

Hi3112 International Organisations

Mid-Term Essay

The object in the mid-term essay for this course is to produce

- An objective narrative account of a crisis which involves a peacekeeping operation
- in a neutral 'international civil service' style
- written collaboratively which is the norm for international reports,
- which drawing heavily on existing documents produced by international organisations
- and is grounded in the disciplinary ethos of “Contemporary History” (Barraclough) or 'Present History' (Draper)
- Affords students an opportunity to work as a team on a piece of written work, writing collaboratively and actively sharing in the project – planning, drafting, and providing positive peer review of each other work.
- Produces case studies which will be circulated in class and used to inform the major simulation exercise in late November.

Groups of 4 students per case study will be assigned in class on 28^h September. Stragglers will be allocated to groups and will have to catch up.

Groups will have some time at the end of class that day to get together and organise initial meetings.

The List of Missions are:

United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)
United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)
European Union Force Chad/CAR, EUFOR Tchad/RCA / MINURCAT
United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS)
United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)
United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)
United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II)
United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)
United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)
United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)
United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL)

Groups should meet between 29th September - 5th Oct to rough out an initial concept, and a plan for research.

Groups should think about having most of the research done in the first two weeks of October. You should probably make a start on the structure of the essay, and the drafting, during this period. Between mid-October and November 1st, you should be engaged in drafting and polishing the final text. Ideally you should use the course wiki for this. There may be some additional research in this period, to fill in gaps. The first week of November should be free to copy the text off the wiki into a wordprocessor for final format and layout prior to printing and submission.

Groups will need to be in active contact, by meeting, email, phone or using the forums on the course website.

Working in groups requires that you be very aware of plans, deadlines and organisation. You need to think about your individual approach to getting things done, and how to mesh it into a team effort. In many cases, the initial group plan for the getting the essay done will need modification from time to time.

Each group will nominate a rapporteur, who will email a progress report to me at least once a week.

I will set up a wiki in the Moodle course site for each group to edit, and a forum to support group interaction. I will keep an eye on these to look out for problems.

The final paper should be a coherent narrative of the case under study. It should not be 4 short essays stuck together – it should be a coherent document with an executive summary, a proper introduction, and a conclusion which identifies the causes, course and consequences of the crisis, tracking the position and actions of the key participants. The groups need to make sure that the writing is even throughout – it should not be immediately obvious where one writer stops and another starts.

This means you need to think about and actively engage in the writing process differently to a conventional 'solo' essay. Groups need to edit the final essay as a team, and be willing to comment on each others writing as 'critical friends.'

Each student must submit 2 copies of the paper on November 3rd. This is absolutely necessary to meet departmental procedures for submission, receipting, recording and marking of coursework. W

As well as keeping an eye on the course website, I am contactable by email directly at m.cosgrave@ucc.ie