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PSC 337.01: Model United Nations

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PSC 337-01/HIST 395-04
Fall 2007
Tuesdays 4:10-6:30 p.m.
337 Liberal Arts

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Model United Nations

Course Description and Objectives

This course uses readings, lectures, research and writing assignments, and in-class simulations of United Nations meetings to examine the history and structure of the UN, the role of the UN in contemporary world politics, and contemporary global problems. Course participants also plan, organize, and run the annual Montana Model UN high school conference at the end of November. This conference, one of the largest high school conferences in the US, provides us with a laboratory to reflect on the inner workings of the UN and with an opportunity to encourage high school students to become aware of and involved in international affairs.

Because the course is both academic and experiential, it offers a chance to extend your knowledge of international politics while developing proficiency in public speaking, policy formulation, parliamentary procedure, diplomacy, negotiation, and conflict resolution. The course is required for participation in the Montana Model UN collegiate team and is excellent preparation for a career in public policy or international affairs.

Prerequisites

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

Course Communications

Throughout the course, I will communicate with you by email and by posting announcements and course materials on the Blackboard website. To ensure that you receive my emails, you should check your UM email account regularly. For instructions on accessing and using Blackboard, please consult the Blackboard handout.

Required Texts

The following texts are required.

- Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, 3rd edition (Boulder: Westview, 2007). This book can be purchased at the ASUM Bookstore. It is also on 2-hour reserve at Mansfield Library.
- Articles available online, denoted by a plus sign (+).
- *New York Times* (Monday-Friday), <http://www.nytimes.com/>
- UN News Centre (Monday-Friday), <http://www0.un.org/News/>
- Wordpress.org (Monday-Friday), <http://www.worldpress.org>

Keeping Up With Current Events

You are required to keep up with current events related to international politics and the United Nations by reading the *New York Times*, UN News Centre, and Wordpress.org on a daily (Monday - Friday) basis.

There are many ways to supplement your reading of these newspapers:

- Reading other national 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*.

- Reading weekly news magazines such as *The Economist*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *US News and World Report*.
- Listening to National Public Radio programs such as “Morning Edition,” BBC World Service,” and “All Things Considered” on KUFM 89.1 (for schedule, go to <http://www.mtpr.net/>).
- Watching national nightly and weekly television news programs. On PBS, these include “The News Hour,” “BBC World,” “Charlie Rose,” “NOW,” “Foreign Exchange with Fareed Zakaria,” and “Frontline,” which are available on both KUFM Channel 11 (<http://www.montanapbs.org/>) and KSPS Channel 32 (<http://ksps.org/>). The ABC, CBS, and NBC evening news, as well as ABC’s “Nightline,” can also be helpful.

Whenever possible I encourage you to consult these and other additional sources. Please note, however, that they will not substitute for daily reading of the required sources, which offer the most extensive international coverage and upon which current event quizzes and exam questions will be based.

Course Requirements

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

You must attend class regularly and actively participate in the discussions, simulations, and conference preparations, as well as the conference itself. Class attendance, participation, presentations, and quizzes will count towards 20% of your grade. Conference attendance and participation will be another 20%.

You must attend all or most of the conference proceedings on November 19 (9 am to 9 pm) and November 10 (9 am to 5 pm). I will provide you with an excuse note to give to your professors.

The remainder of the work required of you will depend on your role in the class. Those with Model UN experience will serve as leaders in the classroom simulations and at the high school conference. Those without such experience will serve as ambassadors in classroom simulations and as committee staff at the conference. All of these roles will be discussed in class and allocated based on experience and interest.

Ambassadors will write five short papers over the course of the semester. Of these, two will be country profiles, and the other three will be position papers and resolutions. Together these papers will be worth 40% of your grade.

Students serving as conference leaders (SG, ASG, chairs, vice chairs, high school liaisons, club president, war room coordinator, etc) will also write a series of papers. The number of these papers will vary by position, but together they will be worth 40% of your grade.

Students serving as conference leaders should select a country to follow in current events readings, represent in in-class simulations, and write about in the midterm.

All students enrolled in the class will write a take-home midterm, which will be worth 20% of the course grade. This exam will test your understanding of and ability to analyze material from the readings, lectures, and simulations. Be prepared to recall what you have learned and to write clear, thoughtful, and well-supported answers to challenging questions about the history, functioning, and future of the United Nations.

Graduate students should consult with me about additional requirements.

Grading

To summarize, the grading for the course will be as follows:

20%	Class attendance, participation, presentations, and quizzes
20	MMUN Conference participation
40	Papers
20	Midterm

The plus/minus grading system will be used. Grades may be curved, but 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

For UM's policy on incompletes, see p. 23 of the Course Catalog.

Make-Up Policy

Make-up exams will be scheduled only for students directly involved in extreme, documented emergencies. Late papers will only be accepted in such situations as well. If you find yourself in the midst of an emergency, you must notify me as soon as possible (in advance of the exam or due-date if at all possible) that you will be unable to attend the scheduled exam or submit the paper on time. To do so, call me or send me an email explaining the circumstances of your emergency and giving me a way to contact you. I reserve the right to deny any and all petitions for make-up work, and to administer makeup assignments substantially different from those of the regular exams and papers.

Note: Since I will accept make-up work only in the event of extreme, documented emergencies in which you are directly involved, if you miss an exam or fail to submit a paper for any other reason you will receive a 0 for the assignment. This will put you at risk of failing the course.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the professor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the university.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/sa/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

Drop Policy

October 8 is the last day to drop this class or change the grading option without my signature on an override form. If you wish to drop or change the grading option after October 8, you must provide documentation of an emergency or other serious situation that has made it impossible for you to complete the course.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities should apprise me of their needs at least two weeks before an assignment on which they wish to be accommodated.

Course Outline and Schedule

Readings marked (+) are available to print or download from the Blackboard website. If the link is not functioning, go to the library website, <http://www.lib.umt.edu/>, click on “Journals,” type in the name of the journal, select the electronic index that contains the issue in which the article appeared, and search for the article using the title and/or author’s name.

All other readings are in the Mingst and Karns book.

Once you have accessed an electronic reserve item or online reading from Blackboard, print and/or download it so you can highlight and make notes on the text. To minimize the number of pages you have to print, click on “Properties” and “Finishing” on the printer command screen, then select “2 pages per page” and “manual duplex.”

To avoid problems later in the semester, I strongly suggest you copy, print, or download all of the reserve and online articles during the first several weeks of class.

I. Introduction (8/28)

Assignment: Introduce Yourself (due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, 9/4). Sign into Blackboard, and introduce yourself in the Discussion Board.

II. Overview of the United Nations and Contemporary International Problems (9/4; 88+ pp)

Assignment: Graded Question #1 (due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, 9/4). Due to my attendance at the American Political Science Association conference in Chicago, class will not meet today. Instead you are responsible for doing the following readings and answering Graded Question #1 on the Blackboard Discussion Board.

Mingst & Karns, “The UN in World Politics” and “The Evolution of the UN System,” pp. 1-52 (52 pp)

- + “Charter of the United Nations,” available at <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter> (approx 10 pp).
- + Ban Ki-Moon, “Speech on taking oath of office,” December 14, 2006, available at <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2006/sg2119.doc.htm> (2 pp).
- + “Global Issues on the UN Agenda,” <http://www.un.org/issues/> Read the list of issues, then skim the web pages of three that interest you.
- + Montana Model UN Website, <http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/> Skim the site, then click on “Topics” and read the background guide for at least one committee (approx 10 pp).
- + “Montana Model UN Constitution,” posted on Blackboard (12 pp.)
- + Lyric Wallwork Winik, “Can Ban Ki-Moon, Can Ban Ki-moon save the UN?,” *Parade*, June 24, 2007, http://www.parade.com/export/sites/default/articles/editions/2007/edition_06-24-2007/AUN-Story_901673509 (2 pp).

III. The Role of International Organizations in International Politics (9/11; 66+ pp.)

We will begin with a quiz on and discussion of course readings and current events through today.

We will then announce roles and discuss the conference.

We will conclude with discussion of how to conduct research on countries, committees, and issues.

+John J. Mearsheimer, "The false promise of international institutions," *International Security* 19:3 (Winter 1994), pp. 5-49 (44 pp).

+Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, "The promise of institutionalist theory," *International Security* 20:1 (Summer 1995), pp. 39-51 (12 pp).

+Alexander Wendt, "Constructing international politics," *International Security* 20:1 (Summer 1995), pp. 71-81 (10 pp).

+UNA-USA, "Model UN Research," in the Model UN Preparation Guide, <http://www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=457131> Skim the five links in this paragraph (web resources, country, issues, UN system, and how to find UN documents).

+United Nations and Other International Resources, Mansfield Library Subject Guide, http://www.lib.umt.edu/research/guide/gov_un.htm (skim).

IV. How the United Nations Works (9/18; 68 pp)

Ambassadors: Country Profile I due today

Chairs (including Crisis Chair): Welcome Letter and Committee History due today

Vice Chairs (except Crisis Vice Chairs): Topic Paper due today

SG, ASGE, and ASGI: Conference Plans due today

Club/Team President: Summary of Spring 2007 travelling team due today

High School Liaisons: Outreach Plans due today

War Room Coordinator: Conference Plans due today

Mingst & Karns, "Actors in the UN System," pp. 53-82 (29 pp).

+Colum Lynch, "U.N. Chief's Record Comes Under Fire," *Washington Post*, April 24, 2005 (4 pp).

+Brian Urquhart, "The Next Secretary-General," *Foreign Affairs*, Sep/Oct2006 (8 pp).

+Colum Lynch, "S. Korean Contender for U.N. Post Has an Edge," *Washington Post*, September 29, 2006 (2 pp).

+Warren Hoge, "For New U.N. Chief, a Past Misstep Leads to Opportunity," *New York Times*, December 9, 2006 (3 pp).

+Nora Boustany, "Skills Honed in Washington Pay Off for Swede at the UN," *Washington Post*, April 21, 2006 (2 pp).

+Barbara Crossette, "URGENT: Damage Control," *Foreign Policy*, Jul/Aug2006 (5 pp).

+Helene Cooper, "Zalmay Mamozy Khalilzad; On to a New Trouble Spot," *New York Times*, January 6, 2007 (2 pp).

+Christoph Bertram, "The Verbosity of Power," *Foreign Policy*, Nov/Dec 2000 (2 pp).

+ "Peace, Love, and Banality," *Foreign Policy*, Nov/Dec 2000 (1 p).

+Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, "The Shackles of Consensus," *Foreign Policy*, Sep/Oct 2002 (2 pp).

+Sadako Ogata, "Guilty Parties," *Foreign Policy*, Sep/Oct 2002 (2 pp).

+ Madeleine K. Albright, "United Nations," *Foreign Policy*, Sep/Oct 2003 (6 pp).

V. The UN and International Peace and Security, Part I (9/25; 63 pp.)

Ambassadors: Country Profile II due today

Chairs (except Crisis Chair): Topic Paper due today

Vice Chairs (including Crisis Vice Chairs): Topic Paper due today

ASGI and Crisis Chair: Crisis Overview and Plan due today

Crisis Staff/Regional Experts: Regional Background papers due today

Club/Team President: Club Plan due today

Mingst & Karns, "Peace and Security: International Organizations as Venues for Security," pp. 83-132 (49 pp).

+Michael J. Glennon, "Why the Security Council Failed," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2003 (10 pp).

+ "Costly Diplomacy," *Foreign Policy*, Sep/Oct 2006 (1 p).

+Phyllis Bennis, "United Nations v. United States," TomPaine.com, November 28, 2006, http://www.tompaine.com/articles/2006/11/28/united_nations_v_united_states.php (3 pp).

VI. The UN and International Peace and Security, Part II, and Introduction to Position Papers, Resolutions, and Rules (10/2; 12++ pp.)

Crisis Vice Chairs: Crisis Schedule and Documents due today

High School Liaisons: Outreach Documents & Workshop Plans due today

Chairs (including Crisis Chair): Revised Welcome Letter and Committee History due today

Vice Chairs (except Crisis Vice Chairs): Revised Topic Paper due today

+UN Security Council, "Latest News," http://www.un.org/sc/unsc_news.shtml

+Read the main page, as well as at least 3 subsidiary pages, on each of the following UN sites:

-Dept. of Peacekeeping Operations, <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/index.asp>

-Office for Disarmament Affairs, <http://disarmament.un.org/>

-Office on Drugs and Crime, <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/terrorism.html>

-Question of Palestine, <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/qpal/index.html>

+Michael Hirsh, "Calling All Regio-Cops," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2000 (5 pp).

+Daoud Kuttab, "Road Map to Nowhere?," *Foreign Policy*, Jul/Aug 2003 (3 pp).

+Mark Strauss, "Members Only," *Foreign Policy*, Nov/Dec 2003 (1 p).

+Edward P., Djerejian, "From Conflict Management to Conflict Resolution," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2006 (4 pp).

+Sections on "Position Papers," "Writing Resolutions," and "Rules of Procedure" on the UNA-USA website, <http://www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=457131>

VII. Social, Economic, and Humanitarian Issues/ECOSOC Simulation (10/9; 88+ pp.)

Ambassadors: Position Paper and Resolution I due today

Crisis Staff/Regional Experts: Crisis Plan with Documents due today

Club/Team President: Funding requests for travelling team due today

Chairs (except Crisis Chair): Revised Topic Paper due today

Vice Chairs (including Crisis Vice Chairs): Revised Topic Paper due today

Mingst and Karns, "Economic Development and Stability," pp. 133-166 (33 pp)

Mingst and Karns, "Human Rights," pp. 167-206 (39 pp).

+The Universal Declaration of Human Rights," <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

- +Nancy Birdsall, et al., "How to Help Poor Countries," *Foreign Affairs*, Jul/Aug 2005 (9 pp).
- +David G. Victor, "Recovering Sustainable Development," *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2006 (7 pp).

- +Committee and topic backgrounders
- +Sections on "Public Speaking," "Caucusing," and "Dressing for Success" on the UNA-USA website, <http://www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=457131>

VIII. Security Council/Crisis Simulation (10/16)

ASGI, Crisis Chair & Crisis Vice Chairs: Revised Crisis Schedules and Documents due today
War Room Coordinator: Procedures Manual due today

- +Committee and topic backgrounders for MMUN Security Council
- +UN Security Council website. Read at least one recent resolution and report.
<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>
- Review readings from Parts V and VI.
- Additional reading may be assigned

IX. Security Issues/GA1 and Commission on Narcotic Drug Simulations (10/23; 49+ pp.)

Ambassadors: Position Paper and Resolution II due today

- +Committee and topic backgrounders
- Additional reading may be assigned

X. Environmental Issues/UNEP and GA Plen Simulations (10/30; 97+ pp.)

Crisis Staff/Regional Experts: Regional Updates due today

- +Committee and topic backgrounders
- Note: the agenda items for GA Plen for this week will be Topics 1 and 2 only
- Additional reading may be assigned

XI. General Assembly Plenary on UN Reform (11/6; 45 pp)

Ambassadors: Position Paper and Resolution III due today

SG: Delegate Handbook and Chair Packs due today

- Mingst and Karns, "The Future of the UN," pp. 239-261 (22 pp).
- +Kofi Annan, "In Larger Freedom: Decision Time at the UN," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2005 (8 pp).
- +Maggie Farley, "U.N. Reform Bid Exposes Its Woes," *Los Angeles Times*, September 14, 2005 (3 pp).
- +Louis B. Sohn, "Important Improvements in the Functioning of the Principal Organs of the United Nations that Can Be Made Without Charter Revision," *American Journal of International Law* 91:4 (October 1997), pp. 652-662 (10 pp).
- +Garry Kasparov, "A Global Magna Carta," *Foreign Policy*, May/Jun2007 (2 pp).
- Additional reading may be assigned

XII. All Staff Meeting (11/13)

*****All Students: Take Home Midterm due at the beginning of class today*****

XIII. Montana Model UN Conference (11/19 from 9 am to 9 pm; 11/20 from 9 am to 5 pm)

SAVE THE DATES

XIV. Conference Debriefing (11/27)

All students except ambassadors: Reflections and Advice Paper due today

Officer and Team Applications due today

XV. Team Meeting (12/4)

SG, ASGE, and ASGI: Co-written summary of the conference due today

High School Liaisons: Co-written section on high-school outreach due today