

**Weber State University**

**Model United Nations**

**Spring 2015**

**Professor: Dr. Stephanie Wolfe**

Class Meetings: R 1:30 – 4:20, Social and Behavioural Science Room 203

Office: Social and Behavioural Sciences 296

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1 to 3 pm, Wednesdays 2 to 4, or by appointment

E-mail: stephaniewolfe@weber.edu

OVERVIEW

Model UN Course Description:

The Model UN course is designed to acquaint students with the operations of the United Nations through the study of political positions of member nations. Additionally, students should achieve a level of understanding in the use of simulation activities as a means for teaching and learning about the political perspectives of different nationalities on contemporary world issues. Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

* Articulate the foreign policy of selected countries,
* Define the structures and general procedures of the United Nations,
* Describe important historical issues affecting the UN and evaluate the organization's effectiveness,
* Analyze an issue currently before the United Nations from the selected member nation's perspective,
* Understand and competently use the rules of procedure, diplomatic protocol, and negotiating techniques common to UN delegates.
* Explain the rationale, format, and instructional methods of the Model United Nations simulation.

Events:

This course will also help prepare students for two MUN events.

1) REQUIRED: Overseeing the Northern Utah High School Model United Nations (NUMUN) at the Davis campus (9:00 – 3:00) on Saturday, March 22, 2015.

2) COMPETITIVE: Participation in the Model United Nations of the Far West (MUNFW) as Russia from Friday, April 17 to Tuesday, April 21, 2014 in San Francisco.

Learning Outcomes:

### Students who take this course will (1) have a basic knowledge of international politics, and the United Nations; and (2) be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills and formulate and defend a position in a written and oral format.

READINGS

**Required Texts and Supplies**

* Turunc. *Winning Delegate,* ISBN 9781440144301
* Fasulo, *An Insider’s Guide to the UN,* ISBN 9780300141979
* Allen + Sutton,  *Student Atlas of World Politics*
* Model UN of the Far West Briefing Guide (Downloadable)
* A 3-ring binder dedicated to this course alone.

**Recommended Readings**

* *New York Times* – There are free copies of the *New York Times* on campus. The only way to understand politics, foreign policy, and the United Nations is through extensive reading.
* *Economist –* Likewise, while not required, this is highly recommended, especially to determine contemporary challenges in world politics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

### [10%] Exam: In week 3 there will be a comprehensive exam on the structure and voting procedures of the United Nations. In order to be allowed to go to the MUNFW conference, you must pass this exam with a B+. Students who obtain a B or below on this test, may re-take the exam once; however, the top score on a re-take is capped at a B+.

### [10%] Overseeing the Northern Utah High School Model United Nations (NUMUN) at the Davis campus (8:30 – 3:30) on Saturday, March 21, 2014.

### [40%] Simulations - In-class work on resolution construction, reworking the nuances of diplomatic language, and various collaborative work; attentive participation in the win-win negotiations; and effective presentation of your country’s position in formal speeches and caucusing sessions of the General Assembly constitute this portion of grading.

### [40%] Portfolio: The Portfolio will have various due dates throughout the semester. Overall it will be worth 40% of your grade. The Portfolio will need to be in a three-ring binder and be stand-alone; i.e. do to not use the same binder for multiple courses. It MUST include:

### Intro

### Model UN cover sheet with the country’s flag that you get assigned.

### Table of Contents

### Dated Working Notes

### Model UN Scavenger Hunt

### UN Major Organs

### Model UN Vocabulary

### Points and Motion

### Rules of Procedure

### Country Assignments

### UN Slideshow Handout with notes

### Other dated working notes which verify your weekly presence and participation such as lecture notes, class handouts, negotiations, maps, speech notes, resolution drafts, and the like);

### Nation Guide

### Getting to Know Your Country (4 to 5 page typed analysis)

### Question Reponses

### Resolutions on Debates

### Position Papers on Debates

### MUNFW research and preparation guide

### Each individual will be assigned a team. At least one team member will be a participant at MUNFW and the other 2-3 team members will be support staff not attending. Each team is assigned a research topic. Each team will be responsible for all resolutions and paper proposals for the Model UN Far West team. (2-3 presentation papers per committee, plus the resolution.) In your binder you should indicate which one you wrote personally, and which ones you helped to edit. You must write at least one document yourself and you must edit the remaining 2-3).

Conference Attendance:

* All work must be submitted on the date requested. No late work will be accepted (except in cases of serious illness). Students who submit late work will be excluded from conference attendance.
* The trip to the Model UN is competitive, which means that not everyone will have a chance to go. Thus, only students who are making a B+ or above will be allowed to attend

RULES OF THE GAME

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is required for this course, students who miss classes and/or do punctually attend will be excluded from the San Francisco trip and may see their simulation grade impacted.

**Grading and Late Policy**

Grades are assigned according to the following scale:

A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 68-69; D = 65-67; D- = 61-64; E = 50; 0 = no assignment submitted

If you do not have permission to miss an assignment, then a reduction of 50 to 100 percent will be taken off the assignment.

**Accommodations Policy**

If you require accommodations or services due to a disability you must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Services Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including the syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary. For more information about the SSD, contact them at 801-626-6413, ssd@weber.edu, or <http://departments.weber.edu/ssd>.

### Emergency Closure

If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via WSU Online. Look for announcements through the class website.

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is a violation of the [WSU Student Code](http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm) and is not acceptable in this course (IV.D.2.b). If your writing appears plagiarized, or if sources are not documented properly, you will receive an E on the assignment. If the plagiarism is severe, or if repeated offenses occur, you will receive a failing grade for the class and I will notify the WSU Due Process Officer.

**Core Beliefs**

According to PPM 6-22 IV, students are to “[d]etermine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with a student's core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. This request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the office of the department head. The student's request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on the student's beliefs.”

**Tolerance Policy**

A class on politics can lead to a diversity of opinions. I encourage diversity and active discussion; however, students who are hateful or disruptive in the class will be given a warning and a zero for participation on that day. A second warning will result in being reported to the administration and a zero for your participation grade. Repeated warnings will result in an automatic failure for the course. Being disruptive includes, but is not limited to: racist, sexist, or other prejudicial/discriminatory language, being disrespectful to the professor and/or other students, or creating an atmosphere in which other students cannot learn.

**AGENDA**

**Please note this is an outline and subject to change.**

**Introduction**

**Week 1 – January 15**

**Introduction to Course and Model UN**

*Weekly Activities:*

* Introductions
* In class: Watch Model UN for Everyone, part 1 & 2
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSIieAtUp-k>
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0e4p2Tciew>
* In class: Model UN Far West
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-rbGcCFBV0>
* Model UN Scavenger Hunt

**Week 2 - January 22**

**Basic Structures of the United Nations**

*Weekly Activities:*

* Country Assignments
* UN Major Organs
* Getting to Know Your Country

**Week 3 - January 29**

**Preparation and Procedure**

*Weekly Activities:*

* Due Date: Chi Tester Exam on Basic Structure of the UN
* In class: Watch ILMUNC Training
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYu9mJz6S3I>
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uebd006PtBw>
* Model UN Vocabulary
* Points and Motion
* Rules of Procedure

**Week 4 – February 5**

**Debate #1**

Topic: Abduction and Forced Sale of Persons

**Week 5 - February 12**

**Debate #2**

Topic: State Sovereignty and the Responsibility to Protect

**Week 6 - February 19**

**Debate #3**

*Weekly Activities:*

* All rough drafts are due for MUNFW

Topic: Rule of Law in the Digital Frontier: Cyberwarfare

**Week 7 - February 26**

**Debate #4**

*Weekly Activities:*

* All final drafts are due for MUNFW

Topic: Statelessness: The Right to a Nationality

**Week 8 – March 5**

**Debate #5**

Topic: Climate Change and Maritime Coastal Borders

**Spring Break – March 12th**

No Class

**Week 10 – March 19th**

**NUMUN Tasks**

NUMUN Position Paper and Assignments

**Week 11 – March 26th**

**Debate #6**

Topic: Equitable Representation of Women and Minorities in Government

**Week 12 – April 2**

**Debate #7**

Topic: Crisis Situation

**Week 13 – April 9**

**Debate #8**

Topic: Crisis Situation

**Week 14 – April 16**

**MUNFW**

Team Preparation for Model UN

**Week 14 – April 23**

**Deconstruction**

*Weekly Activities:*

* Report on Model UN Far West
* Portfolio review and discussion

**Week 15 – April 30**

**Final Exams**

Portfolio Due