



The UN: Still Fit For Purpose or A Twentieth Century Relic?

Start date 9 February 2019

End date 9 February 2019

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Ian Shields

Course code 1819NDX024

Director of ISP & Lifelong
Learning

Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this
course, please contact

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To book

See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Ian Shields spent 32 years in the Royal Air Force as a navigator initially on the Vulcan bomber, but latterly on the Hercules transport aircraft. He deployed to theatres as diverse as the Falkland Islands and Afghanistan, and commanded No 47 Squadron from 2001 – 2003. In the latter stages of his military career he entered a very academic stream, gaining 2 post-graduate degrees and ending his career in an MoD think-tank where he led a team looking forward 40 years to consider the use of air and space power. Ian is presently working on his PhD on British Media-Government Relations, is a regular commentator in the Media, and is employed as a part-time lecturer and supervisor within the fields of International Relations and Security Studies

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: The Role and Development of the UN; Attempts at Reform
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: Reforming the UN Security Council: A Role-Play Exercise – Part One: Briefings and Initial Discussions
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Reforming the UN Security Council: A Role-Play Exercise – Part Two: Concluding Discussions and Vote
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Discussion: The Future Role and Direction of the UN
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

In the aftermath of the destruction of the Second World War, and against the backdrop of the failures of the post-WWI settlement that created the League of Nations, the UN was a bold and brave attempt at creating a security environment in which the scourge of global war, if not violence itself, would be absent. Since 1945 the UN has expanded its role into areas including Human Rights and Child Soldiers, and remains a major voice in international affairs. But it has also proven to be highly resistant to change, and somewhat ineffective in dealing with many of the issues of the world today. This Day School will examine the history and development of the UN, examine attempts at reforming it, and consider its relevancy today; the bulk of the day will be given over to a practical, role-play exercise that will examine the complexities of politics within the UN.

Aims:

To review the history and development of the UN

To consider its relevancy today

To explore the difficulties and complexities in reforming the UN in order to maintain its relevancy.

Content:

This is a general-interest course that aims to introduce those attending to the complexities of the modern world by examining in depth one of the great International Institutions: the United Nations. It will explore the UN's development against the backdrop of power politics of the time, and look at its role and relevancy in today's world. The challenge facing the UN - that of relevancy - will form the backdrop of the main element of the day school: a practical exercise trying to reform the UN Security Council. In the discussion at the end of the day we will reflect on the complexities of today's globalised world, and consider whether the values – and dreams – of the authors of the UN Charter hold good today.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be delivered through formal lectures, a partial, role-play exercise and a group discussion.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

Develop their analytical skills through exploring a contributory factor to today's world order.

Evaluate the changing role, importance and longevity of the UN.

Identify the challenges the UN faces in this ever-more complex world.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
John Bayliss, Steve Smith and Patricia Owen	The Globalization of World Politics (7 th Edition)	Oxford University Press (2016)
	<i>An excellent, general introduction to the themes underlying this day school</i>	
Dan Plesch	America, Hitler and the UN: How the Allies Won World War II and Forged a Peace	I B Tauris & Co Ltd (2010)

A first-class explanation of how the UN came into being

Website addresses

Worth looking at ahead of the day school is the Charter of the United Nations; primarily the Preamble, and Chapters 2, 6 and 7:

<https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf>

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 25 January 2019