

**Kyung Hee University Global Collaborative
Summer 2023**

The United Nations and Global Issues: Understanding the Dynamics and Workings of the UN System

by Professor Oh Joon & Choi Hyun Jin

(3 credits, 6/27-7/17, Full In-Person Class)

This course will be divided in half, Professor Joon Oh taking the first 7 classes, June 27 to July 5, and Professor Hyun Jin Choi taking the remaining 8 classes, July 6 to July 17.

OVERVIEW

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the role of the United Nations system in global affairs, with a review of the concepts, evolution, contribution, and actual activities and workings of the organization. It also analyzes how the organizations in the UN system operate to address a variety of global issues, as well as how the member states work with and in the United Nations.

The course will start with the origin and history of the UN, followed by the sessions on the work and issue areas of the UN in accordance with its three founding pillars: peace and security, development, and human rights. Both conceptual and practical approaches will be used, focusing on the functioning of the UN institutions as designed originally and as adapted to changing realities over the past seven decades. Special attention will be given to considering the challenges faced by the UN system in providing global governance in the globalized world. As a case study, issues on the Korean Peninsula and humanitarian crises will be dealt with.

The course will also offer an opportunity for students to consider and discuss how the UN and other international organizations need to evolve in the future to become fitter for purpose in promoting peace, development, and human rights as well as in meeting new global challenges including the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The course will consist of 14 sessions of lecture/discussion on a chosen issue area, plus one concluding session for a final examination. Each class will be conducted in the format of lectures and student debates.

Week I (June 27 - July 3)

Day 1 Introduction: The road to the creation of the United Nations

Day 2 The UN Charter: Founding the three pillars of the United Nations

Day 3 International Peace and Security: Security Council

Day 4 International Peace and Security: Peacekeeping operations (PKOs)

Day 5 International Peace and Security: Disarmament and non-proliferation

Week II (July 4 - July 10)

Day 6 Human Rights: UN Charter & Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Day 7 Human Rights: Human Rights Instruments

Day 8 Humanitarian Action (humanitarian assistance, refugee issues, etc.)

Day 9 Development: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Day 10 Development: Reducing Inequalities

Week III (July 11 - July 17)

Day 11 Development: Addressing Climate Change

Day 12 Case Study 1: Ongoing Civil Wars and Refugee Crises

Day 13 Case Study 2: The Korean Peninsula Issues

Day 14 Future of the UN and Global Governance

Day 15 Concluding Session (final examination)

Suggested Readings

United Nations, *The Essential UN*, New York: UN DPI, 2018

Thomas G. Weiss et al., *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, New York: Routledge, 2020

The United Nations, *Furthering the Work of the United Nations: Highlights of the Tenure of Secretary-General Ban Kim-moon 2007-2016*, New York: United Nations Publications, 2016

The Charter of the United Nations, 1945

Jason K. Stearns, "Rebels Without a Cause: The New Face of African Warfare," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2022.

Discussions: All students are required to take the role of lead discussant at least once in the course, as arranged by the Course Assistant (CA).

Evaluation: The final grade will be based on class attendance (20%), discussion (30%), and a final exam (50%).

Communication with professors:

Oh Joon: ohjoonkr@gmail.com

Choi Hyun Jin: choihj@khu.ac.kr