

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 152b: Model United Nations
Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Danijela Dudley
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Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday 1:30-2:30pm and Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm
Class Days/Time:	Monday & Wednesday 3:00-4:15pm
Classroom:	DMH 149A
Prerequisites:	Pols 152a or consent of instructor

Course Description

Model UN is a class that provides an academic learning experience through the simulation of the structures, processes, and issues of the member nations of the United Nations Organization. The class offers students a unique opportunity to learn about international relations while role-playing United Nations delegates.

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.

This semester, students will participate in the Model UN of the Far West conference in San Francisco April 20-24. This year's theme is "Power of the Powerless: Strengthening Vulnerable Populations" and San Jose State University will be representing Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, and Qatar.

Required Readings

Issues Before the 68th Session of MUNFW, available at <http://munfw.org/issues/> These are policy guides provided by the conference that explain the issues each committee will be discussing and previous UN efforts at addressing the issues.

Conference preparation documents, including *Conference Preparation Guide*, *Guide to Committees*, *Rules of Order*, and *Tips for Effective Resolutions*, available at <http://munfw.org/preparation/>

Students will also be required to read treaties, resolutions, and conference conclusions relevant to policies discussed in their committee. For example, if you have a seat on the Human Rights Council, you will be required to read treaties and resolutions passed within the UN system addressing issues of human rights, divisions within the international community regarding different human rights definitions and

protections, and your country's position on and relationship with these issues. Additionally, you will read reports published by HRC, relevant NGOs, and similar. Partial lists of relevant documents are available in policy guides provided by the conference for each committee.

Finally, students must understand the workings of the United Nations and know the country they represent and its policy positions on various issues before the United Nations. For these consult the United Nations website at <http://www.un.org/en/>, <http://www.un.org/en/members/index.shtml>, your country's government website, as well as reputable news sources such as The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, and similar.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PSPLO)

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

PSPLO 1 Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO 2 Application: Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO 3 Disciplinary methods: Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

PSPLO 4 Communication Skills: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics, public administration, public policy, and law.

PSPLO 5 Citizenship: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1: Define the structures and general procedures of the United Nations.

CLO 2: Understand and competently use the rules of procedure, diplomatic protocol, and negotiating techniques common to UN delegates.

CLO 3: Demonstrate knowledge of important historical issues affecting the UN and evaluate the organization's effectiveness.

CLO 4: Analyze issues currently before the United Nations from the selected member country's perspective, and articulate the foreign policy of the selected country.

Course Workload Expectations

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but

not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

68th Session of the Model United Nations of the Far West Conference

The theme of this year’s conference is “Power of the Powerless: Strengthening Vulnerable Populations.” The 68th Session of MUNFW will convene in San Francisco on Friday, April 20, 2018. Registration begins at 2:00pm. The closing session will take place on Tuesday morning April 24, 2018.

SJSU Countries and Committees

	General Assembly	2nd Committee	4 th Committee	Committee 34	Human Rights Council	Commission on the Status of Women
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Colombia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Qatar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Assignments:

Country Profile (Pre-Conference Documents)

Each **delegation is required to submit one profile of the country** it will be representing at the conference. This profile should be 4-5 single-spaced pages, written in narrative form, not a listing of facts. The delegation should work together as a group on this project and it should reflect the delegation's knowledge of the country and its ability to communicate that knowledge clearly and concisely.

Policy Statements (Pre-Conference Documents)

Each delegation is required to submit **one policy statement for each issue on the agenda for each committee** the country has a seat on. Each policy statement will be a 1-page single-spaced document outlining a historical overview of the issue from your country’s perspective, any action the UN has previously taken, any contemporary aspects of the issue and how your country is involved or affected by it, and the country’s official policy on the issue and proposed solutions. Most committees have 3 issues on the agenda, but delegations are required to submit policy statements even for committees in which they don’t have a representative.

Draft Resolution (Pre-Conference Documents)

Each delegation is required to submit **one draft resolution for each committee** the country has a seat on (one resolution per committee). A resolution is a statement of intent by the assembled body and a list of actions the body is calling for or recommending. As such, the resolution should be a complete thought and take matters to their conclusion. Delegations are required to submit draft resolutions even for committees in which they don’t have a representative.

In-class Speeches and Mock Sessions

In order to prepare for the conference, each student is required to give at least one general and one substantive debate speech in class and participate in mock sessions that will be held before the conference.

Quizzes

As early preparation for the MUN proceedings and country positions is essential to your success at the conference, there will be 2-3 quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will test your knowledge of your assigned countries and their positions, the issues discussed in your committees, rules of procedure, the process of negotiating, and committee structures and roles. Quizzes will be announced a week in advance.

Reflections paper

Each student will write a 5-6 page reflection paper on the conference experience. The paper will assess your experience as a member of the United Nations and as a delegate of your selected country. In addition, the paper should evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations in managing global affairs. Additional guidelines will be provided in a separate handout.

Conference Participation

University Policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) states “Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.” The culminating activity in this course is participation in the MUN conference in Burlingame, California. **Students are required to attend all 35 hours of committee meetings at the conference in order to pass the class.**

Important note on assignments and deadlines:

Each delegation is required to submit **all pre-conference documents for each committee the country has a seat on**. Even if a delegation does not have enough students to sit in each committee, the delegation is still required to submit documents for each committee. As a result, students might be required to write additional policy statements and resolutions, depending on the size of their delegation. In addition, all documents must be submitted on time. According to the rules of MUNFW conference, if any of pre-conference documents are not submitted on time, **the entire delegation is automatically excluded from consideration for awards, and in some cases the entire delegation may be excluded from participation in the conference.**

Grading: CREDIT/NO CREDIT

Grading for this course works on a credit/no credit basis. In order to receive a “credit” grade, the required components of the course must be completed at a “C” level or higher. In addition to receiving C or better on all assignments, in order to receive a “credit” grade in this course, students must participate (regularly and on time) in all 35 hours of committee meetings during the 5-day conference in San Francisco, display appropriate decorum and behavior during the conference, and must submit on time with a grade of C or better all required pre-conference documents. Failure to submit on time even one of the required pre-conference documents to the MUN conference or missing any days of the conference will automatically translate into No Credit in class!

Assignment tentative dates. Some dates subject to change with fair notice but final conference submission deadlines cannot be changed!

Assignment	Date	% of Course Grade	CLOs
Country Profile 1 st Draft	February 7	10	4
Country Profile 2 nd Draft	February 19	10	4
Country Profile Submission to MUNFW	March 8	Complete/Incomplete	4
Policy Papers 1 st Draft	February 12	10	3 & 4
Policy Papers 2 nd Draft	February 26	10	3 & 4
Policy Papers Submission to MUNFW	March 8	Complete/Incomplete	3 & 4
Resolution 1 st Draft	February 21	10	1 & 4
Resolution 2 nd Draft	March 5	10	1 & 4
Resolution Submission to MUNFW	March 15	Complete/Incomplete	1 & 4
Quizzes	TBA	15	2-4
Speeches and Mock Sessions	Mar 19-Apr 18	15	1 & 4
Conference	April 20-24	Complete/Incomplete	1-4
Reflections Paper	May 7	10	1-3

Late Work

Due to the above explained policy of the MUNFW conference, final drafts of pre-conference documents will NOT be accepted late under any circumstances. As entire delegations that submit late pre-conference documents may be excluded by the MUNFW from participating in the conference, late submission of any pre-conference documents will automatically translate into a “no credit” grade in class. For all other assignments, late submissions will be penalized 20% for each 24 hour period for the first 3 days. After 3 days, the assignment will receive 0.

Use of Electronic Devices

Please turn off cell phones before entering the classroom. Computer use is only allowed on group-work days. While technology can be very useful in our daily lives it can also cause unnecessary distraction during class both to those using it and to those around them. Thus, bring a pen and a notebook for taking notes. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for medical reasons.

Classroom Courtesy

The purpose of discussion in this course is to provide a forum in which students can safely and supportively ask questions, present and debate their ideas, receive and interpret new information and perspectives, and develop and clarify their thinking. While you will likely be passionate about some issues discussed in class, it is essential to be respectful to others and their opinions. Offensive remarks or attacks of personal nature will not be tolerated! Please come to class on time and stay for the entire period.

Attendance

Attendance is essential for your success in this course and successful participation at the conference. In addition to affecting your level of preparation, your attendance (or lack thereof) will affect your entire delegation since you must work as a team to prepare your country's profile and foreign policy position.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Political Science Departmental Writing Policy

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks and a specific reference to the page in the source from which it was taken. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at the library website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm. For assistance with writing, please see me or visit the Writing Center located in Clark Hall 126 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>)

The Fine Print

Information in this syllabus can be changed with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via announcements through Canvas (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>). **It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.**

POLS 152B Spring 2018 Course Schedule Subject to change with fair notice		
Week/Date	Topic	Assignment
January 24	Introduction & course overview	Read course syllabus
WEEK 1 January 29-31	Purpose and structure of the UN Committees and issues on the agenda Country profiles	Review purpose and organization of the UN and committee structure and roles at http://www.un.org/en/ Review Issues Before the 68 th session at http://munfw.org/issues/ Read Conference Preparation Guide (pp. 4-19) at http://munfw.org/preparation/
WEEK 2 February 5-7	Policy statements and resolutions	Read Conference Preparation Guide (pp. 4-19) Research your country and committee issues Country profile draft 1 due
WEEK 3 February 12-14	Review/revise country profiles & policy statements	Policy papers draft 1 due

POLS 152B Spring 2018 Course Schedule (continued)
Subject to change with fair notice

Week/Date	Topic	Assignment
WEEK 4 February 19-21	Work on draft resolutions	Read Tips for Effective Resolutions at http://munfw.org/preparation/ Country profile draft 2 due Resolution draft 1 due
WEEK 5 February 26-28	Debate process Review/revise resolutions	Read Guide to Committees http://munfw.org/preparation/ Policy papers draft 2 due
WEEK 6 March 5-7	Rules or Procedure	Read Rules of Order and Short Rules at http://munfw.org/preparation/ Resolution draft 2 due
Final country profiles and policy papers due Thursday March 8 by 5pm		
WEEK 7 March 12-14	Countries in your committee: allies/adversaries	Research other countries in your committee and their positions on issues on the agenda
Final resolutions due Thursday March 15 by 5pm		
WEEK 8 March 19-21	General Debate	General debate speeches
March 26-28	Spring Break, no class	
WEEK 9 April 2-4	Substantive Debate	Substantive debate speeches
Week 10 April 9-11	Debating & drafting resolutions during the conference	Mock MUN Sessions
WEEK 11 April 16-18	Final Conference Preparation	Mock MUN Sessions
MUNFW Conference in Burlingame, California, April 20-24		
WEEK 13-15 April 30-May 14	Conference Reflections	Reflections paper due May 7