

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY UNITED NATIONS SUMMER STUDY PROGRAM
Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs (GAIA)

Professor: Lynette E. Sieger

Email: les174@rutgers.edu

Short Bio: Lynette Sieger is completing her doctoral dissertation in the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University. She specializes in global legal and political theory. She has been a visiting scholar at Tsinghua University (Beijing, 2016) and Sciences Po (Paris, 2014). Her dissertation focuses on legitimacy in international organizations regimes with case studies in United Nations peacekeeping, UNAIDs, and the Counter Terrorism Committee. In the spring of 2016 she traveled to Haiti for a field visit to MINUSTAH. Her professional experience includes teaching undergraduate courses in international organizations and international law. She held the position of analytic researcher for the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services report “Meta-Evaluation of the Effectiveness, Impact, and Relevance of United Nations Peace Operations” (2012).

Course Co-Designed by: Dr. Jean-Marc Coicaud

Email: jc1481@law.rutgers.edu

Short Bio: Dr. Coicaud joined Rutgers University in the fall of 2011 and is Professor of Law and Global Affairs. Prior to joining Rutgers Dr. Coicaud served as the Director of the United Nations University (UNU) Office at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City (2003-2011) and as Senior Academic Officer and Director of Studies at the UNU Headquarters in Tokyo (1996-2003). He began his UN career in 1992 serving in the Executive Office of United Nations Secretary-General as a speechwriter for Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali (1992-1996). Prior to his work at the UN Dr. Coicaud held appointments with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the European Parliament. Dr. Coicaud has published 14 books (authored and co-authored) and more than 90 articles in academic journals in the fields of legal and political theory, international law, international relations and comparative politics.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Rutgers University United Nations Summer Study is a three-credit course that introduces students to the theoretical frameworks, practices, and policies of the United Nations (UN) as it administers and governs transnational/global challenges, and opportunities. The program brings together international and domestic students in a unique learning environment that combines professorial lectures, student engagement, and visits to the offices of UN agencies at UN Headquarters in New York City as well as to international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

METHODOLOGY

The course is broken into 5 major modules. Students will examine each of these areas through readings, course lectures, guest speakers, in-class student presentations and exercises, and occasionally through film.

- **MODULE I:** The course begins with a normative, international law, and historical overview of the UN. We look at the League of Nations and its dissolution, and the post-World War II socio-political context in order to understand the influences of why, and how the UN and its governance structure were formed.

The course focuses on then three core pillars of the UN. Each area will be explored through a multi-disciplinary approach drawing upon the fields of philosophy, international law, and politics.

- MODULE II: Human Rights
- MODULE III: Peace and Security (including peacekeeping operations and issues of terrorism)
- MODULE IV: Development (including environmental policy and the Sustainable Development Goals)
- MODULE V: We close the program with the topic of the future of the United Nations.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Define and discuss the United Nations history, framework (normative and practical), system/principal organs, and structure
- Understand and critically examine the core functions of the UN system
- Analyze and discuss current issues in the areas of peace and security, development, and human rights and how the UN system addresses them

REQUIREMENTS

Grading will be based on

- Attendance (25%): Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Readings will be provided to students in advance. Participation will be included in assessing the attendance grade. The course is discussion intensive. Students are encouraged to actively participate in class activities and engage in robust discussion and debate with visiting lecturers.
- Presentation: (15%) Each student will prepare and present a 10 minute presentation
- Model UN (20%): For the class final students will be assigned a topic and a role as a member of the United Nations Security Council. Students must research and defend the actual policy position of the country which they represent in the debate.
- Two writing responses (20% each for a total of 40%): For the writing assignments students may select any two of the six sessions to write a 2-3 page essay format response to the readings for the session.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 5th

- Move into New York City housing
- Orientation, 5:00 p.m. at EHS
- Welcome Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Ali Baba Turkish Cuisine, walk past UN

- MODULE I : HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

Friday, July 6th

1:30 p.m.-4:20 p.m. Introductions and Lecture *From League of Nations to United Nations: Principles and Institutions*

- Overview of the course

- Professor Introductions
- Student Introductions
- Assign Student Presentations
- Lecture

Readings

- Covenant of the League of Nations (1919) available at: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/leagcov.asp
- G. John Ikenberry *After Victory*, “The Settlement of 1945”, Chapter 6: 163-214 (2001).
- United Nations Charter (1945) available at: <https://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th

Reading/Free Days

Monday, July 9th

9:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., Lecture *Democracy in the UN Context*

Readings

- Boutros-Ghali, Boutros, *An Agenda for Democratization*, (United Nations, 1996)
- Hurd, Ian *After Anarchy: Legitimacy and Power in the United Nations Security Council*, “San Francisco, 1945” Chapter 4: 83-110 (2007).

1:30-4:20

- Break into groups for guided discussions on the morning lecture. End with each group debriefing the class on their discussion.

MODULE II: HUMAN RIGHTS

Tuesday, July 10th

9:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

- Visit the United Nations, General UN Guided Tour

1:30-4:20, Lecture Topic: Human Rights

Student Presentation: What is the United Nations Human Rights Commission? Brief History, Governance Structure, Functions

Readings

- United Nations Declaration on Human Rights

- Coicaud, Jean-Marc “INGOs as Collective Mobilization of Transnational Solidarity: Implications for Human Rights Work at the United Nations,” in Bell and Coicaud (eds.), *Ethics in Action: The Ethical Challenges of International Human Rights Non-Governmental Organizations* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Wednesday, July 11th

9:30 a.m.- 12:20, Lecture Topic: Human Rights and International Norm Building, a case study of UN Relationship to Powerful Member States

Readings

- CERD/C/USA/CO/7-9 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination Distr.: General 25 September 2014
- “US cited for police violence, racism in scathing UN review on human rights” ([Al Jazeera](#), May 11, 2015)

1:30-4:20 *Case Study on the UN and Human Rights records of Member States: the United States, Report on Race and Justice*

- Panel Organized by Hans A. Romo (NYLAG Legal Clinic for Pro Se Litigants)
Discussants to be announced

Thursday, July 12th

9:30 a.m.- 12:20 Lecture Topic: Human Rights and Conflict

Student Presentation: What is the UNEP? Brief History, Governance Structure, Functions (Human Security)

Readings

- Coicaud and Arndt “The Weak International Support for Human Security in Countries in Crisis: The cases of Humanitarian Interventions, Development, and the Environment,” in Saul Takahashi (ed.), *Human Rights, Human Security, and State Security: The Intersection* (2014)

2:45-5:00

- Site visit: *Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs* (CCEIA)

Friday, July 13th - Sunday July 15th

Washington D.C. Visit

Monday July 16th

9:30 a.m.- 12:20 Lecture Topic: Women's Rights as Human Rights

Student Presentation: What is UN Women? Brief History, Governance Structure, and Functions

Readings

- Spees, Pam. "Women's Advocacy in the Creation of the International Criminal Court: Changing the Landscapes of Justice and Power". *Signs* Vol. 28, No. 4 (Summer 2003), pp. 1233-1254

1:30-4:20 United Nations Briefings at the UN

- UN Women: on women, peace and security
- UNEP: an overview of environmental governance

- MODULE III: PEACE AND SECURITY

Tuesday July 17th

9:30 a.m.- 12:20 Lecture Topic: Peace and Security, the Responsibility to Protect

Student Presentation: What is UNDPKO? Brief History, Governance Structure, Functions

Readings

- Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, *The Responsibility to Protect*, (International Development Research Centre, 2001)
- High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility* (United Nations, 2004)

1:30-4:20 Guest Speaker, Rahul Sur Chief of the Peacekeeping Evaluation Section in the Inspection and Evaluation Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (IED/OIOS)

Assign Students positions for class debate on O'Brien Article for Wednesday class

Wednesday July 18th

9:30 a.m.- 12:20 Lecture Topic: A Case Study in Peacekeeping, MINUSTAH: Cholera, SEA

Readings

- Alston, Philip Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, A/71/40823 (United Nations, August 2016)

- “AP Exclusive: UN Sex Ring Left Victims But no Arrests” (April 12, 2017). Available: <https://www.npr.org/2017/04/13/523804480/ap-report-documents-child-sexual-abuse-by-u-n-peacekeepers-in-haiti>
- O’Brien, Melanie. “Sexual Exploitation and Beyond: Using the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to Prosecute UN Peacekeepers for Gender-based Crimes.” *International Criminal Law Review*; Aug, 2011, Vol. 11 Issue 4, p803-827

4:00 New York Penn Station to Rutgers New Brunswick Campus Visit

6:30-8:00 Nelson Mandela Day, Mandela Washington Fellows event

- MODULE IV: DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, July 19th

9:30 a.m.- 12:20 Lecture Topic: Development: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Student Presentation: What is UNDP? Brief History, Governance Structure, Functions

Readings

- Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Available: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20of%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

1:30-4:20 Guest Speaker: The Sustainable Development Goals in Action

- Kristinn Sv. Helgason, Deputy Chief United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs

Friday, July 20th

9:30 a.m.- 12:20 Lecture Topic: Development and Inter-Organizational Cooperation: Case study of UNAIDS

Student Presentation: What is UNAIDS? Brief History, Governance Structure, Functions

Student Presentation: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: Financial Contributions, Governance Contributions/Procedures for donations to UNAIDS

Readings

- The H6 Partnership (UNAIDS, May 10, 2018)
http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/h6-partnership-vision_en.pdf

1:30-4:20 Visit to the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Saturday, July 21st and Sunday July 22nd Free Days/Reading Days

- MODULE VIII: THE WAY FORWARD

Monday, July 23rd

9:30-12:20 Site Visit 9/11 Memorial Museum

1:30-4:20 Lecture, The United Nations and Counter Terrorism

Student Presentation: What is the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee? Brief History, Governance Structure, Functions

Readings

- Global Implementation Survey (2016, UNCTC)
https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Global-Implementation-Survey-1373_EN.pdf

Tuesday, July 24th

8:30 a.m.-4:20

counWe will provide coffee and juice and each student is invited to share a dish representative of their home nation or background. At 9:30 we will begin our Model UN.

- Model UN Security Council Meeting: Roles and the topic (which each student must research and defend the actual policy position of the government which they represent) will be assigned on the first day of class.

7:00 p.m. Farewell Dinner

Wednesday, July 25th

Move Out Day