

Eckerd College
International Relations and Global Affairs
Spring 2014

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IR 340-001

Geneva and International Organization

Eckerd College is offering the course, “Geneva and International Organization” in the spring of 2014. This program provides a unique opportunity to examine the work of the affiliated agencies of the United Nations (UN) and the international community in Geneva, Switzerland.

The course will focus on three key themes: economic globalization, ecological balance, and human rights. We will examine the degree to which the global community has been able to cooperate and achieve positive results in these three issue areas. We will visit and engage leading international civil servants working in these foremost international organizations on these critical issues and the grave challenges facing the global community. Potential solutions to some of the most pressing issues confronting humanity—from violent human rights abuses to global environmental degradation—are being debated in Geneva. We will confront these issues directly and analyze the success and/or failure of global functional cooperation through international organization.

In addition to this engagement with these leading IOs and NGOs, we will also try to meet with the U.S. and Pakistani Missions to the United Nations. We will tour the U.N. itself and visit the Red Cross Museum. There will also be time to explore Geneva, its museums, galleries, cafes, and shops.

Requirements:

*Attendance and active participation is mandatory to all classes on campus at Eckerd before leaving for Europe. You are only allowed one unexcused absence. If you miss more than one class, your grade will be automatically lowered and you will be asked to withdraw from the class.

*Attendance and active participation is required at all meetings scheduled in Geneva, Switzerland.

*All readings must be completed according to the attached syllabus schedule.

*Research Paper and Oral Presentation: Each student will submit an 8 to 10 page research paper analyzing and summarizing the current active work and priorities of your assigned agency. You will then summarize your research findings in an oral presentation to the class and present a list of questions about the organization’s work to ask in Geneva.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Class participation in class on campus	25%
Research Paper and Oral Presentation	25%
“Think papers” and quizzes	25%
Active participation and engagement at our meetings in Geneva	25%

Readings:

Kelly-Kate S. Pease, *International Organizations: Perspectives on Governance in the Twenty-First Century*, 5th Edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2012).

Recommended:

William Felice, *The Global New Deal: Economic and Social Human Rights in World Politics*—2nd edition (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield Press, 2010).

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 10:00am to noon
Friday: 9:30am to 11:30am

Please stop by my office to discuss any questions or concerns about the class (or to chat).

Description of Research Paper and Oral Presentation

You have been assigned the following IO or NGO, which we will hopefully be meeting with in Geneva, for your research paper and oral presentation.

Economic Globalization

- 1) International Labor Organization (ILO) – Hank Broege
- 2) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – Erin Stringer
- 3) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – Henry Bowie
- 4) World Trade Organization (WTO) – Rob Mabry
- 5) World Health Organization (WHO) – Lee Staley
- 6) European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) – Madison Durley

Ecological Balance

- 7) United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) – Lindsey Collette
- 8) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
(World Meteorological Organization—WMO) – Becky Helmstetter
- 9) Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) – Tarah Reed

10) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – Kathleen McLean

11) Green Cross International – Cassi Lyon

Human Rights

12) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) – Nick Browne

13) Human Rights Council – Flannery Fitzgerald

14) Human Rights Committee (CCPR) – Matt Cramer

15) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) – Tom Brunello

16) Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) – Sarah Sims

17) Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – Angela Bared

18) Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – Maggie Dawson

19) Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (OHCR) – Derek Godsall

20) UNAIDS – Jon Walters

21) Int'l Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association – Alexa Matz

22) Women's International League for Peace and Freedom – Molly Till

23) Int'l Campaign to Ban Landmines – Max Lemura

Each student is to research her or his assigned agency and prepare:

- a) An 8 to 10 page research paper analyzing and summarizing the current active work and priorities of your agency;
- b) a class briefing (lecture/discussion) of approximately 30-45 minutes to prepare the entire class for our meetings with the international organization;
- c) a clear list of questions/concerns about the organization's work to raise directly to the IO or NGO at our meeting with them.

Your paper and briefing should include a comprehensive description of the ways in which your organization has succeeded and/or failed to create international cooperation in their areas of focus. Describe the key issues and controversies surrounding the work of the IO or NGO. Is there a particular theoretical perspective and approach (presented in the Pease book) that is useful to explaining both the agenda and the success or failure of the organization? What types of institutional reforms could strengthen the work of the organization? What are the central issues that we should pursue with these IOs and NGOs in Geneva?

These class briefings will take place in class on campus during the spring semester (see dates below). The list of questions for the IO or NGO is due at the same time as your class briefing. While in Geneva, you will also give the class a short briefing just prior to our visit to your agency to remind us of the key issues confronting the international organization.

Honor Code

All students are expected to uphold the Eckerd College honor code:

“On my honor, as an Eckerd student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to tolerate these behaviors in others.”

You are required to write “pledged” on every assignment to indicate your work is consistent with the Honor Code.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments
Thursday: 3:20 – 6:15

Jan 30 Overview and Planning

Mar 20 Theories of International Organization
Reading: Pease, chs 1-4 (1-110)

Class Briefings:

ILO - Hank Broege
WIPO - Henry Bowie
CERN - Madison Durley

Spring Break – March 22-30

April 3 International Organization and Security.
Reading: Pease, ch 5 (111-156)

Class Briefings:

WTO - Rob Mabry
UNCTAD - Erin Stringer
OHCR - Derek Godsall

April 10 International Organization and Trade
Reading: Pease, ch 6 (157-184)

Class Briefing:

UNEP - Lindsey Collette
WWF - Kathleen McLean
Green Cross - Cassi Lyon
CIEL - Tarah Reed

April 17 International Organization and Development/Environment
Reading: Pease, ch 7 & 8 (185-262)

Class Briefing:

IPCC/WMO - Becky Helmstetter
ILGBTI - Alexa Matz
WILP&F - Molly Till

- April 24 International Organization and Human Rights
 Reading: Pease, ch 9 (263-301)
- Class Briefings:
 OHCHR - Nick Browne
 Human Rights Council – Flannery Fitzgerald
 CESCR – Tom Brunello
 CERD – Sarah Sims
- May 1 International Organization and Human Rights (Part Two)
 Reading: Pease, ch 10 (302-318)
- Class Briefings:
 Human Rights Committee - Matt Cramer
 CEDAW - Maggie Dawson
 Int’l Campaign to Ban Landmines - Max Lemura
- May 8 Final Briefing/Preparation for Geneva
- Class Briefings:
 CRC - Angela Bared
 UNAIDS - Jon Walters
 WHO - Lee Staley
- May 22 – June 11: Geneva, Switzerland. Meetings and Briefings (schedule to be distributed).