Course Title: United Nations in global history perspective.

Course Description:
The overall objective of the seminar is to provide a nuanced picture of United Nations history from different perspectives and topics. The regional focus will be Africa. The seminar is set out to be a research seminar, meaning that not only the existing literature will be discussed but also original sources. The goal is to relate the empirical material to the literature discussed. Therefore, after a general introduction to different research perspectives on international organizations and the United Nations the course is divided into three main topics, development, decolonization and human rights. The idea is to provide first a preliminary overview of the state of the art. Students should identify different research perspectives as well as gaps in the existing literature. Afterwards we will discuss two case studies on the basis of an introductory text as well as original sources. At the same time those topics, development, decolonization (Third World) and human rights are still relevant today and the question remains what does history tell us about contemporary problems, debates and approaches. Therefore references towards the present times are highly welcome.

Requirements:
- Presentation 20 minutes
- Co-chair of one session
- Active Participation in the seminar and discussions
- Essay

Introductory literature


Finding UN Original Sources online:
UNBISNET http://unbisnet.un.org
ODS http://documents.un.org/default.asp
UN Yearbook http://unyearbook.un.org
UN Oral History http://www.unmultimedia.org/oralhistory/
Tuesday, 7 April 2015
Session 1: Introduction
- defining goals and course requirements
- general introduction into the topic: international organizations as research object ➔ several approaches possible, therefore the course is divided in 3 parts
- presentation of the course plan
- what do students expect from this course? Is there anything missing in their perspective and why? ➔ explanation for the specific approach to the topic (history and not political science)

PART I: THEORETICAL APPROACHES

Monday, 13 April 2015
Session 2: transnational/ global history
Presentation: global/ transnational history
Guiding questions: What is the main emphasis in the respective theories on international organizations? What are the objects of investigation? What role do international organizations play in the international system/ world politics?
Literature:

Further readings:
Rodogno, Davide, Shaloma Gauthier, and Francesca Piana, eds. What does transnational history tell us about a world with international organizations? The historians' point of view. Edited by Bob Reinalda, Routledge Handbook of International Organization. Hoboken: Taylor and Francis, 2013, p. 94-105

Tuesday, 14 April 2015
Session 3: Internationalism at the end of the 19th century
Presentation: public international unions
Objective: Discussing the transformation of the international system.
Literature:

Further readings:
Monday, 20 April 2015

Session 4: International Secretariats
Presentation: short introduction to International Secretariats
Objective: Each group has to present the respective text to the other group and then discuss what are the main differences and commonalities. What is the advantage/disadvantage of each approach?

Literature:
Group 1:

Group 2:


Tuesday, 21 April 2015

Session 5: Guest Speaker Katja Naumann: League of Nations Secretariat

DEVELOPMENT

Monday, 27 April 2015

Session 6: Development, Empire and International Organizations
Objective: Literature Overview of the topic. Students should identify different perspectives as well as research gaps.

Literature:


Further readings:

Monday, 4 May 2015
Session 7: case study: United Nations Development Initiatives
Objective: How did the discourse, programmes and initiatives changed over the decades?
Literature:
Stokke, Olav. The UN and development: from aid to cooperation. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2009, p. 481-510
Group 1: UN yearbook 1960,
Group 2: UN Yearbook 1970, A/PV.1871

DECOLONIZATION

Monday, 4 May 2015
Session 8: Decolonization and IOs
Objective: Literature Overview of the topic. Students should identify different perspectives as well as research gaps.
Literature:
Turner, Oliver. "Finishing the Job': the UN Special Committee on Decolonization and the politics of self-governance." Third world Quarterly 34, no. 7 (2013): 1193-208.

Further Readings:

Tuesday, 5 May 2015
Session 9: case study Mozambique
Literature:
Sources:
A/RES/1514(XV)

Further Readings:

**Monday, 12 May 2015**
**Session 10: Namibia**
**Literature**

**Sources:**
S/8506 of 30 March 1968
S/14266 of 24 November 1980
NASA SWA, UN Files

Further Readings:

**Tuesday, 13 May 2015**
**Session 11: Human Rights**
**Objective:** Literature Overview of the topic. Students should identify different perspectives as well as research gaps.

**Literature:**

Further reading:

Tuesday, 26 May 2015
Session 12: case study: Third World in the creation of HR

Literature:

Original Sources:
UN Yearbook 1948-49, pp. 527-529 (general views expressed in the Third Committee), 530-534 (Discussion by the General Assembly in Plenary Meeting)
A/PV.180-183 (1 Western, 1 Asian, 1 Latin American Representative)
UN Yearbook 2007, pp. 670-672 (General Assembly Action)

Further Readings:

Monday, 1 June 2015
Session 13: case study: SA & India

Literature:

Sources:
UN Yearbook 1946-47: the treatment of Indians in the Union of South Africa; 144-148

Further readings:


**Tuesday, 2 June 2015**
**Session 14: Concluding Session**