

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

Professor: Dr. Jean-Marc Coicaud

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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.

Assistant Professor: Lynette E. Sieger

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Short Bio: Lynette Sieger is a recent graduate of 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 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 8 major themes. 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)

We then look at the UN as a bureaucracy and explore the issue areas of

- MODULE V: Human Resources
- MODULE VI: Public Information
- MODULE VII: Global Data (including the area of big data)
- MODULE VIII: 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.
- Student presentation (25%): At the beginning of the course students will be assigned one subject on which they will present to the class.
- Two writing responses (25% each for a total of 50%): 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

- **Wednesday, July 5th**
 - Move into New York City housing
 - Orientation, **11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m.**
 - Free time

**Evening Film Screening: The Island President (2011)*

- **MODULE I : HISTORY AND OVERVIEW**

- **Thursday, July 6th**
 - **2:00 p.m.-4:00** Introductions
 - Overview of the course
 - Professor Introductions
 - Student Introductions
 - Lecture *From League of Nations to United Nations: Principles and Institutions*

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/>
- **6:30 p.m.** Welcome Dinner and Keynote, Thomas Weiss, Presidential Professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and is Director Emeritus of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies. (To Be Confirmed)

- **Friday, July 7th**
 - **9:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.**, Lecture *Democracy in the UN Context*

Readings

- Boutros-Ghali, Boutros, *An Agenda for Democratization*, (United Nations, 1996)
- Coicaud, Jean-Marc “Deconstructing International Legitimacy,” in Charlesworth and Coicaud (eds.) *Fault Lines of International Legitimacy* (2010).
- 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**
 - Assign student presentation topics and dates
 - Assign student reading groups for July 19th
 - Assign student debate groups for July 24th
 - Break into groups for guided discussions on the morning lecture. End with each group debriefing.
- **Saturday, July 8th**
 - **Activity day**
- **Sunday, July 9th**
 - No class
- **Monday, July 10th**
 - **9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Visit the UN
 - UN Guided Tour
 - Kuwait Mission to the UN Briefing

- **1:30-4:20**
 - Visit to the Kuwait Mission to the United Nations
 - Guest speaker, Hiyam Alfassam Economic Advisor to Kuwait Mission to the UN

- MODULE II: HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Tuesday, July 11th**
 - **9:00 a.m.- 12:20**, Lecture Topic: Human Rights
 - Student presentation

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)
- **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

Reading

- CERD/C/USA/CO/7-9 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination Distr.: General 25 September 2014

**Evening Film Screening: 13th (documentary, 2016)*

- **Wednesday, July 12th**
 - **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Lecture Topic: Human Rights
 - Student Presentations

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)
- Otto, Dianne “The Security Council’s Alliance of Gender Legitimacy: The Symbolic Capital of Resolution 1325,” in Charlesworth and Coicaud (eds.) *Fault Lines of International Legitimacy* (2010)
- **1:30-4:20** Human Rights in Focus: Issues of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Guest Speaker Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UN/Focal Point on Disability (To be confirmed)
- Screening UN short film “First Steps” (1947) won the Academy Award for Documentary Short Subject

- MODULE III: PEACE AND SECURITY

○ **Thursday, July 13th**

- **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Lecture Topic: Peace and Security
 - Student Presentation

Readings

- Jean-Marc Coicaud “International Law, the Responsibility to Protect, and International Crises” in *Theorizing the Responsibility to Protect*. Thakur and Maley, eds. (2015)
- Sarah Cliffe and Alexandra Novosselof “Restructuring the UN Secretariat to Strengthen Preventive Diplomacy and Peace Operations” (2017)

- **1:30-4:20** Perspectives on the future of Peacebuilding

- Guest speaker, Alexandra Novosselof, NYU Center on International Cooperation

**Evening film screening: Ghosts of Rwanda (Documentary, 2004)*

○ **Friday, July 14th**

- **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Lecture Topic: Peace and Security
 - Student Presentation

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** Evaluating Peacekeeping Effectiveness: Headquarters and the Field

- 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) at United Nations

**Evening film screening: The Whistleblower (Documentary, 2010)*

- MODULE IV: DEVELOPMENT

○ Saturday, July 15th

- **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Lecture Topic: Development
 - Student Presentation

Readings

- Millennium Development Goals Report, 2015
 - Available:
[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf)

- **1:30-4:20** CULTURAL OUTING TBA

**Evening film screening: The Constant Gardener (2005)*

○ Sunday July 16th

- No Class

○ Monday, July 17th

- **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Lecture Topic: Development
 - Student Presentation

Readings

- Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - Available:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>
- **1:30-4:20** Panel: The Sustainable Development Goals in Action
 - Kristinn Sv. Helgason, Deputy Chief United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs
 - Hiyam Alfassam, Economic Advisor at the Kuwait Mission to the United Nations Headquarters in New York
 - Jonas Haertle, Head of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) secretariat of the United Nations Global Compact Office

**Evening film screening: Chasing Ice (Documentary, 2012)*

- MODULE V: HUMAN RESOURCES

○ Tuesday, July 18th

- Lecture Topic: Human Resources
 - Student Presentation

Readings

- Weiss, Thomas “Reinvigorating the International Civil Service,” in *What’s Wrong with the United Nations and How to Fix it* (2012).

- Coicaud, Jean-Marc “The United Nations and Its Shortcomings as an International Bureaucracy,” in *Beyond the National Interest: The Future of UN Peacekeeping and Multilateralism in an Era of U.S. Primacy*. (2007)
- Coicaud, Jean-Marc “International Organizations as a Profession and Distribution of Power,” in Andrés Solimano (ed.), *The International Mobility of Talent: Types, Causes, and Development Impact* (2007)
- **1:30-4:20** Tackling the Human Resources Challenges of International Civil Service
 - Guest speaker: Dr. Jyldyz Kasymova, International Civil Service Commission or

Evening film screening: Black Hawk Down (Drama, 2001)

- MODULE VI: PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Wednesday, July 19th
- Rutgers New Brunswick visit

- MODULE VII: GLOBAL DATA

- Thursday, July 20th Module VII
 - **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Lecture Topic: Public Information
 - Student Presentation

Readings

- Leblanc and Coicaud “Information Gathering, Analysis, and Dissemination” in *The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations* (Cogen, Hurd, and Johnstone)
- *Global Policy* Special Section: “Evaluation, International Organizations and Global Policy”. All students will read the introductory article and the remaining readings will be divided into themes of (i) Environment, (ii) Global Health and (iii) Development. **Students will be assigned to a reading group in advance of the session.*
- **1:30-4:20**, Translating Global Policy to the Public
 - Guest Speaker David LeBlanc Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UNDESA
 - Academic Compact

**Evening film screening: In My Lifetime (documentary, 2011)*

INVITED LEBLANC

- Friday, July 21st
 - **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Lecture Topic: Global Data
 - Student Presentation

Readings

- Coicaud and Sieger “Assessing the State of Global Governance: Reviewing *Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation Is Failing When We Need It Most*” (Japanese Journal of Political Science, 2016)
- Coicaud and Tahri “National Knowledge and Global Governance: The Case of Statistical Data,” in *Global Policy Journal* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013)
- Coicaud and Zhang “The OECD as a Global Data Collection and Policy Analysis Organization: Some Strengths and Weaknesses” in *Global Policy* (Wiley Blackwell, 2011)
- **1:30-4:20** Data and Statistics in Global Policy
 - Guest Speaker: Ronald Jansen, Chief Trade Statistics Branch United Nations

Evening film screening: Hotel Rwanda (Drama, 2004)

- MODULE VIII: THE WAY FORWARD

- **Saturday, July 22nd**
 - **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Lecture Topic: The Way Forward: UN Reform
 - Student Presentation

Readings

- Wermuth-Trenkov, Calin *United Nations Justice: Legal and Judicial Reform in Governance Operations* (2009)
- Report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on “Threats, Challenges and Change” (2004)
- **1:30-4:20** Visit to the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs

- **Sunday, July 23rd**
 - No Class

- **Monday, July 24th**
 - **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Lecture Topic: The Way Forward
 - Student Presentation

Readings

- Weiss, Thomas “Truly Delivering as One,” in *What’s Wrong with the United Nations and How to Fix it* (2012).
- Hale, Held, Young “Beyond Gridlock,” in *Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation is Failing when we need it most* (2013)
- **1:30-4:20** CULTURAL OUTING, TBA
- **Tuesday, July 25th**
 - **9:00 a.m.- 12:20** Debating the United Nations I

- Students in the spotlight: Students will be assigned one of two debate questions. Divided into pro and con sides of the issue we will have a morning session student debate on one topic and an afternoon debate session on the second topic.

1:30-4:20 Debating the United Nations Session II