

**Kyung Hee University GC  
Summer 2020**

**The United Nations and Global Issues :  
Understanding the Dynamics and Workings of the UN System  
(3 credits, 6/29-7/17)**

The United Nations is the largest comprehensive international organization in human history. Pursuing international peace and security, the betterment of human life and dignity, and the preservation of the planet earth, the UN system has served as a most dynamic and useful multilateral instrument and actor in international society.

This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of the role of the United Nations system in global affairs, with a brief review of the concepts, evolution, contribution, and actual activities and workings of the organization. The students can acquire a broad overview about how the UN organizations are designed and work in diverse activities in dealing with various global issues, as well as how the member states, and the international community as a whole, work with and in the United Nations system.

The global issue areas include: i) peace and security, ii) sustainable development, iii) human rights, iv) humanitarian action, and (v) civil society relations. The study also deals with the UN policies and behavior of major states, such as the US, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and some others in Asia. The course will be effectively covered by a senior diplomatic practitioner and scholar, as well as a UN official, with lectures, discussions, PPT presentations, DVDs, UN web-sites, and other materials.

**Week I (June 29- July 3)**

Day I Introduction: A short history of the world leading to the creation of the United Nations

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

Day III Peace and Security: Security Council

Day IV Peace and Security: Peacekeeping operations (PKOs)

Day V Peace and Security: Disarmament and non-proliferation

**Week II ( July 6- July 10)**

**\* Current issues, agendas, norms, actors, mechanism, programmes, and instruments in the following areas**

Day I Development: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Day II Reform of the United Nations

Day III Case Study: The Korean Peninsula Issues

Day IV Humanitarian Action (Refugees, IDPs, natural disasters)

Day V Civil Society Relations (NGOs, Global Compact, Academic Compact)

**Week III (July 13 -July 17)**

Day I UN multilateral diplomacy, global conferences and global governance

Day II Sustainable Development (Climate Changes, MDGs, Sustainable Development Goals)

Day III Human Rights (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, RtoP, Crime against humanity)

Day IV Presentations, discussions, and reviews

Day V Conclusion (and final exam)

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**(Suggested Readings)**

United Nations, Basic Facts about the United Nations (UN DPI, New York, 2017; 42nd Edition)

[Thomas G. Weiss et al., The United Nations and Changing World Politics \(Routledge, New York, 2020\)](#)

Brian Frederking & Paul F. Diehl, eds., The Politics of Global Governance (Lynne Rienner, Boulder, 2015)

Karen A. Mingst & Margaret O. Karns, The United Nations in the 21st Century (Westview, New York, 2007)

UNDPI, "Conference Diplomacy, 1815-2015" UN Chronicle, Vol I, No.3, 2014

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ROK, Diplomatic White Paper 2018 (MOFA, 2018)

UN Website - [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

The Charter of the United Nations, 1945

UN Security Council Resolutions 2375 (11 September 2017) and 2397 (22 December 2017)

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