

International Relations and the challenges of multilateralisms

Prof. Wassenberg, Birte

Course type : 24 hours - 3 ECTS

Résumé :

The course deals with the role of multilateralism as a new form of managing International Relations in the 20th and 21st Century. It will first deal with the factors of globalization and their impact on the development of international and regional Organizations. The first part will then focus on the system of economic and political International Organizations (UN, IMF, GATT etc.) and on regional organizations in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America set up between 1945 and 1989. The second part will analyze the changes in the international order post-Cold War and their effect on multilateralism from 1990 to 2020. It will analyze the US position as a hyperpower in International Organizations and deal with conjunctural and structural problems of the UN system. But it will also focus on European multilateralism and the role of the EU in contemporary International Relations. The course is based on an interactive approach including student presentations of case-studies and a professionalizing element which will involve simulations on contemporary international problems.

Plan de cours :

I. INTRODUCTION: MULTILATERALISM, GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONALISM

1. Multilateralism in the 20th and 21st Century: a new form of managing International Relations
2. The factors of globalization: economic, cultural, media, religion
3. Multilateralism and International organizations
4. Multilateralism and regional organizations

II. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS POST 1945

1. The setting-up and functioning of international economic organizations and international forums (IMF, World Bank, Gatt, G7)
2. The creation of the UN system
3. Opposition against multilateralism: anti-globalization mouvements

III. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Regional organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America
2. Regional European Organizations
3. NATO: the Western defense organization

IV. THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM POST 1989

1. The WTO: an undemocratic organization?
2. The UN: between structurel and conjunctural problems
3. The US as a hyperpower in IR

V. THE UN SYSTEM POST 1989

1. The World Health organization (WHO)
2. UNESCO
3. The UN collective security system

VI. EUROPEAN MULTILATERALISM AFTER 1989

1. The European Union: a multilateral actor?
2. Foreign and Security Policy of the EU
3. The EU versus other European Organizations: OSCE/Council of Europe
4. EU macro-regional strategies

VIII. MULTILATERALISM IN INTERNATIONAL CRISES

1. The challenges of multilateralism in economic crises
2. Multilateral tools for international conflicts: NATO: a multilateral actor?
3. The challenge of the migration crisis
4. The challenge of the terrorist crisis

VIII. CASE-STUDY AND CONCLUSION

1. Simulation game on a UN Security Council meeting
2. Which lessons from regional and international cooperation?
3. Which perspectives for multilateral cooperation?

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