



Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany

GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Syllabus—Fall Semester 2007

General Information

Time	Thursday, 11.00-13.00
Venue	00.21
Convener	Inge Kaul
Office	Tbd
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Office Hours	Thursday, 13.00-15.00

Aim and Structure of the Course

The world faces a lengthening list of policy issues that are of a border-transgressing nature. They include concerns like global climate change, the spread of communicable diseases, the global regimes for trade and finance, the Internet, or control international terrorism.

The course *Global Public Goods and the United Nations* explores how and to what extent the United Nations system (in the following referred to as UNS) has responded to these challenges and how its role in this respect compares to that of other actors, including business, civil society, other international organizations and national government entities.¹ The course will also seek to distill lessons to be learned from this experience for future institutional design and reform aimed at meeting global challenges.

The course adopts a multi-disciplinary approach at the center of which is the concept of global public goods; and it combines consideration of theory and research methods with attention to empirical facts and actual policy practice.

Teaching

Classes will usually begin with an introduction to the day's main topic by the course convener. But student inputs should also form a main part of the course discussion. We will, therefore, at the beginning of the course establish who wishes to act as lead consultant for which session topic/theme. To facilitate this choice, a separate annotated topic/theme list will be made available. The chosen topics/themes could, at the same time, be the issue that participants examine in their final paper. (See, on this last point, also „Requirements and Grading“ below.)

Students will also have an opportunity to dialogue with invited outside UNS experts.

¹ The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) do not form part of the UNS proper. They constitute associated entities. However, they will be examined in this course to the extent that this helps understand reform at the UNS and the overall policy response that a particular issue may have received.

In order to ensure high-quality in-class deliberations, the suggested readings for the day's session are expected to have been read in advance.

Since the course will run in parallel with the UN General Assembly session and other international events of direct relevance to the course topics, participants are encouraged to follow the debates on these events in the media and elsewhere so as to enrich course discussions with new empirical facts and new analyses.

Requirements and Grading

Besides regular course attendance, participants are expected to complete in a timely manner, all required readings, to contribute actively to course discussions and to prepare a final paper (of some 4000 words), which ought to include an executive summary. A two to three-page outline should be available for the course session to which the paper has its thematic link. The date for the submission of the final version is for all papers 17 December 2007.

The precise parameters and timing the class inputs by participants will be determined once course composition and size are known.

The grading will be as follows: participation 20%; oral presentation 30%; course paper 50%.

Readings

The **required readings** for the course are composed of (1) four core books and (2) the additional literature listed under each session title (below, on pages 4-9 of this note). The core books are:

- Kaul, Inge and Pedro Conceição, eds. 2006. *The New Public Finance; Responding to Global Challenges*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- _____ et al., eds. 2003. *Providing Global Public Goods; Managing Globalization*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Mingst, Karen A. And Margaret P. Karns. 2007. *The United Nations in the 21st Century*. 3rd Edition. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.
- Weiss, Thomas G. et al. 2007. *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*. Fifth edition. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

The following items are, among other things, recommended for additional **optional reading and review**:

Books:

- Kaul, Inge et al., eds. 1999. *Global Public Goods; International Cooperation in the 21st Century*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Sandler, Todd. 2004. *Global Collective Action*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Newman, Edward et.al. 2006. *Multilateralism under Challenge? Power, International Order, and Structural Change*. Tokyo: United Nations University Press.
- United Nations. 2004. *Basic Facts about the United Nations*. New York: United Nations.
- Rittberger, Volker and Bernhard Zangl. 2006. *International Organization; Polity, Politics and Policies*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Volger, Helmut, ed..2002. *A Concise Encyclopedia of the United Nations*. The Hague: Kluwer Law International.
- Weiss, Thomas G. And Sam Daws, eds. 2007. *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Journals: Global Governance; International Organization; International Relations

Websites: <http://www.globalpublicgoods.org> ; <http://www.gpgtaskforce.org> ;

<http://www.thenewpublicfinance.org>; <http://www.unsystem.org>; www.acuns.org;
<http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire>; <http://www.globalpolicy.org>; <http://reformtheun.org>
and <http://www.twinside.org>

Overview of the Course

Sess. #	Date	Topic
1	13. 9	Setting the stage: The growing importance of global challenges and the policy challenges they present
2	20. 9	Core elements of the concept of global public goods (GPGs) and underpinning theories
3	27. 9	The evolution of the UN system (UNS): 1945 to the late 1980s
4	4.10	Post-1990 UNS reform initiatives: An organization-based analysis
5	11.10	Post-1990 UNS reform initiatives: An organization-based analysis (cont.)
6	18.10	Meeting global challenges—The role of UNS agencies and other actors: An issue-based analysis Case 1: Climate change
7	25.10	Meeting global challenges (cont.) Case 2: Communicable diseases
8	1.11	Meeting global challenges (cont.) Across-issue comparison of the role of different actor groups
9	8.11	The UN Global Compact: An in-depth analysis of institutional innovation
10	15.11	Taking stock: The main findings about UNS responses to global concerns; theories that may help explain the observed response patterns; and lessons to be learned
11	22.11	Where to next? Possible future reform of the UNS and the broader system of multilateralism and global governance: o Anchoring international cooperation more firmly in national public policy
12	29.11	Where to next? (cont.): o Finding the right balance between decentralization and centralization o Matching the circles of stakeholders and decision-makers—democracy beyond national levels
13	6.12	Applying the insights gained: A review of the UNFCCC Bali conference
14	13.12	Conclusion: o Summary of the „take aways“ o Evaluation of the course structure, process and outcome
	17.12	Final paper due date

Detailed Course Outline

Session 1: Introduction (13 September)

Themes:

- Discussion of the proposed course outline
- Setting the stage: The growing importance of global policy concerns
- Global policy concerns: seen through the lens of global public goods
- What is „new“ about today’s global policy issues
- The key questions to be explored during the course

Readings:

No readings are required, but participants would benefit from having already familiarized themselves with some of the recommended general readings.

Session 2: Core elements of the concept of (global) public goods and related theories (20 September)

Themes:

- The concept of (global) public goods: basic definitions
- The provision path of different types of global public goods
- Collective-action problems that tend to be associated with public goods in general and global public goods in particular
- Theories on which the concept of global public goods builds

Readings:

- *Providing Global Public Goods*, pp. 2-15 and 78-99
- *The New Public Finance*, pp. 3-27

Monitor: the debates in the media and elsewhere on the 62nd UN General Assembly and the annual meeting of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Session 3: The Evolution of the UN system and its agencies: 1945 to the late 1980s (27 September)

Themes:

- The initial UNS design
- Milestones in the evolution of the system until the late 1980s
- The UNS towards the end of the 1980s: How well do its structure and functioning match the provision challenges posed by global public goods?

Readings:

- *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, pp. 17-52 or *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, pp. 3-64²
- *The Oxford Handbook on the UN*, pp. 41-57 (chapter by Barnett and Finnemore)
- *Encyclopedia of the UN*, pp. 176-188 (history of the UN)

Monitor: current debates on topics relevant to the course themes

² Course participants may choose to read one or the other text as long as each text is read by some.

Session 4: Post-1990 UNS reform: An institution-based perspective. Part I: Visions and proposals (4 October)

Themes

- How to recognize „UNS responses to GPGs“: conceptual and methodological considerations
- The major UNS reform reports, their stated objectives and key recommendations
- Assessment of the main thrusts of the reports: Where to is reform to head?
- Initiating reform within in UNS: drivers, approaches and constraints

Readings:

- *The UN Millennium Declaration* (<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>)
- *The Millennium Development Goals* (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>)
- *Report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change*. 2004. New York: United Nations. (<http://www.un.org>)
- *Delivering as One. Report of the High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence*. New York: United Nations. (<http://www.un.org>)

Monitor: current debates on GPG and UNS-related topics

Session 5: Post-1990 UNS reform: An institution-based perspective. Part II: Have proposals translated into action? And do reforms seek to respond to global challenges? (11 October)

Themes:

- Exploration of examples of actual change
- Assessment of the direction into which actual change and reform appear to be heading
- Comparison between GPG provision requirements, reform visions and proposals, and actual change and reform

Readings:

- *The New Public Finance*, pp. 269-280 (chapter on the changing institutional landscape) and pp. 219-268 (on public-private partnerships)
- *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, pp. 135-165 (on the evolution of the economic and social sectors)
- *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, pp.45-93 (for UN security operations after 1990) or pp. 165-238 (on change in the human rights field)³

Visit: <http://www.unsystem.org> to review in particular, recent activity and reform reports pertaining to UNS specialized agencies, the IMF, WB and WTO.

Session 6: Meeting global challenge—the role of UNS agencies and other actor groups: An issue-based perspective (18 October)

Themes:

- Issue study 1: Meeting the challenge of climate change/stability: Mapping the contributions of different actor groups
- General discussion of the case-study findings

³ Course participants may choose to read one or the other text as long as each text is being read by some.

- Special-focus discussion: The role of markets and market-based instruments in GPG provision—and the implications for intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)

Readings:

- Basic Facts About the UN, pp. 206-223
- *The New Public Finance*, pp. 371-388 (incremental costs and the role of the Global Environment Facility, GEF) and 389-416 (creation of new markets for emissions trading)

Scan: <http://www.un.org/climatechange/newsroom.shtml>; <http://unfccc.int> ; <http://unep.org> and <http://www.ipcc.ch> (for an overview of recent IPCC studies, click on „presentations“)

Session 7: Meeting global challenges: An issue-based perspective, cont. (25 October)

Themes:

- Issue study 2: Managing global health challenges: Introduction to the theme by the guest speaker, Dr. Nick Drager, Acting Director, Department of Ethics, Trade, Human Rights and Health Law at the World Health Organization, Geneva
- Question and answers
- Formation of 2 groups to negotiate simulated „Northern“ and „Southern“ draft resolutions on bio-sharing (for the purpose of SARS-related pharmaceutical R&D)
- Evaluation of the negotiation and special focus discussion: the emerging new (health) diplomacy—implications for IGOs like WHO and for national foreign affairs/international cooperation policies and strategies

Readings:

- *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, vol. 85, No. 3, March 2007 on the theme of the new health diplomacy

Scan: <http://www.who.int> (especially for a summary of and commentaries on the 2007 *Global Health Report* to be published in August 2007), <http://www.unaids.org> , <http://www.theglobalfund.org>

Session 8: Meeting global challenges: An issue-based perspective, cont. (1 November)

Themes:

- Presentation of further issue studies (e.g. on the international financial architecture, the regimes for civil aviation or communication, international terrorism control, ISO norms and standards, blood-diamonds⁴, landmines ban, or forest stewardship)⁴
- Analysis and comparison of study findings on the role of different actor groups in GPG provision—across issue-areas
- Special points for discussion: (1) the role of nonstate actors, notably civil society and (2) the movement of goods from „public“ to „private“ over time—and the implications for IGOs

Readings:

⁴ Note: The final selection of the GPG topics to be addressed by these studies will be made in consultation with course participants.

- *Providing Global Public Goods*, pp. 200-224 (chapter by Edwards and Zadek on the role and legitimacy of nonstate actors)
- *Global Public Goods*, pp. 116-125 (Sen's chapter on „Global Justice: Beyond International Equity.“)

Scan: <http://www.globalpolicy.org> , <http://reformtheun.org> and <http://www.twinside.org> for further information on UNS reform and links to other relevant websites

Session 9: *The UN Global Compact: An in-depth analysis of institutional innovation (8 November)*

Themes:

- Presentation by the guest speaker, Thorsten Benner, Deputy Director, Global Public Policy Institute, Berlin, Germany
- Questions and answers, with a special focus on: How the Global Compact was initiated—Who were the proponents? What critical voices were raised? How was this policy innovation tested and refined/changed over time? How institutionalized?
- Why did innovation succeed in this area and is more difficult in other areas?

Readings:

- *Multilateralism Under Challenge*, pp.395-421 (Smith's chapter on „Social Movements and Multilateralism.“)
- Ruggie, John G. 2003. „The United Nations and Globalization.“ In: *Global Governance* 9: 301-321

Review: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org>

Session 10: *Taking stock: the UN system response to global challenges to date (15 November.)*

Themes:

- The main findings and conclusions emerging from sessions 4 to 9
- The „persisting“ problem of a mismatch between policy priorities and funding priorities: How severe is it really?
- Theorems/theories that may help explain the findings

Readings:

- *The New Public Finance*, pp. 28-70 (chapter on „The Changes under Way“) and pp. 304-323 (Jone's chapter on „Taking Self-Interest into Account“)
- Garrett, Laurie. 2007. „The Challenge of Global Health.“ In: *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2007 (at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org>)
- Stiglitz, Joseph a.2001. „Redefining the Role of the State: *What Should it Do? How Should it Do It? And How Should these Decisions be Made?* (www.meti.go.jp/topic/mitilab/downloadfiles/m2012-lj.pdf)

Session 11: Challenges of global governance lying ahead: Part I—Anchoring international cooperation in support of GPGs more firmly at the national level (22 November)

- Themes:*
- Managing vertical linkages: The World Bank approach to GPG provision. Presentation by Margret Thalwitz, Director, Global Programs and Funds, World Bank, Washington, DC
 - Determining whether international cooperation is a „good investment“: Estimating the net-benefits of meeting global challenges—and their distribution across countries
 - Changing incentive structures for governments to engage in international cooperation
 - National-level institutional reform measures geared towards facilitating global—concerted national and international-level—public policymaking

Readings:

- *The New Public Finance*, pp. 73-108 („Blending External and Domestic Policy Demands), and pp. 327-356 („Identifying High-Return Investments“)

Session 12: Challenges of global governance lying ahead: Part II—Finding the right balance between leadership and participation, short-term efficiency and longer-term fairness and sustainability (29 November)

Themes:

- Review of calls and proposals for further reform of the UNS, and more broadly, of multilateralism and global governance
- Policy options for moving forward: Towards more competitive global governance?

Readings:

- Bradford, Colin I. and Johannes F. Linn, eds. 2007. *Global Governance Reform; Breaking the Stalemate*. Washington, D.C., Brookings.
L-20 Project (<http://www.l20.org>)
- Weber, Steven on a „World without the West“ at <http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=15006>
- Wedgwood, Ruth on „How about a little competition?“ at <http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/12/05/opinion/edwedg.php> .
- Woods, Ngaire. 2006. „The Globalizers in Search of a Future. Four Reasons why the IMF and World Bank must change, and four ways they can.“ CGD Brief at <http://www.cgdev.org> .
- Zürn, Michael. 2004. “Global Governance and Legitimacy Problems.” Paper presented at the G-20 meeting at IDRC, Ottawa, Canada. (<http://www.l20.org/libraryitem.php?libraryID+23>)

Session 13: Applying the insights gained: A review of UNFCCC Bali

Themes:

- The Bali meeting: the key issues under negotiation, the main actor groups and their policy positions, the consultation and negotiation processes followed
- Assessment of the Bali process (so far)
- How to improve the process? (Discussion in and between break-out groups)

Readings:

Scan relevant websites, including UNFCCBALI to review relevant official background documents, official positions, NGO and business inputs, and side events and follow media reporting

Session 14: Conclusion and review (13 December)

Themes:

- Review of the main analytical concepts and theories employed
- Summary of the main findings and conclusions about GPGs and the role of the UNS within the overall context of global governance
- Review of the course structure, process and outcome

No readings

Due date for submission of the final paper: 17 December 2007
