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PSCI 337.80: Model United Nations - Honors SERV

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PSCI 337
Fall 2022
Mondays 1-3:20 p.m.
JRH 204

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PSCI 337 Model United Nations

Course Description

Model United Nations is a technique for developing your skills in research, writing, public speaking, negotiation, and conflict resolution. It is also a way to learn more about international issues, international diplomacy, and international politics. Model UN experiences can be small (at the classroom level), medium size (a local conference), or large (an international conference). This class is a gateway to all three types of experience.

In the class, each student will “represent” one of the approximately 200 countries in the world in simulations of UN committees such as the General Assembly and Security Council. You will learn about these committees, research your country’s position on the issues before the committees, and draft, debate, negotiate, and vote on resolutions to address those issues. We will discuss a range of issues, from security and economic challenges to environmental problems and human rights. By the end of the semester, you will have a deep understanding of the country you represent, as well as a broad understanding of international issues, the UN, and international negotiation.

Each student will also serve as a staff member on one of the five committees we will simulate, both in class and at UM’s Montana Model UN (MMUN) High School Conference. This is the 56th anniversary of the high school conference. The conference is held in person at the UC for the first two days of Thanksgiving Week: Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22. Each year, 300-400 students from about 20 Montana and Idaho high schools attend the conference. Your participation in this service-learning class makes their experience possible. Please put the event on your calendar now. All students in PSCI 337 must attend both days of the conference.

At the end of the semester, a team of students from the class will be selected to represent UM at an international collegiate Model UN conference in the spring. Usually, we send a team of 12 students to the National Model UN (NMUN) conference in NY, where 5,000 students from all over the world converge for a week to debate world issues and hold meetings at the actual UN. For many years, the MMUN team has come home from NMUN conferences with team, delegate, and position paper awards. By building your skills in this class, you make it likely that the MMUN Team will continue to win awards and that UM will continue to sponsor and help fund the trip.

This course is required for participation in the Montana Model UN collegiate team and is excellent preparation for a career in public policy and international affairs.

*****MASKS ARE OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED*****

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Those who successfully complete this course will be better able to:

1. Describe and use international relations theories to analyze international issues and the history, purpose, structure, current activities, and future of the United Nations as a whole, its member states,

and its main committees such as the General Assembly and Security Council.

2. Identify and use reliable sources for information on the UN, member states, and international issues.
3. Develop your skills in research, writing, public speaking, negotiation, and conflict resolution.

Service-Learning Designation

This is a service-learning course. Service Learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students, faculty and community partners work together to enhance student learning by applying academic knowledge in a community-based setting. Student work addresses the needs of the community, as identified through collaboration with community or tribal partners, while meeting instructional objectives through faculty-structured service work and critical reflection meant to prepare students to be civically responsible members of the community. At its best, service learning enhances and deepens students' understanding of an academic discipline by facilitating the integration of theory and practice, while providing them with experience that develops life skills and engages them in critical reflection about individual, institutional, and social ethics.

Prerequisites

This course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors, as well as freshmen who participated in a Model UN conference in high school or are enrolled in the honors college.

Graduate Students

Graduate students will have additional assignments. Please see me during the first week of the course.

PSCI 337 Versus PSCI 492.02

Students new to this course should enroll in PSCI 337. Students who took this course last year must enroll in the separate Model UN Leadership course (PSCI 492-02). These courses meet simultaneously but have different assignments.

Executive Committee

MMUN leadership positions are as follows. Collectively, this group is known as the Executive Committee (Ex Comm). The Ex Comm will meet at the end of each class to coordinate conference arrangements. **(Roles subject to change)**

Internal Staff

(Conference Procedures)

Secretary-General/Internal (SG-I) & President

- Clara Bentler

Assistant Secretary-General Internal (ASG-I)

- Taylor Curry

Director of Operations & Fundraising (DO)

- Camelia Xu & Sarah Hauser

External Staff

(High School Relations)

Secretary-General/External (SG-E)

- Noah Vanderkar

Assistant Secretary-General External (ASG-E)

- Sarah Hauser

Chair Liaison

- Sarah Hauser

Teaching Assistant

Dominic Beccari, current M.A. student in PSCI

Registration & Awards Technologies

UM conference services

Faculty Advisors

Dr. Eva Maggi (lead)

Prof. Karen Ruth Adams (fundraising)

Course Communications

Throughout the course, I will communicate with you by email and by posting announcements and course materials on the UOnline (Moodle) website. To ensure that you receive my emails, please check your UM email regularly or have it forwarded to an account that you check often.

Required Texts

To do well in this class, you must complete three types of assigned reading before each class meeting:

1. Required readings related to each weekly topic. These readings will be posted on Moodle. There will be about 80-100 pages per week.
2. News articles and opinion pieces related to international relations and the UN in the daily *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com>. To complete this assignment, you will need to read more than the 20 free articles per month allowed on the site. Thus you should either sign up for a 3-month student subscription, which is a few dollars a month, or read the daily NYT for free by logging in on the Mansfield Library website.
3. News and other reports posted at UN News Centre, <http://www.un.org/news/>

Other Ways to Keep Up with Current Events

When you have extra time, I encourage you to consult additional sources, such as:

- National daily newspapers such as the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*, as well as international papers such as the *London Times*, *Guardian*, and *Le Monde*, international news services such as Reuters, and compilations of international news such as <http://worldpress.org/>
- Weekly news magazines such as *The Economist*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *US News and World Report*. See also monthly and quarterly journals such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Current History*, and *World Politics*.
- National Public Radio programs such as "Morning Edition," "BBC World Service," and "All Things Considered" on KUFM 89.1 (for schedule, go to <https://www.mtpr.org/>).
- Nightly and weekly television news programs. On PBS, these include "PBS NewsHour," "BBC World News," "Amanpour," and "Frontline," which you can watch on your television KUFM Channel 11 (<http://www.montanapbs.org/>) or stream on your computer from their websites. The ABC, CBS, and NBC evening news, as well as ABC's "Nightline," can also be helpful.

Please note that these news sources will not substitute for the *New York Times* and UN News Centre. Our current event discussions, quiz questions, etc. will focus on articles from these sources.

Course Requirements, Grading, and Study Tips

You are expected to complete all of the assigned reading, including the previous week's *New York Times* and UN News Centre before each class.

You must attend class regularly and participate in the discussions, simulations, and conference preparations, as well as the conference itself. Class attendance, in-class participation and assignments, and quizzes count towards 20% of your grade.

Conference attendance and participation are worth 20%. **You must attend the conference on Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22 from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm.** I will provide an excuse note to give to your other professors.

The remaining 60% of your grade in the class will be based on your papers and other projects. Some due dates depend on your role in the class.

To summarize, your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

Participation = 40%

- 10% Class attendance and participation
- 10% Committee participation before the MMUN high school conference, including in-class meetings, out-of-class practice sessions, high school position paper grading, etc.
- 20% Participation at the MMUN conference (morning, afternoon, and evening sessions)

Papers and other projects = 60%

- 15% Country worksheet, due **9/26**
- 25% Position paper on 2 issues before your committee, resolution on 1 issue, overall negotiating strategy, and opening speech outline based on these documents, **due 10/17**
- 5% Presentation of opening speech, due dates vary by committee:
 - 10/17 GA-2**
 - 10/24 SC and GA-1**
 - 10/31 HRC**
 - 11/7 UNEA**
- 15% Debriefing paper – reflections on and analysis of the conference, your role, & future of the UN, due **11/28**

The plus/minus grading system will be used. Grades may be curved. The following distribution is the lowest I will use (*i.e.*, if you earn 93% of all possible points you are assured of an A in the course):

93-100	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	0-59	F

In class, you should take notes on the lectures and discussions. After class, take a few minutes to write down your overall impressions of the session and the questions and insights it raised for you. These notes will provide you with leads to follow in reviewing for and writing the assignments. For additional study tips, see “Reading Questions” and “Essay Grading” below.

Academic Honesty

Students must practice academic honesty and should be familiar with [UM’s Student Conduct Code](#). Students who engage in academic misconduct such as plagiarism (representing another person’s work as their own) will receive a 0 for the assignment in question and may be subject to a disciplinary sanction by the university.

Disabilities

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide a reasonable modification. “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. Students with disabilities should apprise me of their needs well before the due date of an assignment on which they wish to be accommodated.

Make-Up Policy

In general, I excuse absences and accept late papers only from students directly involved in serious, documented emergencies. To do so, send me an email explaining the circumstances of your emergency or other situation, and provide me with your phone number and relevant documentation. Please note that I may deny make up requests, and I may assign make up work that differs from the regular assignment. Also note that if you fail to submit work for any other reason you will receive a 0 for the class session or assignment. That may put you at risk of failing the course.

Drop Policy, Grading Options, and Incompletes

The 15th day of the semester is the last day to drop the class or change the grading option without my signature on an override form. If you wish to drop or change the grading option after that, you must provide documentation of an emergency or other serious situation in which you are directly involved that has made it impossible for you to complete the course. For UM's policy on incompletes, see UM's [Academic Policies and Procedures](#).

PSCI 400 (limited availability)

Political Science majors may use this course to complete PSCI 400 (the upper-division writing requirement in the major). The requirements for doing so are as follows:

1. You must have finished your Intermediate writing requirement (Gen Ed approved Intermediate writing course).
2. Send me an email asking to be added to my section of PSCI 400. Please include your 790 number. It is best to do this before the add deadline (15th day of semester).
3. You will revise and expand your position paper, resolution, and negotiating strategy. The revised documents will address the same questions and must be improved by editing them according to the TA's feedback and expanding the negotiating strategy to twice the length, referring to concepts, readings, and current events through the end of the semester. The revised documents are due on the last day of class.
4. Your grade for PSCI 400 will be the average of the first and final versions of these documents.

Graduate Students

Graduate students will have additional assignments. Please let me know if you are a graduate student.

Committees, Topics, and Roles

We will simulate the following five committees and topics:

General Assembly First Committee (GA1)

1. Addressing the Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons
2. The Relationship between Disarmament and Development

General Assembly Second Committee (GA2)

1. Addressing International Migration and Development
2. The Promotion of Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development

Human Rights Council (HRC)

1. Addressing the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples
2. The Rights of Those Displaced Due to Climate Change

Security Council (SC)

1. Women, Peace, and Security
2. The Situation in Afghanistan

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

1. Protecting and Restoring Marine Habitats
2. Incorporating Nature-Based Solutions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Each committee will have at least 4 staff members, including a chair, a vice chair, a rapporteur, and an ExComm member. If enrollments permit, committees will also have one or more experts. Collectively, the committee staff is known as the Dais. The SG-I and TA will assist and oversee all committees.

In class, we will discuss the main conference and preconference duties of each position and the process for

assigning roles.

Reading Questions

In assignments and quizzes, you will be asked to compare and contrast the arguments of various scholars and schools of thought. Doing so requires critical reading skills. To develop and practice these skills, consider the following questions for each item you read:

A. Overview

1. What is the central question or problem addressed by the author?
2. What is his or her answer or argument?

B. Evaluation of the Argument

3. What is the logic of this answer or argument? What theory or school of thought, if any, does it represent?
4. Do you understand the author's argument? Do you agree with it? Why or why not?

C. Evaluation of the Evidence

5. What evidence does the author use to support his or her argument?
6. Does the evidence support the argument? Are you aware of other evidence that would support or weaken the argument?

D. Significance

7. Which of the authors we have read would agree and disagree with this argument, and why?
8. How does this article fit into the themes and arguments developed in class?

Essay Grading

- 100 Superb. Develops an extremely well-written, clear, and convincing argument that answers the question and substantiates the answer with facts and other information from readings.
- 90-99 Excellent. Develops a well-written, clear, and convincing argument that answers the question and refers well to readings. Omissions or inaccuracies are few and detract little from the overall quality of the argument.
- 80-89 Good. The argument is generally good and answers the question, but the answer is disorganized, unclear, inaccurate, or unsupported in several important respects -- OR -- The argument is well-written, clear, and convincing but doesn't fully answer the question or has few and/or insubstantial references to readings.
- 70-79 Marginal. The answer has numerous shortcomings in organization, clarity, accuracy, or support - - OR -- The argument is fairly well-written, more or less clear, and somewhat convincingly but doesn't really answer the question AND has few and/or insubstantial references to readings.
- 60-69 Unacceptable. The answer is very vague, completely wrong, has nothing to do with the question, and/or provides no evidence of reading.

Weekly Schedule and Assignments

Below is a summary of the weekly class agenda. Please check our Moodle class site for updates to the agenda throughout the semester. The required readings for each class are listed on and available from Moodle. Detailed instructions for all papers will be posted on the Moodle site and discussed in class.

Week 1. INTRODUCTION (8/29)

In class today: Introduction to the course and Model UN
Overview of course assignments and due dates
Staff introductions
Student introductions
UN and NMUN video clips (links on Moodle website)

**** Plan to attend the MMUN conference: Monday, November 21 and Tuesday November 22 from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm; ATTENDANCE REQUIRED****

Prepare for next week:

- Read the syllabus
- Start reading the NYT and UN News Centre
- Access the Moodle course site, and do the assigned reading and interest survey
- Submit background and interest survey (30-40min to complete in Moodle)

Week 2. LABOR DAY (9/5) no class

Due today: Background and interest survey (Moodle)

Prepare for next week:

- Prepare for your committee interview (see Moodle for details), *You will receive your country and committee assignment later this week*
- Review Model UN rules chart and committee script (posted on Moodle)
- Read NMUN Washington D.C. 2022, Background guides (on your committee)

Week 3. UN HISTORY & STRUCTURE; COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS (9/12)

In class today: **Discussion of Moodle readings & current events (NYT, UN News)**
Lecture
Overview and Q&A on staff roles and interview process
Committee interviews

Reading: see Moodle

Prepare for next week:

- Review Model UN rules chart and committee script (Moodle)

Week 4. IR THEORIES & THE UN; FUN SIMULATION (9/19)

In class today: **Discussion of readings and current events**
Lecture

Fun simulation led by TA and ExComm

- Apply Model UN rules chart and committee script
- Go through agenda setting speeches, caucus, and vote
- Start topic speeches

Discuss country worksheet assignment (due next week)

Meet with your region

Reading: see Moodle

Week 5. DIPLOMACY, PART I: FORMULATING AND ARTICULATING FOREIGN POLICY; POSITION PAPERS, STRATEGY AND SPEECHES (9/26)

In class today: ****Due today: Country worksheet**

Overview of position paper, resolution, negotiating strategy, and speech assignment (due on 10/17)

Meet with your committee! Introduction, country positions, current events related to committee topics, first Committee Participation Grade

Reading: NMUN Washington D.C. 2022, Background guides (on your committee)

Prepare for next week:

- Write Position Paper
- Review Model UN rules chart and committee script (moodle)

Week 6. DIPLOMACY, PART II: RESULTS OF NEGOTIATION: RESOLUTIONS (10/3)

In class today: Overview of committee structure, parliamentary procedure, opening speeches, informal caucuses, resolution format & approval process
Parli Pro game

Reading: Model UN Rules of Procedure: long and short form
Position Paper, resolution, negotiation strategy & speech assignment instructions (on moodle)

Prepare for next week:

- Write resolution and negotiating strategy

Week 7. DIPLOMACY, PART III: DEBATE AND VOTING (10/10)

In class today: Debating and Voting on Resolutions; Responding to Crises
(overview of formal caucuses, voting procedure, and crises)
Fun resolution exercise

Reading: Model UN chair script

Prepare for next week:

- Write opening speech, finish assignment and submit by next week

Week 8. GA-2: MIGRATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (10/17)

In class today: ****Due today: pp, res, nego & speech assignment (all students)**
GA-2 simulation (run by SC staff)
 *****GA-2 staff present opening speeches**

Reading: See Moodle

Week 9. SC & GA-1: INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY (10/24)

In class today: 1. SC simulation (run by HRC Staff); 2. GA-1 simulation (run by UNEA Staff)
 *****SC and GA-1 staff present opening speeches**

Reading: See Moodle

Week 10. HRC: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND CLIMATE CHANGE (10/31)

In class today: UN Human Rights Council simulation (run by GA-1 Staff)
 *****HRC staff present opening speeches**

Reading: See Moodle

Week 11. UNEA: MARINE HABITATS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (11/7)

In class today: UNEA simulation (run by GA-2 Staff)
 *****UNEA staff present opening speeches**
TA will prepare the committees for high school position paper grading
(high school papers are due Friday 11/11)

Reading: See Moodle

Prepare for next week:

- Re-read topic background guides and grade high school position papers

Week 12. FINAL CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS (11/14)

In class today: Rehearse opening ceremony & SG speeches
Review conference schedule and awards nomination process
Meet in role groups for Q&A and practice (including SC crisis speeches and
correct pronunciation of country names)

Reading: Detailed staff schedule
Topic background guides
Model UN rules and procedures long & short form
Chair script

*****MMUN HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE*****

Monday 11/21 and Tuesday 11/22 – all day; 8:00 am to 9:00 pm
EXTRA CREDIT: Conference set-up Friday 9-11am & Sunday noon-2pm

Week 13. CONFERENCE DEBRIEFING & THE FUTURE OF THE UN (11/28)

In class today: Debriefing paper due
 Discussion: conference results and future of UN

Leadership & travel team 2023 only:

Club meeting – review MMUN Constitution and update if necessary
MMUN Team meeting to discuss plans for NMUN in New York