

San José State University
Political Science Department
Political Science 152B: Model United Nations
Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

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Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday 10:30-11:30am and Monday 3:00-4:00pm
Class Days/Time:	Monday & Wednesday 12:00pm to 1:15pm
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 160
Prerequisites:	Pols 152A or instructor consent

Course Web Page

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, announcements, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking the Canvas course page to learn of any updates.

Course Description

From the university catalog: Structure and operations of the United Nations explored and analyzed through participation in annual U.N. simulation. Prerequisite: POLS 152A or instructor consent.

Model United Nations is a class that provides an academic learning experience through the simulation of the structures, processes, and issues of the United Nations organization. The class offers students a unique opportunity to learn about international relations while role-playing United Nations delegates. The course is designed to acquaint students with the operations of the United Nations through the study of political positions of member states. 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 United Nations of the Far West conference in San Francisco, April 12-16. This year's theme is "Our Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter" and San José State University will be representing Argentina, Germany, and Russia. One additional country may be added depending on the size of the class.

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 and Disciplinary Methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO 3 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 and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

PSPLO 4 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 (assessed by resolutions, mock sessions, conference participation, and post-conference reflection paper);

CLO 2: understand and competently use the rules of procedure, diplomatic protocol, and negotiating techniques common to UN delegates (assessed by quizzes, conference participation, and reflection paper);

CLO 3: demonstrate knowledge of important historical issues affecting the UN and evaluate the organization's effectiveness (assessed by policy papers, in-class quizzes, conference participation, and reflection paper);

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 (assessed by pre-conference documents, quizzes, mock sessions, and conference participation);

CLO 5: discuss and debate contemporary international relations issues in a collaborative manner (assessed by conference participation, in-class speeches, and mock sessions).

Required Texts/Readings

There is no textbook for this class. All required readings are available online.

Issues Before the 69th 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 UN Environment Assembly, you will be required to read treaties and resolutions passed within the UN system addressing issues of environmental protection, climate change, and similar. Also, you will read reports published by UNEP, the International Panel on Climate Change, and similar. Partial lists of relevant documents are available in policy guides provided by the conference for each committee. Since each student will have different responsibilities (different countries, committees, and agendas), each student will have different reading requirements.

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

Course Requirements and Assignments

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Country Profile (Pre-conference document)

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. While most committees have 3 issues on the agenda, delegations are required to submit policy statements even for committees for which they don't have a representative.

Draft Resolution (Pre-conference document)

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 for 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 at least 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 4-6 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 Model United Nations 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 (73 percent of the total course grade). 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 Burlingame, 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 a ‘no credit’ grade 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 11	10	4
Country Profile 2 nd Draft	February 25	10	4
Country Profile Submission to MUNFW	March 6	Complete/Incomplete	4
Policy Papers 1 st Draft	February 11, 18	10	3, 4
Policy Papers 2 nd Draft	February 25	15	3, 4
Policy Papers Submission to MUNFW	March 6	Complete/Incomplete	3, 4
Resolution 1 st Draft	February 27	10	1, 4
Resolution 2 nd Draft	March 4	15	1, 4
Resolution Submission to MUNFW	March 13	Complete/Incomplete	1, 4
Quizzes	TBA	10	2-4
Speeches and Mock Sessions	Mar 11-Apr 10	10	1, 4, 5
Conference	April 12-16	Complete/Incomplete	1, 4, 5
Reflections Paper	May 1	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. This applies both to in-class and conference decorum. **Students displaying unprofessional behavior at the conference will be asked to leave immediately and will receive no credit for conference participation and no credit in class.**

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 positions. In addition, regular and timely attendance of all conference meetings is required.

Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>) requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course. Recording in this class is allowed **only with my written permission**, and is granted only on a class by class basis if the student justifies the need to record lectures. Students must obtain a written permission of any guest speaker and every class member in order to record presentations or class discussions. "Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent."

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 <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/writeandcite>. For assistance with writing, please see me or visit the SJSU Writing Center located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also

offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is 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/>.

69th Session of the Model United Nations of the Far West Conference

The theme of this year's conference is "Our Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter" and San José State University will be representing Argentina, Germany, and Russia. One additional country may be added depending on the size of the class. The 69th Session of MUNFW will convene in San Francisco on Friday, April 12, 2019. Registration begins at 2:00pm. The closing session will take place on Tuesday morning April 16, 2019.

SJSU Countries and Committees

	General Assembly	Third Committee	UNEP	UNHCR	HRC	UNDP	Security Council
Argentina	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Germany	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Russia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

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://sjsu.instructure.com>). **It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.**

Note: the following is a schedule of readings and assignment that applies to all students. Additional individual responsibilities and readings will be discussed with each student separately.

Pols 152B Course Schedule, Spring 2019
Subject to change with fair notice

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 28 January 30	Introduction & course overview; Purpose and structure of the UN Review the purpose and organization of the UN at http://www.un.org/en/ Committees and issues on the agenda Review committee structure and roles at http://www.un.org/en/ Read Issues Before the 67th session at http://munfw.org/issues/
2	February 4-6	Writing country profiles, policy statements, and resolutions Read Conference Preparation Guide (pp. 4-19) at http://munfw.org/preparation/ Research your country and committee issues (readings will be discussed with each student individually)
3	February 11-13	Review/revise country profiles & policy statements First draft of country profile due February 11 First draft of policy paper 1 due February 11
4	February 18-20	Work on draft resolutions Read Tips for Effective Resolutions at http://munfw.org/preparation/ First draft of policy papers 2 and 3 due February 18
5	February 25-27	Debate process; Review/revise resolutions Read Guide to Committees http://munfw.org/preparation/ Second draft of country profile due February 25 Second draft of all policy papers due February 25 First draft of resolutions due February 27
6	March 4-6	Rules or Procedure Read Rules of Order, Short Rules, and/or Security Council Rules at http://munfw.org/preparation/ Second draft of resolutions due March 4
Final country profiles and policy papers due March 6		
7	March 11-13	Countries in your committee: allies/enemies Research countries in your committee and their positions on issues on the agenda General debate speeches
Final resolutions due March 13		
8	March 18-20	Substantive debate speeches
9	March 25-27	Debating & drafting resolutions during the conference Mock MUN sessions

Pols 152B Course Schedule, Spring 2019
Subject to change with fair notice

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	April 1-3	Spring break, no class
10	April 8-10	Final Conference Preparation Mock MUN sessions
MUNFW Conference in Burlingame, California, April 12-16		
12-15	April 17-May 13	Conference reflections; committee debriefs Reflections paper due May 1

Final Notes

If you have any questions or need help with class don't hesitate to talk to me. For quick inquiries it is best to email me at danijela.dudley@sjsu.edu. For any substantive issues it is best to stop by my office in Clark Hall 404F. If you can't make it during my office hours, I will gladly work with you on finding other time to meet. I hope you enjoy the class!