Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
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I.-Subject Identification	
Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	1 course, 2Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

As individuals' lives increasingly span national boundaries, States are debating the rights of people as partners of the earth planet. The International Relations before 1945 were based of the concept of the "State" as a main actor on the international field. After the II World War, the new International Order, change everything, giving the main role to a new legal institutions: International Organizations.

New objectives, for a new way to understand the world, couldn't be used as a part of the traditional States points of views of the world problems.

New concepts as human security, democratic governance, poverty reduction, Sustainable Development Goals, develop, equity, gender rights, children rights, human rights are the new words for a new world.

We need to know during the academic course "what and when" and how the International Organizations are contributing to get a new international order, different. Because another world is possible, we need understand the main actors on the world international scene. From the global, United Nations system, to the regional, the European Union and others regional institutions.

This Course is an exploration of the new international order born in 1945, and the situation of the process on the XXI century.

III.-Learning outcomes

CG02. Students must be able to apply acquired knowledge to professional work and posses the skills that can be demonstrated by means of reasoning and defence, as well as problem-solving.

CG06. Students must have developed the learning skills required to deal with further study with a high degree of independence.

CE08. Students must acquire the necessary skills to study and independently analyse the protagonists, relations and institutional framework of the International Society, as well as obtain the necessary resources for such an analysis.

CE09. Students must be aware of and understand the basic features of the globalisation of social, economic and political activity as well as the functioning of international organisations.

CE17. Students must be capable of identifying and analysing the basic features of foreign policy and its main consequences on International cooperation and development policies.

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.

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IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

PART I: INSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. LESSONS

1. History of International Organizations: From the League of Nations to the United Nations

2. Definition and elements of International organizations

3. Classifying International Organizations: Categories of International Organizations

4. Legal Position of International Organizations: International Legal subjectivity

Indicators of international personality

Privileges and immunities

Treaty making power by International Organizations

Legal instruments

5 Membership and representation

6 Institutional Structures of the International Organizations

A. Non-Judicial organs of organizations

Acts of non-judicial organs: their legal effect

Acts of non-judicial organs: the doctrine of ultra vires

B Judicial organs

7 The internal law: employment relations

8 Financing

9 Responsibility to and of international organizations

10 Dissolution and succession

11 The settlement of disputes

A. Disputes between states and organizations or between organizations

B. Employment disputes

C. Settlement of disputes involving private parties, states or organizations at the national level

D. Disputes between member states before international organizations

PART II: UNIVERSAL AND REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

LESSON 1: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: INTERNATIONAL ACTOR

1. Concept and general characteristics of International Organizations

A) Composition essentially interstate

B) Conventional Legal Basis

C) Permanent Structure and Independent

D) Legal Autonomy

2. Classification of International Organizations: Composition, functions and institucional structure.

LESSON 2: THE STRUCTURE AND FORMATION OF WILL IN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. The organs of International organizations
2. Types of Organs
3. Voting Systems

LESSON 3: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF A UNIVERSAL SCOPE

1. The Organization of the United Nations
2. The purposes and principles of the United Nations and the “constitutional” nature of the Charter of the United Nations
3. The members of the United Nations
4. The Organs of the United Nations: principal organs

a) The General Assembly

b) The Security Council

c) The Economic and Social Council

d) The General Secretariat

e) The International Court of Justice

LESSON 4: THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

1. General Ideas
2. The Peaceful settlement of disputes

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3. Action in case of threats to the peace, breach of the peace of act
4. Peacekeeping Operations

LESSON 5: THE UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES

1. General Ideas
2. The specialized agencies of the United Nations: Concept and significance general
3. ILO, WHO, UNESCO, FAO, IMF, UNICEF, WB, IAEI...

LESSON 6: INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIFIC PURPOSES

1. International Organizations in Europe: Council of Europe
2. Military Cooperation: NATO
3. The Cooperation Organizations preferably Economic: OECD, EU
4. Organizations in the field of Security: OSCE

LESSON 7: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

1. The Organization of American States (OAS)
2. Regional Organizations in Latin America: MERCOSUR, Pacific Alliance, SICA, CARICOM...

LESSON 8: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ARAB AND ISLAMIC WORLD AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN AFRICA

1. General Considerations
2. International Organizations arabo-islamic: The League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
3. International Organizations in Africa: African Unity, The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), The Common Market for Eastern and Central Africa (COMESA)

LESSON 9: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

1. General Considerations
2. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
3. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
4. Organization of Security and Assistance between Australia, New Zeland and the United States (ANZUS)

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Lectures	*HARRINGTON, Alexandra R., "International Organizations and the Law", Routledge, New York, 2024. *WEISS, Thomas G. y WILKINSON, Rorden, "International Organization and Global Governace", Routledge, New York, 2023. * "The Europa directory of International Organization 2024, edited by Europa Publications, Routledge, New York, 2024
Lectures	C. F. AMERASINGHE: Principles of the Institutional Law of International Organizations, Cambridge University Press, 2005; J. KLABBERS: An introduction to International Institutional Law, Cambridge University Press 2015;

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V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	20
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	20
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	20
Academic tutorials	18
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	30
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	20
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	20
Preparation for tests and/or exams	32
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 15	Methodology: Explanation of the topics that appear in the syllabus of the International Organizations and Institutions Subject, practical work and group presentations in class related to the subjects of the Subject Program. Everything was done following the Plan established by the university for this course.
Group work	Week 8 to Week 15	Group Presentations in class related to the subjects of the Syllabus International Organizations and Institutions.

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VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.
All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.
The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).
Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

The final mark will be obtained from two different types of tests:
1) 60% of the final mark will be an exam (Reassessable)
2) 40% of the final mark will be two activities: 2 group projects (4-5 people + oral presentations) (Not Reassessable)
All tests will be face to face. The minimum mark in theoretical exam is 3 out of 6.
The exams will be similar in both calls taking into account only the reassessable ones.

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance

Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.
Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.

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VIII.-Teaching resources and materials
Basic bibliography
Title: "International Organization. Theories and Institutions", Author: Barkin J. , Palgrave Macmillan US, 2006.
Title: "Cooperation and Governance in International Trade", Authors: Beth V. Yarbrough and Robert M. Yarbrough, Princeton University Press, 2014.
Title: The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations. First Edition. Edited by: Jacob Katz Cogan, Oxford, 2016. Title: "International Organization". Second Edition, Authors: Volker Rittberger and Bernard Zangl, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.
Title: "International Institutions: An International Organization Reader (International Organization Special", Authors: Lisa L. Martin and Beth A. Simmons (Editors), The MIT Press Cambridge, London, 2001.
Title: "International Organizations. A Companion". Authors: Michael Davies and Richard Woodward, Published by Edward Elgar, Publishing Limited, Cheltenham, U.K, 2014.
Title: International Organizations and the Law". Author: Alexandra R. Harrington, Published by Routledge, New York, 2024.
Title: International Organization and Global Governance". Authors: Thomas G. Weiss and Rorden Wilkinson. Published by Routledge, New York, 2023.
Title: "The Europa directory of International Organizations 2024", Edited by Europa Publications, Routledge, New York, 2024.
Author: HURD, Ian. Title: International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2024.
Consultation bibliography
Feld, Werner J., and Robert S. Jordon. International Institutions: A Comparative Approach. 3d ed. Westport, Conn., 1994. Finkelstein, Lawrence S., ed. Politics in the United Nations System. Durham, N.C., 1988. Franck, Thomas M. Nation Against Nation: What Happened to the UN Dream and What the U.S. Can Do About It. New York, 1985. Taylor, Paul. International Organization in the Modern World: The Regional and Global Process. London and New York, 1993. Taylor, Paul, and A. J. R. Groom, eds. International Institutions at Work. London and New York, 1988. Union of International Associations. Yearbook of International Organizations. Brussels. Annual. Weiss, Thomas G., and Leon Gordenker, eds. NGOs, the UN, and Global Governance. London and Boulder, Colo., 1996. A brief but useful compilation of essays on the role of NGOs. Wells, Robert N., ed. Peace by Pieces: United Nations Agencies and Their Roles. Metuchen, N.J., 1991. Williams, Douglas. The Specialized Agencies and the United Nations: The System in Crisis. New York, 1987.

IX.-Professors	
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Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Titular de Universidad
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	No
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico

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Number of quinquennia	2
Number of sexennia	1
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	3
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Category	Catedrático/a de Universidad
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	5
Number of sexennia	3
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	6

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