

Model United Nations
POLS 4315.001
Fall 2008

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Model United Nations

It is accepted commonplace in popular discussion of international relations that this is a basically lawless, anarchic area of human activity. Plausible as this view may be, it is far from being completely true, as the recent crises in Georgia, Lebanon, Afghanistan and actions in Kosovo demonstrate. For this reason, this course looks at the matter from the opposite point of view. What are the established links and expectations about the behavior between sovereign states that justify one in saying that norms exist and that thus a society of states exists? The subject matter of this course is therefore the operations of tentative and imperfect institutions, such as the United Nations.

This course first provides the student with a comprehensive analysis of the historical development of international organizations, from the Concert of Europe to the United Nations. Next, the concept of collective security will be discussed and the structure of the United Nations analyzed. This will allow students to familiarize themselves with the major structures of the United Nations, namely the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Security Council, the Secretariat, and the International Court of Justice.

The second part of the course deals with the study of a country assigned to UT-Tyler by the National Model United Nations conference. Here the course becomes not a typical lecture course anymore, but involves student research, simulations, and other forms of student participation. The students will assume the identity of diplomats representing a country in the United Nations. They will learn about parliamentary procedure in the United Nations, write and respond to resolutions, form alliances with like-minded countries to pass these resolutions and respond to international incidents. This will prepare students to become delegates at the National Model United Nations conference held in New York City in April 2009.

Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- familiarity with the historical development of international organizations
- basic knowledge of the structure and purpose of the United Nations
- an understanding of the inner workings of the United Nations
- a thorough understanding of the Millennium Development Goals
- familiarity with the assigned country
- familiarity with writing position papers and resolution

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:15-9:00 a.m.

Monday: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and Wednesday: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Class Meetings:

Class will meet Mondays in BUS 260.

Text:

An Insider's Guide to the U.N. Fasulo, Linda.

Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance.
2. Successful completion of one exam to be held on October 6, 2008.
3. Successful completion of a five to seven page committee background research paper. Deadline: October 27, 2008.
4. Successful completion of a five to seven page country profile. Deadline: December 1, 2008
5. Successful completion of a position paper and two resolutions. Deadline: December 8, 2008.
6. Successful completion of a five to seven page comprehensive term paper focusing on topic research. Deadline: December 15, 2008.

Grading Policy:

The exam will be worth 100 points. The exams will consist of essay questions and short identifications. The committee and topics research papers will be worth an additional 200 (100 points each) and will be discussed in detail in class. The country profile (50), policy statement (25) and two resolutions (25), account for the last 100 points. The grading scale will be the following:

A=400-360 points B=359-320 points F=259 or fewer points
C=319-280 points D=279-260 points

Disability Statement:

"If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation(s), please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation(s) must provide appropriate documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579)." Additional information may also be obtained at the following UT Tyler Web address: <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>.

Grade Replacement:

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file *an intent* to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to file *an intent* to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three (undergraduate student) or two (graduate student) course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler. (2006-08 Catalog, p. 35)

Social Security Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number.

Note Regarding Student Absence due to Religious Observance:

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of such absences.

Course Outline:

Introduction

Part One: Evolution of International Organizations

Part Two: Structure of the United Nations

Part Three: Millennium Development Goals

Part Four: Country Studies

Part Four: Agenda Topics, Position Papers and Resolutions

Class Schedule

<i>September 8:</i>	<i>Introduction</i>
<i>September 15:</i>	<i>Realism/Idealism</i>
<i>September 22:</i>	<i>Evolution of International Organizations</i>
<i>September 29:</i>	<i>Evolution of International Organizations</i>
<i>October 6:</i>	<u>Exam</u>
<i>October 13:</i>	<i>UN Security Council</i>
<i>October 20:</i>	<i>UN General Assembly and the UN ECOSOC</i>
<i>October 27:</i>	<i>The International Court of Justice and the Secretariat; Committee Background Paper due</i>
<i>November 10:</i>	<i>Millennium Development Goals</i>
<i>November 17:</i>	<i>Country Studies</i>
<i>November 24:</i>	<i>Agenda Topics, Position Papers and Resolutions</i>
<i>December 1:</i>	<i>Agenda Topics, Position Papers and Resolutions; <u>Country Profile due</u></i>

December 8: *Agenda Topics; **Position Papers and Resolutions due***

December 15: *Agenda Topics; **Term Paper Due***