



## Academic Summer School 2021 SOAS University of London

### Global Activism and the United Nations Course Handbook

**Mode of Attendance:** Full-time, Online

**Duration:** 2 weeks

**SOAS Accredited:** This course is worth 15 UK credits

#### Programme Description

This is an opportunity to work alongside world-leading advocates within the UN system. The key live cases are [Southern women](#) in the history and future of the UN; more effective means of [holding war criminals](#) to account; a global system of [weapons elimination and control](#), finance for a [green New Deal](#), and the creative [origins of the United Nations](#) will be studied along with an opportunity to engage in real-time advocacy on one of these themes and learn from the readings.

This module provides an advanced introduction to global advocacy. The aim of the module is to teach the theories and skills that allow an individual to be a more effective in achieving their advocacy objectives. The module aims to illustrate how to influence policy at the international, rather than national, level. The module equips students to effect the policy changes necessary to meet the aims of the non-governmental and international organizations they might be working for or associated with. In short, this module focuses upon advocates who wish to achieve change at the global level, networking across national boundaries and on global issues. The general module aims are to introduce students to social movements theories and how they apply to international advocacy and provide a good grasp of the international environment in which advocates operate and the issues they might face. The module will also provide students with a good grasp of the concepts and skills of advocacy.

Students are encouraged to take the free-start-any-day online course on the United Nations before the summer school starts, but this is not a requirement.

#### Objectives and learning outcomes of the module

The module aims to give students:

- an excellent ability to comprehend both conceptually and empirically the United Nations, and the UN system within the conceptual framework of Global International Organisations
- comprehensive understanding of, and ability to critically review the relevant literature
- aptitude in constructing and applying an appropriate analytical approach to issues relevant to the subject matter

- capacity to source, integrate, analyse and summarise relevant research and data in the submission of assessments
- the relevant skills to propose, debate and appraise feasible issues relevant to the subject

### **Programme Schedule**

Through a series of learning objects students will engage with the salient topics of the United Nations and Global Advocacy.

The readings will be based on those supporting the highly successful campus and online modules in Global Advocacy and the History and Future of the United Nations. Topics, such as Gender, Human Rights, Labour, International Institutions, will be supported by tailored learning materials which will include a range of textual, documentary, audio and visual as appropriate. Readings will be chosen and packaged to have a guiding question, pop quiz questions, and an overall summary, as well as being divided into Essential and Desirable reading.

The course is designed to provide a blended pedagogic experience to students. In other words, learning will go beyond face to face class time.

### **Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of the course, a student should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and development of the United Nations and of Global Advocacy, drawing on a variety of relevant contributing disciplines in the broad field of International Studies.
- Grasp how advocacy operates in the UN space
- Have a grounding in both theoretical and empirical approaches to debates on the UN and Advocacy so that students have been exposed to the skills needed to analyse these interactions.
- Demonstrate knowledge of issues concerning Advocacy in the United Nations in their historical and contemporary contexts.

### **Assessment**

E-tivities throughout the course.

**Course Convenor:** Dr Dan Plesch

## Reading Materials

- [Adami, Rebecca, Women and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Routledge 2018](#)
- Willams, Ian, Untold: The Real Story of the UN in War and Peace, JustWorld Books,2017
- Weiss Thomas G. Would the World be better without the UN? Polity, 2018.
- Plesch, Dan, Human Rights After Hitler,Georgetown UP, 2017
- Keck, Margaret E and Kathryn Sikkink (1998) Activist beyond borders (Cornell)
- Della Porta, Donatella, Hanspeter Kriesi and Dieter Rucht (eds) (2009) Social Movements in a Globalizing world 2009 (2nd edition) (Palgrave McMillan)
- Stark, Gene (1994) From Dictatorship to Democracy (free online resource)
- Mason, Paul (2012) Why its kicking off everywhere (Verso)
- Peterson, Abby, 'Review essay: Social Movement Theory' Acta Sociologica 1989 32(4) pp.419-426