**Personally Identifiable Information:**

“Students may be required to disclose personally identifiable information to other students in the course, via electronic tools like email or web-postings, where relevant to the course. Examples include online discussions of class topics, and posting of student coursework. All students are expected to respect the privacy of each other by not sharing or using such information outside the course.”

**Important Dates:**

Add Deadline .....	17 January 2014
Drop Deadline .....	3 March 2014
Midterm .....	4 March (out) and 9 March (due)
Group Project Paper .....	22 April 2014
Final Paper .....	6 May 2014

**Class Outline and Readings****7 January 2014** : Introduction to the Course

1. UN Website
2. Introduction to the syllabus, general discussion of the UN and learning objectives, a look at the UN Charter

**14 January 2014** : Theoretical Approaches to Studying the UN

1. Oxford Handbook chapters 1-4
2. Weiss introduction

**21 January 2014** : Principal Organs I: The General Assembly and Security Council

1. Principal Organs of the UN Website
2. Oxford Handbook chapters 5-6
3. Stefan Talmon, The Security Council as World Legislature, The American Journal of International Law, 2005, pp. 175-193
4. Axel Dreher and Jan-Egbert Sturm, Do the IMF and World Bank Influence Voting in the UN General Assembly, Public Choice, April 2012, pp. 363-397

**28 January 2014** : Principal Organs II: The Other Organs

1. Principal Organs of the UN Website

2. Oxford Handbook chapters 7-11

**4 February 2014** : International Peace and Security I: An Overview

1. UN Peace and Security Website
2. Weiss, chapters 1-2
3. Oxford Handbook chapters 17-18, 20

**11 February 2014** : International Peace and Security II: Peacekeeping and Enforcing

1. UN Peacekeeping Website
2. Oxford Handbook chapters 19, 21
3. Weiss chapters 3-4
4. Film TBD

**18 February 2014** : International Peace and Security III: The Responsibility to Protect

1. UN R2P Website
2. Oxford Handbook chapters 22-23
3. Moises Naim, Why Libya, but why not Syria? The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 18 May 2011

**25 February 2014** : Human Rights I: Creating Norms

1. UN Human Rights Website
2. Oxford Handbook chapter 25
3. Weiss chapters 6-7
4. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**4 March 2014** : Human Rights II: Protecting Human Rights

1. UN OHCHR Website
2. Oxford Handbook chapters 26-31
3. Weiss chapter 8

**11 March 2014** : Spring Break - No Class

**18 March 2014** : Regional Partnerships and National Human Rights Institutions

1. UN NHRI Website
2. Oxford Handbook chapters 12-16
3. Jeong-Woo Koo and Francisco O. Ramirez, National Incorporation of Global Human Rights: Worldwide Expansion of National Human Rights Institutions, 1966-2004

**25 March 2014** : Film (Dr. Voss will be in Toronto for a conference)

1. Film TBD

**1 April 2014** : Development I: Understanding Development and the UN

1. UN Development Website
2. Weiss chapter 8-11

**8 April 2014** : Development II: Case Studies

1. Oxford Handbook chapters 32-37
2. UN Development Programme Website

**15 April 2014** : UN Reform

1. UN Reform Website
2. Oxford Handbook chapters 38-40
3. Weiss chapter 5 and conclusion

**22 April 2014** : Presentation of Group Projects

1. Group Project Presentations Due