

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COURSES (UNU-IC)

UNU CENTRE, TOKYO, JAPAN

21 MAY TO 29 JUNE 2007



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

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UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COURSES (UNU-IC)

Introduction

United Nations University will organize the eighth regular session of its six-week UNU International Courses (UNU-IC) at UNU Centre in Tokyo, Japan, from 21 May through 29 June 2007. The UNU-IC programme is designed for postgraduate students and young professionals (with a college or university degree) in various occupations in Japan and abroad who wish to pursue careers in international fields in public-service or private organizations, including the United Nations, multinational corporations and non-governmental organizations as well as national foreign service organizations. The courses are designed to provide analyses of global issues from both theoretical and empirical perspectives.

The UNU International Courses are taught in a cooperative fashion by a team of scholars and practitioners comprising both in-house and outside experts. One of the unique features of the UNU-IC is that many of the practitioners come from United Nations organizations. Another important characteristic is the direct access to teaching faculty and the support provided to course participants by the UNU in-house academic staff who serve as academic counsellors. The UNU-IC also draw on the research projects undertaken at the UNU Centre in Tokyo and at various UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes (RTC/Ps) located around the world. The courses, though advanced in nature, are open to graduate students and professionals in various occupations who are not necessarily specialists in the field.

Organization of Courses

The four courses to be offered in May and June 2007 are:

- I. Armed Conflict and Peacebuilding
- II. Environmental Change: Managing Risks;
- III. Globalization and the Multilateral System; and
- IV. International Trade and Development.

(A brief description of each of these courses is presented in the “Course Outlines” section.)

There will be eighteen 90-minute sessions per course — i.e., three sessions per week over the six-week course period. The courses will involve considerable reading and study, but will be scheduled to allow students to have sufficient preparatory and review time for each session.

Daily Schedule

There will be three sessions of courses each day (10:00–11:30, 14:00–15:30 and 17:00–18:30), though no one course will take the entire three sessions of one day. The final schedule will be available in May 2007.

Learning Outcomes for Participants

The expected learning outcomes for UNU-IC participants include:

- Deep, sophisticated understanding of the subject at a high level
- Sharpened analytical and problem-solving skills
- Intellectual interaction with a wide cross-section of lecturers and fellow participants from around the world from diverse academic and professional backgrounds
- Social interaction with fellow participants from diverse cultural backgrounds

Learning Environment and Facilities

The learning environment and facilities prepared for the UNU-IC include:

- Complementary theoretical and practical perspectives, from academic experts and practitioners, respectively
- Guest lectures by leading specialists and practitioners in Japan and overseas, including those in the UN system
- Access to the library and other resources of UNU
- Close contact with UNU in-house specialists in small-group settings
- Opportunity to sample life in one of the world's great metropolises

International Teaching Staff

The UNU-IC will be administered and coordinated by UNU Centre. Each of the courses will be handled by a responsible UNU academic officer (or a team of UNU academic officers), who also will teach part of the course. In principle, each course will be taught by a combination of the academic staff of UNU Centre and the RTC/Ps, adjunct professors and other scholars involved in related UNU research projects, and representatives of various UN agencies and other internationally oriented organizations, as well as prominent professors from universities in different parts of the world and professional experts in relevant fields.

Tuition

The tuition fee per course is ¥100,000 — about US\$1,000 — or ¥150,000 (about US\$1,500) for two courses.

Fellowships

Those participants from developing countries* who take two courses and who can demonstrate a need for financial assistance are invited to apply for a limited number of UNU full and partial fellowships. These fellowships will be awarded on the basis of academic merit and financial need. Competition for fellowships is extremely fierce. Applicants or potential applicants are advised to approach their home institutions, funding sources or foundations for financial support early in the application process. In the majority of cases fellowships will be awarded to cover the costs of accommodation, travel and per diem, and candidates will be expected to pay their own tuition costs (US\$1,500 for two courses). Those who wish to apply for a UNU fellowship should complete the UNU Fellowship Application form, which is available at our website.

Accommodation

UNU has located a low-cost hotel facility in downtown Tokyo to accommodate course participants from outside Tokyo and Japan.

Application

Applicants for the UNU-IC should submit their application dossier, consisting of

- (i) a completed application form with photograph and signature;
- (ii) original transcript of academic records at the college or university level, or certified copies of original transcripts (these will not be returned to the applicant, so please do not include original certificates of diplomas or degrees);

* Please refer to <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm> — applicants from all countries other than those classified as high-income economies are eligible to apply for a UNU fellowship.

- (iii) TOEFL scores (minimum: paper-based 550/computer-based 213) or equivalent proof of English-language proficiency for non-native speakers;
- (iv) three confidential letters of reference on official letterheads (these will not be returned to the applicant); and
- (v) a UNU Fellowship Application for those who are applying for a UNU Fellowship (see “Fellowships”).

All of the above-mentioned documents must be received at **UNU-IC Secretariat, United Nations University Centre, 53-70 Jingumae 5-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925, Japan** by **31 January 2007**. Applicants may apply to take one or two courses, and can reapply in subsequent years to take additional courses. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

If you wish to apply for the courses, please visit our website at <http://www.unu.edu/ic/> for a copy of the brochure and UNU-IC application forms. If you have further questions, please contact: Ms. Wilma James, Training Assistant, UNU-IC Secretariat, United Nations University Centre, Tel: +81-3-3499-2811; Fax: +81-3-3499-2828; E-mail: james@hq.unu.edu

The deadline for applications is 31 January 2007.

Your completed application form, together with supporting materials should be received by **31 January 2007**. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.** Due to the high volume of applications that we receive for the courses, UNU is unable to acknowledge receipt of your application or each individual document. Short-listed candidates will be contacted by us on or after 15 March. Do not contact the UNU-IC Secretariat for results. Your application documents will not be returned to you. Reapplication by unsuccessful candidates will be necessary for the following year.

You can download the forms for Application for UNU-IC, Recommendation and the UNU Fellowship Application from our website at <http://www.unu.edu/ic>.

Please note that your application will only be reviewed by our Selection Committee upon receipt of the fully completed application form with photo and signature together with all other original documents. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all required materials are received in time for inclusion in the review of the application.

Selection Criteria

The application will be reviewed by the UNU-IC Selection Committee consisting of the course coordinators for the four courses that will be offered in May-June 2007. The Committee will review applications primarily based on the following criteria:

- Relevance and level of the applicant's educational and professional background;
- Linkage of the chosen courses with the applicant's future career plans;
- Demonstrated interest of the candidate in issues of global concern;
- Analytical capacity;
- Academic and professional performance;
- English-language skills

UNU is committed to achieve geographical and gender balance and genuine diversity in all its research and teaching activities.

Course Requirements

In addition to regular class attendance and active participation in class discussions, course participants are required to prepare short weekly written assignments, to give a group or individual presentation and to submit an extended essay consisting of about 2,500 to 3,000 words, towards the end of the programme. Participants who successfully complete at least one course will receive a UNU Certificate of Completion.

1 November 2006

Course Outlines

(The weekly topics for each course are subject to change.)

ARMED CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING

Purpose

Many recent international peacebuilding initiatives in conflicted societies have been initially unsuccessful, failing to instill stable democratic societies or even giving way to renewed violence. As the UN Secretary-General observed: “Our record of success in mediating and implementing peace agreements is sadly blemished by some devastating failures. Indeed, several of the most violent and tragic episodes of the 1990s occurred after the negotiation of peace agreements...Roughly half of all countries that emerge from war lapse back into violence within five years.” The course will focus on the challenges of peacebuilding in conflicted societies. It will begin by exploring the sources, impacts and trends of armed conflict – especially civil war – and then turn to the apparatus and methods used to attempt to prevent and manage conflict and (re)build peace. It will consider theories of violent conflict, conflict prevention, conflict management and resolution, and the record of and prospects for peacebuilding. The exploration of peacebuilding will focus on the problems experienced in many recent cases, the values which underlie internationally sponsored peacebuilding initiatives – described as the ‘liberal peace’ model – and key peacebuilding challenges. These will include transitional justice; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants; and the sources of terrorism. It will conclude by examining the work of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in a forward-looking manner.

Week One — Armed Conflict: Sources, Impacts, Trends and Theories

- Patterns of armed conflict: intra-state and inter-state
- Armed conflict in International Relations
- Theories and debates of armed conflict: ‘new wars’ and the political economy of violence

Week Two — Conflict Prevention

- Conflict prevention theories
- Conflict prevention: UN approaches
- Conflict prevention: case studies

Week Three—Conflict Management and Resolution

- Peacekeeping
- Conflict resolution
- The use of military force for human protection (‘humanitarian intervention’)

Week Four—Peacebuilding: Debates and Experience

- Peacebuilding experiences
- The ‘Liberal Peace’
- Discussion: liberal democracy and the market in conflict societies

Week Five—The Peacebuilding Agenda

- Transitional Justice
- Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants
- Addressing the legacy of the war economy

Week Six—Peacebuilding: the Way Forward

- The Peacebuilding Commission: procedures and political issues
- Peacebuilding problem solving: case study discussion
- Conclusion

Lecturers

The course will be taught by the staff of the UNU Peace and Governance Programme and selected guest lecturers.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: MANAGING RISKS

Purpose

Our Environment is defined to a large extent by the global energy and water cycles that form a complex inter-connected system, where a change of events in a far away location can affect the climate, water and the bio-diversity at our door step. When the flow rates of these cycles are changed, we could be starting a chain reaction that's consequences are difficult to predict. It is then only prudent to learn to live in harmony with the cyclic nature of energy, water and material flows without tipping the delicate balance that has been achieved through continuous interactions taking place over millions of years. Adverse environmental changes are also brought about by human production and waste generation activities that are unsustainable.

Environmental risk assessment and management are processes that aim to reflect scientific knowledge and expertise in environmental policy, in order to minimize possible adverse impacts of environmental change such as natural disasters, health hazards or disruptions of the ecosystem. Risk assessment is a scientific tool that allows us to analyze the nature of a risk; risk management utilizes the results of this assessment to help decision makers (in governments, industries or NGOs) decide on the appropriate actions to reduce the risk and to increase the level of preparedness.

"Risk" refers to the probability that a particular hazard - be it linked to personal, economic, social, political or environmental circumstances - will lead to losses or other unfavorable outcomes. Risk is an unavoidable part of life; we cannot, at all times, be sure of how matters around us will develop. However, we can decrease the risk of a particular hazard by taking suitable precautions, and we can minimize the scale of the loss that might be incurred by being prepared, by putting into place relief and recovery mechanisms that will allow speedy action once a disaster has occurred.

The course is aimed at those interested in environmental risk management from a policy perspective. The course provides current status information and an introduction to scientific theories, and examines case examples of risk assessment and management in designing local, national or multilateral policies for sustainable development in different environmental areas.

Week One — Climate Affairs and Risk Communication

- Global warming and creeping environmental problems
- El Niño and La Niña
- Hurricanes

Week Two — Urbanization and Shift of Environmental Focuses

- History of urbanization
- Risk assessment and management
- Persistent organic pollutants

Week Three — Wastes and Chemicals, Life Cycle Assessment

- Managing wastes and chemicals
- Life cycle assessment: theory and applications

Week Four — Floods and Earthquakes

- Urbanization and floods from basin water cycle changes
- Earthquake hazards and disaster reduction
- Urban risk management

Week Five — Land Management

- Biological diversity
- Addressing land degradation
- Agriculture sustainability

Week Six — Future Perspectives: A Change of Vision

- Zero emission: sustainable production
- Sustainable consumption
- Course review

The course will be taught by the staff of the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme and external experts from the field of environmental research and studies.

GLOBALIZATION AND THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

Purpose

The aim of this course is to foster a better understanding of how the United Nations system looks at globalization. As new opportunities are being initiated within the globalization process, it becomes clearer that access to these opportunities is not equally shared: when it comes to benefiting from the positive effect of Globalization, some countries are clearly

lagging behind, compared with others. Furthermore, it appears that inequalities are not just between countries, but within countries themselves as some communities and people will benefit more than others. The effects of Globalization can also be negative in that in an increasingly competitive and globalized world some countries, communities, and actors will not be able to participate fully as their capacities are limited and need to be further strengthened.

Challenges brought by the Globalization process, such as how to ensure that we all benefit in a more equal manner from this process are at the core of United Nations agencies missions and programmes.

The course initially provides an overview of the multilateral system, its structure as well as its future. It explores a variety of challenges brought forward by the globalization process and how the UN System tends to address these. The course examines the core issue and highlights pressing policy concerns – the Doha Round and development issues, as well as challenges with regards to Science and Technology, Education, Labour, Culture, and Democracy and Governance – and the ways the international community is trying to accelerate human centered development in these areas.

The course particularly highlights the roles of different UN Agencies, the research they undertake as well as the policies and programmes they implement to try to make the globalization process a more human, and fairer process for all.

Week One — Multilateral System

- Introduction & overview on the multilateral system
- Structure and future of the multilateral system –participation for all?-
- The multilateral system and globalization –challenges and opportunities-

Week Two — The World Trade Organization (WTO) and Globalization

- The WTO: how to face the globalization process and its challenges?
- The Doha Round: failure or success for the development round?
- Discussion: How can developing countries participate more confidently in the WTO and can this enable them to benefit more from the market economy?

Week Three — Globalization with a Human Face

- How can the UN System enable developing countries to better benefit from the Globalization process?
- Globalization and growing inequalities: what can be done?
- Discussion: inequalities and hidden dimensions of globalization: what role for the UN?

Week Four — A Fairer Globalization

- the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization and its contributions to making Globalization a fairer, more ethical and inclusive process
- Globalization, and its social aspects: labor, health, etc.
- Discussion: Globalization: a path towards a more decent life for all?

Week Five — Globalization – Challenges and Opportunities for Science and Technology

- Globalization and its impact on the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge and new technologies: who is benefitting?
- Globalization and access to knowledge and education
- Discussion: Can the UN System enable a better access for all to science and technology?

Week Six — Globalization and Cultural Diversity

- the UN System and its contributions to promoting and preserving cultural diversity
- Cultural heritage and globalization: road map
- Discussion: Globalization: heading towards the future while preserving our common and diverse history?

Lecturers

This course will be taught by United Nations University staff and selected guest lecturers from academic organizations around the world.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Purpose

International trade in goods and services is valued at 8,500 billion U.S. dollars per annum and takes place at the speed of one billion U.S. dollars every hour of the day, every day of the week. Trading rules encroach on almost all aspects of economic activity - financial services, intellectual property rights, industrial subsidies, merchandise goods trade, environmental regulation, agricultural support programs etc. They are legally enforceable through a powerful dispute settlement system, now dealing with matters as diverse as anti-dumping measures, restrictions on trade in hormone treated beef, doing business with China, patents on pharmaceutical products, genetically modified organisms, electronic commerce and the conservation of endangered species. This course will inquire into the theory and practice of international trade and its role in the global economy. It will be interdisciplinary and approach topical issues from the perspective of international economics, international law and international relations.

Week One — History and Basic Rules and Trade and Developing Countries

- History and basic rules of the International Trading System
- Trade and developing countries
- Key components of Doha Development Agenda

Week Two — Dispute Settlement and Subsidies, Anti-dumping and Safeguards

- Dispute settlement
- Subsidies, anti-dumping and safeguards

Week Three — Agricultural Trade Liberalisation and Manufactured Goods Trade Liberalisation

- Agricultural trade liberalisation
- Manufactured goods trade liberalisation

Week Four — Intellectual Property Rights and Trade in Services

- Intellectual property rights
- Trade in services

Week Five — Trade and MEAs; Trade and Sustainable Development; and Trade and Civil Society

- Inter-linkages: Trade and MEAs
- Trade and sustainable development
- Trade and Civil Society

Week Six — Systemic Issues

- Achieving the goal of sustainable development
- Regional trade agreements
- The future of the Trading System
- Conclusion

Lecturers

This course will be taught by United Nations University staff and selected guest lecturers from academic organizations around the world.