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PSC 337.01: Model United Nations

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PSC 337-01, 496-02, 596-02/HIST 395-04
Fall 2006
Mondays, 4:10-6:30 p.m.
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Model United Nations

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Course Description and Objectives

This course uses readings, lectures, research and writing assignments, presentations, and in-class simulations of United Nations (UN) meetings to examine the history and structure of the UN, the role of the UN in contemporary world politics, and present-day global problems.

There are two additional purposes to this course. First, all course participants will plan, organize, and run the annual Montana Model UN (MMUN) 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.

Second, this course will prepare you to participate as a collegiate model United Nations (MUN) delegate. The skills you will need as a delegate are similar to those you will need to run the conference, as such, we will focus on how to: express yourself with confidence in both oral and written communication, write and research on United Nations topics, represent country positions, caucus and negotiate, master UN procedure, compose resolutions and reports, and work productively as a member of a team. By enrolling in this course, you have the opportunity to compete for a position on the collegiate MMUN team.

Because the course is both academic and experiential, it offers a chance to extend your knowledge of international politics while developing proficiency in everything from public speaking and policy formulation to diplomacy and conflict resolution. For those of you who will participate in collegiate MUN conferences, my goal is to ensure that you arrive at those conferences nothing less than thoroughly prepared, knowledgeable, and self-confident diplomats of your assigned country. If this semester is your only exposure to the UN and multilateral negotiation, my goal is to help you develop an appreciation for the challenges of diplomacy, negotiation, and international issues at the UN. In either case, I hope that the information and perspectives you acquire during this course make you better global citizens.

Prerequisites

This course is open to juniors and seniors, as well as sophomores who have taken PSC 130 and freshman who have participated in Model UN conferences.

Required Texts

The following texts are required and available at the Bookstore:

Lawrence Ziring, et al., *The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics*, 4th ed.
(Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2005).
A Guide to Delegate Preparation (New York: UNA-USA, 2004).

Keeping Up With Current Events

You are expected to keep up with current events relating to international politics and the United Nations by reading international news on a regular basis. The topics, politics, and priorities of the United Nations and its Member States are dynamic and will be the base of discussion in many of our class meetings, therefore, you are strongly encouraged to look at following sites at least once a week:

- *New York Times*, <http://www.nyt.com>.
- *UN Daily News*, <http://www0.un.org/News/dh/arc/archive.asp>
- *Worldpress.org*, <http://www.worldpress.org>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are expected to complete all of the assigned reading and review of current events before each class. A list of assigned readings follows, along with a schedule of topics to be considered. These assignments should be completed faithfully before each class meeting, as students will be expected to participate and to interact in the classroom.

Attendance and Participation

You are required to attend class regularly and actively participate in the discussions, simulations, and conference preparations. Thus class and conference attendance and participation will be 30% of your grade. Included in this grade will be quizzes and in-class assignments, as well as participation in in-class simulations and conference planning sessions, presentations, and attendance, behavior, and leadership at the conference. Note: Attendance at all or most of the conference proceedings on November 21-22 is *mandatory*. Please plan your holiday travels accordingly.

Paper Assignments

The majority 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.

Ambassadors will write five short papers over the course of the semester. Of these, two will be country profiles, two will be position papers and resolutions, and one is a reflection paper, based on your conference and class experiences. Each of these papers will be worth 10% of your grade.

Students serving as conference leaders (SG, ASG, chairs, vice chairs, etc) and students serving in special roles (high school liaisons) will also write a series of papers. The number of these papers will vary by position, but together they will be worth 50% of your course grade.

Final Examination

All students enrolled in the class will write the final examination, which is worth 20% of the course grade. This exam will test your understanding of and ability to analyze material from the readings, lectures, and simulations. It will consist of multiple choice questions, short answers, and essay questions. Be prepared to recall what you have learned and to write clear, thoughtful, and well-supported answers to challenging questions about the history, function, and future of the United Nations.

Students with disabilities should apprise me of their needs immediately.

Graduate students should consult with me about additional requirements.

Grading

To summarize, the grading for the course is as follows:

Attendance & participation	30%
Papers	50%
Final	20%

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 92% of all possible points you are assured of an A in the course):

92-100	A	82-87	B	72-77	C	62-67	D
90-91	A-	80-81	B-	70-71	C-	+60-61	D-
88-89	B+	78-79	C+	68-69	D	0-59	F

COURSE POLICIES

Course Communications

Throughout the course, I will communicate with you by email and by posting announcements and materials on the Blackboard website. To ensure that you receive my emails, you should either check your UM email account on a regular basis or have email from there forwarded to an account that you do check regularly. You may do the latter in Cyberbear. Instructions on accessing and using Blackboard will be distributed during our second class meeting.

Make-Up Policy

Make-up exams will be scheduled only for students directly involved in extreme, documented emergencies.

Late Papers

All papers and assignments should be typed, spell-checked, and otherwise in final form when turned in at the beginning of class on the date which they are due. Please refrain from emailing me your assignments unless specifically required or requested.

As a matter of policy, late papers will not be accepted unless a student is directly involved in extreme, documented emergency. If you find yourself in the midst of a situation, 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.

Plagiarism

Academic honesty is of paramount importance. Many of the papers you produce throughout the semester will be read by other students, other professors, future classmates, MUN leadership, and MMUN conference attendees. Make sure to properly give credit to all resources you utilize in your work. Please note: I am extremely adept at recognizing plagiarism, and if caught you will receive a zero on the assignment and the university will be informed of your dishonesty, resulting in your possible failure of this course. Please do not even consider plagiarizing.

COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS

The only textbooks you must purchase for this course are the Ziring book and the *Guide to Delegate Preparation* (GDP). However, additional readings will be required throughout the semester. I may provide you with handouts, post the documents on Blackboard, or email you links to important articles. Please also note that the syllabus is subject to change.

Week 1. August 28 – Course Introduction

Welcome to MUN!

Week 2. September 4 – NO CLASS

Week 3. September 11 – The United Nations Structure, System, and History Part I

GDP: United Nations Charter, pp. 204 – 213

GDP: Modeling the United Nations, Chapter 2

Ziring: Chapter 1 & 2, pp. 1 – 73

Peruse the United Nations website at <http://www.un.org/english> and please become familiar with the site structure, where to find things, and read about each committee we will be simulating at the November MMUN Conference.

Week 4. September 18 – The United Nations Structure, System, and History Part II

****Mingst & Karns Handout: Chapter 1 & 2, pp. 1 – 52**

GDP: Please also become familiar with, but NO NEED TO READ, the Reference Section

Team Plan due today (MMUN Club President)

Week 5. September 25 – Actors at the United Nations

Ziring: Chapter 3, pp. 74 – 132

GDP: Section II: UN Primer (only in newest editions)

****Mingst & Karns Handout: Chapter 3, pp. 53 - 82**

Conference Plan due today (SG, ASG)

Crisis Plan due today (Crisis ASG)

Week 6. October 2 – Diplomacy and Negotiation

Ziring: Chapter 4, pp. 133 – 164

****Berridge Handout: Chapter 9 - 10, pp. 151 - 193, Conclusion pp. 214 – 217**

Welcome/Committee History due today (Chairs and Crisis Vice-Chair A)

Topic II due today (Vice-Chairs)

Topic I due today (Crisis Vice-Chair B)

Country Profile #1 due today (Ambassadors)

Area Overview due today (Crisis Staff)

Week 7. October 9 – Role of the UN in the International System – Emphasis on Human Rights

GDP: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, pp. 219 – 220

Ziring: Chapter 9, pp. 397 – 469

Topic I due today (Chairs)

Topic III due today (Vice-Chairs)

High School Outreach Plan due today (High School Liaisons)

Week 8. October 16 – Conference Skills: Procedure – Emphasis on Arms Control, Disarmament, Terrorism

GDP: Regional Perspectives

GDP: Research and Interpretation, Chapter 3

Ziring: Chapter 7, pp. 324 – 372

Welcome/Committee History Final Draft due today (Chairs and Crisis Vice-Chair A)

Topic II Draft 2 Final Draft due today (Vice-Chairs)

Topic I Final Draft due today (Crisis Vice-Chair B)

Country Profile #2 due today (Ambassadors)

Week 9. October 23 – Conference Skills: Position Papers – Emphasis on Peace and Security

Ziring: Chapter 5, pp.167 – 263

Topic I Final Draft due today (Chairs)

Topic III Final Draft due today (Vice-Chairs)

Leadership Procedure Manual due today (SG, ASGs)

Week 10. October 30 – Conference Skills: Resolution/Report Writing – Emphasis on Economic Development

Ziring: Chapter 10, pp.470 – 514

Position Paper #1 due today (Ambassadors)

Crisis Documents due today (Crisis Staff)

Outreach Documents due today (High School Liaisons)

Week 11. November 6 – Conference Skills: Caucus and Negotiation – Emphasis on Settling Disputes and Crisis Management

Ziring: Chapter 6, pp 264 – 323

Week 12. November 13 – Conference Skills: Public Speaking, Skills Review – Emphasis on Conference Preparations

Peruse the MMUN website at <http://www.cas.unt.edu/mun> and please read your committee's Welcome Letter, Committee History, and Background Guide in full

Position Paper #2 due today (Ambassadors)

November 17 OR November 19 – Staff Meetings for MMUN Conference

More details to follow

Week 13. November 20 and 21 – Montana Model United Nations High School Conference at the University Center

Attendance is mandatory, please plan accordingly.

Week 14. November 27 – Future of the United Nations

Ziring: Chapter 11, pp. 515 – 531

Mingst & Karns Handout: Chapter 8, pp. 239 – 261

Leadership Procedure Manual Final Draft due today (SG, ASGs)

Team Applications due today

Week 15. December 4 – Reflection and Course Review

Review Ziring, Chapter 1 - 6, 8 – 11

Review Mingst & Karns Handout: Chapter 1 - 3, 8

Review GDP

Reflection Papers due today (ALL)

Week 16. Final Exam 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts 304

