

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ  
ХАРКІВСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ ЕКОНОМІЧНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ  
ІМЕНІ СЕМЕНА КУЗНЕЦЯ



Міжнародні організації

**робоча програма навчальної дисципліни**

Галузь знань *29 Міжнародні відносини*  
Спеціальність *291 Міжнародні відносини, суспільні комунікації та регіональні студії*  
Освітній рівень *перший (бакалаврський) рівень*  
Освітня програма *Міжнародні відносини, суспільні комунікації та регіональні студії*

Статус дисципліни *базова*  
Мова викладання, навчання та оцінювання *англійська*

Завідувач кафедри  
Міжнародного бізнесу та економічного аналізу

Ірина ОТЕНКО

Харків  
2020

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE  
SIMON KUZNETS KHARKIV NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS



International Organizations

**syllabus of the educational discipline**

Field of knowledge *29 International Relations*  
Specialty *291 International Relations, Social Communications  
and Regional Studies*  
Educational level *First (Bachelor) degree*  
Educational program *International Relations, Social Communications and  
Regional Studies*

Discipline type *Basic*  
Teaching, learning and assessment language *English*

Department Head  
*International business and economic analysis*

Iryna OTENKO

Kharkiv  
2020

**APPROVED**

At the meeting of the International Business and Economic Analysis Department  
Protocol № 1 from 25 August 2020.

Compiled by

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**Letter of renewal and re-approval of the syllabus of the educational discipline**

Academic year	Date of the meeting of the department - the developer of syllabus	Number of Protocol	The Department Head's signature

### Abstract of the discipline

The academic discipline is concentrated on the international organizations, including different areas of their actions and aspects of their working processes (input, processing, output and evaluation). The course prerequisites and post requisites include several other courses, such as theory of international relations, world history, international law, international relations and world politics, diplomatic protocol and etiquette. International organizations as the object of study are very important for the students in terms of practicality and relevancy. It is well-known that all international organizations are not only crucial international actors but also the potential workplace for the students of the given curriculum. The final goal of the course, thus, is to develop competitive specialist in the field of international organizations.

### Characteristics of the discipline

Year of study	3
Semester	5
Кількість кредитів ECTS	5
Форма підсумкового контролю	Examination

### Structural and logical scheme of studying the course

Prerequisites	Post requisites
Theory of international relations	International relations and world politics
World history	Diplomatic protocol and etiquette
International law	

### Competences and discipline results

Competencies	Results
Generic competence (GC) 4. Knowledge and understanding of the subject area and understanding of professional activity	Learning outcome (LO) 01. To know and understand the nature of international relations and the regional development, evolution, current state of theoretical studies on international relations and world policies as well as the nature and sources of state policies in the international arena and activity of other members of international relations
GC 5. Ability to work within the international context	LO 03. To know the nature of international cooperation, the character of interaction between international actors, correlation between state actors and non-state actors in international policies conflicts
GC 11. Ability to speak a foreign language	LO 04. To know principles, mechanisms and processes of making foreign policies by states, interaction between foreign and domestic policies, identification and realization of states' interests at international arena, process of forming and realizing foreign political decisions
SC2. Ability to analyze international processes in different contexts, i.e. political, security, legal, economic, social, cultural and information ones.	LO 05. To know nature and mechanisms of international communications

SC7. Ability to analyze international integration processes in the world and in the European continent and place of Ukraine in them	LO 06. To know the nature and character of interaction between separate states and regions at the global, regional and local levels
SC11. Ability to analyze nature and evolution of international organizations, their place in the system of international relations, basic forms and perspectives of cooperation between them and Ukraine	LO 08. Collect, process and analyze big volumes of information on the state of international relations, foreign policies of Ukraine and other countries, regional systems, international communications
SC13. Ability to analyze activity of international nongovernmental actors and transnational relations	LO 09. To research the problems in international relations, regional development, international communications using modern political, economic and law theories and conceptions, scientific methods and interdisciplinary approaches, present study results, produce respective recommendations
SC14. Ability to analyze non-governmental components of international relations through activity of political parties, civil organizations and regional level communities	LO 16. To understand and defend national interests of Ukraine in its international activity LO18. To understand multi-complexity and heterogeneity of Ukrainian society, have skills of regional, political and geographical and electoral analysis of behavioral strategies of non-governmental actors of international relations of Ukraine

## Course Content

### Content Module 1. International organizations as international actors

#### **Theme 1. International organizations in the system of international relations**

Definition of the international organization and international institution. Types of international organizations: task-specific organizations and general-purpose organizations, programme organizations and operational organizations, decentralized organizations and centralized organizations. Interpretations of international organizations from different political theories (political realism, institutionalism and social constructivism): problem condition, cognitive condition and hegemonic condition.

#### **Theme 2. War and power politics factors in the development of international organizations**

Historical overview of the main approaches which state made to solve the security dilemma: the Peace of Westphalia (balance of power), the nineteenth century Concert of Europe. The League of Nations, the United Nations. Institutionalization of military alliances (the NATO and the Warsaw Pact).

#### **Theme 3. International organizations' activity in the areas of commerce, economy, transport and communication**

The area of transport: the Rhine River Commission, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), The International Union of Railways (UIC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Bureau for Weights and Measures. The area of communication: the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The area of social regulations: the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO). The area of global economy, trade and monetary relations: the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO), regional organizations (EU, NAFTA, ASEAN).

#### **Theme 4. International organizations in the areas of human rights, disparities and ecology**

The area of human rights: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the Civil Pact) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the Social Pact), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Human Rights Council (HRC), the UN's Security Council, International Criminal Court (ICC), regional protection of human rights (the Council of Europe, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the European Social Charter, the European Court of Human Rights, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights). The area of developmental disparity: the World Bank Group, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The area of environmental degradation: the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

#### **Theme 5. International Organizations as political structures, plenary organs and executive councils**

Principle of input, conversion and output. Constitutional structure of international organizations: founding treaties, practices of formal and informal changes. Institutional structure of international organization: plenary organs and executive councils.

#### **Theme 6. Institutional structure of international organization**

Plenary organs, executive councils, permanent secretariats, courts of justice, parliamentary assemblies, representation of non-governmental actors.

### **Content Module 2 Internal structures of international organizations**

#### **Lecture 7. The governments of member states as actors in international organizations**

State actors' motivation, commitment and behaviour in international organizations. Governments of member-states as main actors: the USA, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Russia, China, the regional group G77, the Coalition of 38 small island developing countries, the BRICS.

#### **Theme 8. Administrative staffs, parliamentarians, interest groups, experts**

Functions of international organization administrative staffs. Parliamentarians and their goals. Civil society actors and private businesses as the interest groups within the system of international organizations, NGOs. Functions and influences of expert communities.

#### **Theme 9. Decision-making process within international organizations**

Programme decisions and operational decisions. Intergovernmental decision making: conferences. Institutionalized decision-making: plenary organs and executive councils.

#### **Theme 10. The role of plenary organs and executive councils in the programme decision making**

Actors in plenary organs and executive councils. Negotiation processes in plenary organs and executive councils: hard bargaining and problem-solving. Voting procedures in plenary organs and executive councils.

#### **Theme 11. Operational decisions of international organizations**

Operational decisions. Delegated decision-making: Secretariats and agencies. Delegated decision making: Courts.

#### **Theme 12. International organizations' policy programmes and their implementation**

Objectives: regulatory and redistributive programmes. Binding nature of policy programmes. Operational activities: specification, implementation, monitoring, adjudication, sanctions.

The list of practical classes, as well as questions and tasks for individual work, is given in the table "The rating plan of the discipline".

## **Teaching and learning methods**

In the course of the academic discipline includes different interactive strategies of study, such as discussion, case-study, role-playing, tests, creative tasks, small groups, problematical questions.

The theme 1 practical lesson is based on the simulation game “prisoners’ dilemma” which allows students to understand rational necessity of having international organizations as mediators of interstate relations. The 2 theme practical lesson is built up on a discussion (in the form of snowball when discussion starts from groups of two students, then springs into four students groups, then into the whole class discussion) over the question “What conditions explain the development of international organizations in the last two centuries?” The theme 3 lesson is devoted to the designing by students their own international organization with founding treaty, main purposes, decision making procedures, membership conditions, etc. In the theme 4 practical lesson students work in small groups writing human rights treaty and simulating negotiations between states over this treaty norms. In the theme 5 practical lesson students are involved in discussion over the problem question which requires research in class. Materials of themes 6 and 7 are worked in the way of students making presentations with elements of breakout news simulation “Media news on the incident between a state and an international organization”. The theme 8 lesson concentrates students on the case “U.S. Foreign Policy: Multilateralism or Unilateralism?” with follow-up debates. From 9 to 12 themes practical lessons are built up on a discussion (in the form of snowball when discussion starts from groups of two students, then springs into four students groups, then into the whole class discussion) over a problem issue.

Doing module assignments students solve problem questions, expressing their opinions in the form short essay, do multi-choice tests on the themes of respective module blocks.

The lecture classes include discussions on the problem issues, pair work (buzz groups, when twos discuss the issue for 2 minutes, reporting then to the whole class), debates (“four corners” or “barometer”, when students are proposed to choose the place in room according to their thoughts with possibility to change the place if the standpoint has been changed), jigsaw (reading texts and answering questions on the text in small groups with the follow-up discussion by the whole class), teacher’s presentations, etc. After each lecture students should to pass brief online test during the next week, till the next lecture.

### **The procedure for evaluating learning outcomes**

Simon Kuznets KhNUE uses accumulative (100-grade) system of evaluation. Current learning outcomes are awarded 35 points minimum and 60 points maximum, while the final exam points cover from 25 points to 40 points for written work.

The evaluating process is built up in the way of points giving for active work during the practical lessons. During every practical lesson students can gain different points regarding the activity planned for the practical lesson, from 1 to 4 points. The activities include discussions, question-answer sessions, simulations, debates and presentations. Totally students can receive 22 points for the excellent performance of practical lesson assignments. The maximum points for doing all online-tests well is 10 points.

The two module assignments are given in the form of one-choice tests and essay writing with 14 points allocated for each module assignment. Totally for the current work students have to collect maximum 60 points and minimum 35 points before being allowed to pass the examination.

The examination paper includes four questions or tasks (two stereotypical, one diagnostic and one heuristic questions or tasks). For the excellent solution of the stereotypical task student will be awarded 7 points, for the excellent solution of the diagnostic task students will be awarded 12

points and for the excellent solution of the heuristic task student will be awarded 14 points. The maximum grade for the excellent answers or solutions is 40 points, the minimum grade for the satisfying answers or solutions is 25 points.

The final grade is provided according to the rate presented in table “The grading rate: national rate and ECTS”.

The forms of evaluation and point allocation are given in table “The rating plan of the academic course”.

- Lecture online tests: maximum 10 points
- Practical lesson assignments: maximum 13 points
- Individual assignments: maximum 9 points
- Module test assignments: maximum 28 points
- Final examination assignments: maximum 40 points

#### National and ECTS scale of evaluation

Total score on a 100-point scale	ECTS assessment scale	Assessment on the national scale	
		for exam, differentiated test, course project (work), practice, training	for pass
90 – 100	A	excellent	pass
82 – 89	B	good	
74 – 81	C	satisfactory	
64 – 73	D		
60 – 63	E	unsatisfactory	not pass
35 – 59	FX		

#### The rating plan of the discipline

Theme	Forms and types of assignments	Forms of assessment	Max points	
Theme 1.	<i>Class work</i>			
	Lecture	Lecture «International organizations in the system of international relations»	Test (Moodle)	1
			Discussion	1
	Practical lesson	Simulation “prisoners dilemma”	Simulation	2
	<i>Individual work</i>			
Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material Discussion question: “How do constitutional and institutional structures affect policy-making in international organizations? Use a concrete example to illustrate your answer.”			
Theme 2.	<i>Class work</i>			
	Lecture	Lecture “War and power politics factors in the development of international organizations”	Test (Moodle)	1
			Discussion	0,5
	Practical lesson	Discussion question: “What conditions explain the development	Discussion	0,5

		of international organizations in the last two centuries?”		
	<b>Individual work</b>			
	Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material		
		Problem question: “Is the United Nations really effective?”		
<b>Theme 3.</b>	<b>Class work</b>			
	Lecture	International organizations’ activity in the areas of commerce, economy, transport and communication	Test (Moodle)	1
			Discussion	1
	Practical lesson	Designing own international organization	Presentation	2
	<b>Individual work</b>			
Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material			
	Discussion question: “To what extent does the creation of international organizations differ per policy area? Are international organizations used similarly in the area of security as in trade?”			
<b>Theme 4.</b>	<b>Class work</b>			
	Lecture	International organizations in the areas of human rights, disparities and ecology	Test (Moodle)	1
			Discussion	1
	Practical lesson	Simulation “Human rights treaty”	Simulation	2
	<b>Individual work</b>			
Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material			
	Discussion question: “How will international organizations develop without the strong support of a hegemon, such as the USA? Give examples of different policy areas”			
<b>Theme 5.</b>	<b>Class work</b>			
	Lecture	“International Organizations as political structures, plenary organs and executive councils”	Test (Moodle)	1
Discussion			0,5	

	Practical lesson	Discussion question: “How do constitutional and institutional structures affect policy-making in international organizations? Use a concrete example to illustrate your answer”	Discussion	0,5
	<b><i>Individual work</i></b>			
	Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material Problem question: “To what extent does the choice of voting procedures involve a trade-off between the probability of reaching decisions and the effectiveness of implementation? How can this tension be resolved? In other words, how does the type of voting (simple or absolute majority) affect the policies?”		
	<b><i>Class work</i></b>			
<b>Theme 6.</b>	Lecture	“Institutional structure of international organization”		
	Practical lesson	Module assignment	Written test	14
	<b><i>Individual work</i></b>			
	Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material Discussion question: “Can the political systems of international organizations be compared to the political systems of countries? Argue in favour or against”		
	<b><i>Class work</i></b>			
<b>Theme 7.</b>	Lecture	“The governments of member states as actors in international organizations”	Test (Moodle)	1
			Discussion	1
	Practical lesson	Presentation with elements of simulation: “Media news on the incident between a state and an international organization”	Presentation	2
	<b><i>Individual work</i></b>			
	Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material Written assignment question: “How do ordinary states differ in their demands and support for international organizations?” (Comparing two any non-powerful states)	written work	1

<b>Theme 8.</b>	<i><b>Class work</b></i>			
	Lecture	“Administrative staffs, parliamentarians, interest groups, experts”	Test (Moodle)	1
			Discussion	0,5
	Practical lesson	Case “U.S. Foreign Policy: Multilateralism or Unilateralism?”	Case-study	0,5
	<i><b>Individual work</b></i>			
Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material Question: “Through which channels can non-governmental actors formulate demands on, and lend support to, international organizations? Give a concrete example for each channel of input.”			
<b>Theme 9.</b>	<i><b>Class work</b></i>			
	Lecture	“Decision-making process within international organizations”	Test (Moodle)	1
			Discussion	0,5
	Practical lesson	Question: “What are the main differences between programme decisions and operational decisions? Illustrate your answer with specific examples of decision-making in international organizations”.	Discussion	0,5
	<i><b>Individual work</b></i>			
Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material Question “If you compare programme decisions with operational decisions, which have the greatest potential to infringe on the autonomy of member states? How is this reflected in the decision-making processes?”			
<b>Theme 10.</b>	<i><b>Class work</b></i>			
	Lecture	The role of plenary organs and executive councils in the programme decision making	Test (Moodle)	1
			Discussion	1

	Practical lesson	Discussion question: “What is potentially more significant: the provision in the UN Charter that states shall refrain from the use of force, or the delegation of decision-making authority to a UN peacekeeping commander in Mali who has to make life/death decisions? Provide arguments for both”.	Debates	2
	<b><i>Individual work</i></b>			
	Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material Question: “Why is it so difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of international organization?”		
<b>Theme 11</b>	<b><i>Class work</i></b>			
	Lecture	“Operational decisions of international organizations”		
	Practical lesson	Module assignment	Written test	14
	<b><i>Individual work</i></b>			
	Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture material Preparation for module assignment		
<b>Theme 12</b>	<b><i>Class work</i></b>			
	Lecture	“International organizations’ policy programmes and their implementation”	Test (Moodle)	1
	Practical lesson	Presentation with elements of simulation: “Sell the topic”	Presentation	2
	<b><i>Individual work</i></b>			
	Questions and tasks for individual work	Lecture materials revision		
	Final examination			40

### Recommended literature

#### Primary

1. Basic lecture notes on the discipline “International organizations” compiled by Andrii Pastushenko [electronic resource] – Access mode: <https://pns.hneu.edu.ua/course/view.php?id=6851>

#### Secondary

2. Алексеева Т. І. Міжнародні організації: навч. посіб. / Харківський національний економічний університет. – Харків: ХНЕУ, 2006 – 198 с.

3. Abbott Kenneth W. *International Organizations as Orchestrators* / Kenneth W. Abbott, Philipp Genschel, Duncan Snidal, Bernhard Zangl. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. – 430 p.
4. Johansen S. Ø. *The Human Rights Accountability Mechanisms of International Organizations* / Stian Øby Johansen. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. – 321 p.
5. Hurd, Ian. *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. – 300 p.
6. Rittberger, Volker. *International Organization*. – London: Macmillan Education UK, 2019. – 285 p.

#### **Internet resources**

7. Course “International organizations” on Moodle: access mode:  
<https://pns.hneu.edu.ua/course/view.php?id=6851>