**Course Description**
This course provides an overview of the United Nations system from the perspective of international relations. It is divided into three parts. The first part begins with an overview of various theoretical perspectives on international relations generally and on the role of international organizations and law more specifically. We then examine the historical evolution of the UN and its precursors, and outline the UN’s structure and the key actors and decision-making processes that take place within it. The second part of the course deals with the issue of peace and security, which is central to the UN system. We will discuss topics such as peacekeeping, collective security, and humanitarian intervention, and will use the case of Iraq to illustrate the UN’s role in some of these areas. The third part of the course deals with various other issues of importance to the UN, including economic cooperation and development, the environment, globalization and trade, and concludes with a discussion of UN reform and the question of unilateralism versus multilateralism as alternative political strategies in the contemporary international system.

**Course Requirements**
Students are expected to attend every class session and to keep themselves updated on current events involving the UN and other international organizations (we will begin every Thursday session with a discussion of relevant current events). Graded assignments include: three exams and a 5-page paper on UN reform. Detailed instructions on the exams and paper assignment will be forthcoming in class. The exams will test course readings as well as information covered during class sessions. Note that class lectures and discussion will often cover material that is not covered in the course texts, so receiving a good grade in this course requires that you attend class and do the readings.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- Exam 1 (April 19) 25%
- Exam 2 (May 10) 25%
- Exam 3 (June 5) 25%
- Paper (May 29) 25%

**Course Texts**
The following required books are available at SBX:
Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/.
March 27 – Introductory session
   Readings:
   -Mingst & Karns, Chapter 1

**PART I: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE UN SYSTEM**

March 29 – IOs: Trends and Concepts
   Readings:

April 3 – No Class

April 5 – Background and Evolution of the United Nations
   Readings:
   -Mingst & Karns, Chapter 2, pp. 19-22

April 10 – The Structure of the United Nations I
   Readings:
   -Mingst & Karns, Chapter 2, pp. 23-49

April 12 – The Structure of the United Nations II
   Readings: None

April 17 – Actors and Decision-making in the UN System
   Readings:
   -Mingst & Karns, Chapter 3

April 19 – Exam #1

**PART II: THE UN IN PEACE AND SECURITY**

April 24 – War and Collective Security
   Readings:
   -Mingst & Karns, Chapter 4
   -Thompson, Chapter 1

April 26 – Peacekeeping and Arms Control
   Readings:
May 2 – Case Study: The Gulf War
Readings:
Thompson, Chapter 3

May 3 – Case Study: From 9/11 to Iraq 2003
Readings:
- Thompson, Chapters 5-6

May 8 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention
Readings:
- Mingst & Karns, Chapter 6

May 10 – Exam #2

PART III: OTHER GLOBAL ISSUES

May 15 – Economic Cooperation and Development
Readings:
Mingst & Karns, Chapter 5

May 17 – Human Security and the Environment
Readings:
Mingst & Karns, Chapter 7

May 22 – No class.

May 24 – Climate Change: Cooperation and Institutions
Readings:
- UNFCCC, “Uniting on Climate 2007”

May 29 – Governing Globalization and Trade (Paper Due)
Readings:

May 31 – The UN: Problems and Reform
Unilateralism versus Multilateralism
Readings:
- Mingst & Karns, pp. 49-60 and Chapter 8

June 5 (Tuesday) – Exam #3: 3:30 – 5:18