Model United Nations

PS 204  Th 12:40 p.m.-1:40 p.m.
1 credit  Political Science Conference Room

Description:
This course prepares students to participate in a simulation that utilizes the basic structural tenets and procedural framework of the United Nations. Students develop familiarity with parliamentary procedures and a working knowledge of the national interests of member states. Students either attend a national Model United Nations conference or serve as conference staff for the Westminster College Model United Nations high school conference. Delegates work as diplomats, representing various countries and working towards solutions to various international problems. Conference staff members prepare a simulation experience and host committee sessions for area high school students. This course may be repeated for up to a total of four credit hours.

Purpose of the Course:
To ensure that the participants from Westminster College attending or hosting model United Nations conferences are well prepared to make the most of their model UN experiences. Model UN helps prepare students for careers in politics and international affairs by exposing them to the practical tasks of diplomatic negotiation and policy making among political actors with very different interests. It exposes them to consensus building, negotiation, and parliamentary procedure, by placing them in a (simulated) United Nations. Model UN provides a unique experiential learning experience that enhances a student’s overall educational experience here at Westminster College.

Readings:
AMUN, Issues at AMUN Guide Book. 2018. (provided by the instructor)
AMUN, Rules and Procedures AMUN Guide Book. 2018. (provided by the instructor)

Additional reading materials will be assigned by the Instructor commiserate with each student’s assigned roles in various simulations and class activities.
Learning Objectives (with assessment items):

1. Increase understanding of parliamentary procedures (exams, participation in parliamentary procedure practice sessions).
2. Demonstrate and understanding of foreign policy of various UN members (exams, reports).
3. Ability to write diplomatic proposals and position papers (exams, position papers/scenarios).
4. Enhance understanding of the interactions and operation of various agencies and committees within the UN system (exams, position papers/scenarios).

Expectations:

Students are expected to either be members of Model UN @ Westminster or be willing to work with this campus organization as a member of either a Model UN delegation or as conference staff. Students should not be here simply to earn a grade. Students are expected to prepare themselves for the role they have been assigned by the Model UN executive staff in consultation with the course instructor. Furthermore, students are expected to meet the requirements and tasks outlined to ensure their participation in all conference and simulation related activities. This course is designed to prepare them for their assigned roles as a member of either a Westminster College Model UN delegate or conference staff member.

Students will complete several graded assignments over the course of the semester.

1. Position Paper/Committee Scenario: this assignment will follow the guidelines laid out by the sponsoring conference and will be based on the delegation or committee assignment for the related conference.
2. Foreign Policy/Committee Report: This 5 page paper will describe either the foreign policy of the assigned country or the responsibilities of the assigned UN committee.
3. Exam: This test will cover all material presented in the course.
4. Conference Participation: Students will satisfy this requirement by coming to conference well prepared and participating in all assigned conference activities.

Class Assignments and Participation: Short class assignments will test students’ substantive knowledge of the topic areas and provide opportunities to practice skills necessary to participate in Model UN. Students will also receive credit for class participation.
**Academic Integrity:**

This course is covered by all College academic integrity policies. No forms of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. The instructor will insist as a minimum punishment that students determined to have cheated on any assignment will receive an “F” in the course, and will not be allowed to participate in any Model UN activities occurring in the semester in which the violation occurs. Be advised that more serious actions may be taken by the administration, as the instructor will report all instances of academic dishonesty to the appropriate officials.

**Attendance Policy:**

While enrolled in the course students are expected to attend all assigned class meetings and all meeting of the Model UN @ Westminster organization. Students should also make a good faith effort to participate in any additional Model UN activities while enrolled in the course.

**Grading:**

The instructor will assign grades based on a student’s preparation for and participation in the semester’s model UN conference. This will include assessment of position papers, scenario guides, parliamentary procedures and other research conducted as preparation for the conference. Students will also be graded on their general knowledge of the United Nations system as well as information to the substantive topics related to their committee assignments.

Course grades will be calculated according to the following formula.

- Position Papers/Committee Scenarios 15%
- Foreign Policy Presentation/Report 20%
- Exam 30%
- Class Assignments/Participation 20%
- Conference Participation 15%

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>93% and up</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>90-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-86%</td>
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<td>63-66%</td>
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<td>59% &amp; less</td>
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**Required Events:**
Participation in Westminster College’s delegation to the American Model United Nations Conference in Chicago, IL Nov 18th- 21st.

**Weekly Course Schedule:**

Aug 30th  Introduction to the United Nations & to Model UN

Sept 6th  Global Migration and a “Borderless” World  
Readings: Dickinson Ch 1 & 2

Sept 13th  Migration in the Global South  
Readings: Dickinson Ch 3

Sept 20th  Writing Position Papers/ Preparing for Conference  
Readings: T.B.A (my.Westminster)

Sept 27th  Resolution Writing  
Readings: AMUN rulebook, pp TBA  
*First Draft of AMUN Position Papers due*

Oct 4th  Migration in the Global North/ What is to be done?  
Readings: Dickinson Ch 4 & Ch 5

Oct 11th  Basics of Parliamentary Procedure & Conference Dynamics  
Readings: AMUN rulebook pp.TBA  
*Final Draft of AMUN Position Papers due*

Oct 18th  AMUN Voting Procedures Review/AMUN Simulated Session

Oct 25th  AMUN Simulated Session

Nov 8th  AMUN Simulated Session

Nov 15th  AMUN Final Briefings/**U.S. Foreign Policy Presentations**

**November 17th-20th American Model UN Conference: Chicago, IL**

Nov 29th  Conference Debriefing/ Course Wrap-up

Dec 6th  Exam