Model United Nations

PS 204  W 3:10 p.m.-4:10 p.m.
1 credit  OM 213

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:

MUN @ Westminster. 2018. Westminster College Model United Nations Simulation Conference Program. (provided by the instructor)

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

1. Increase understanding of parliamentary procedures (*exams, participation in parliamentary procedure practice sessions*).
2. Demonstrate understanding of foreign policy of various UN members (*exams, reports*).
3. Ability to write diplomatic proposals and position papers (*exams, position papers/scenarios*).
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the 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. Students are expected to meet the requirements 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. Quizzes or Class Assignments: These short quizzes and assignments will test students substantive knowledge of the topic areas and provide opportunities to practice skills necessary to participate in Model UN. They are designed to ensure students are keeping up with all assigned readings.
5. Conference Participation: Students will satisfy this requirement by coming to conference well prepared and participating in all assigned conference activities

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position Papers/Committee Scenarios</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Policy/Committee Report</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

93% and up = A  
90-92% = A-  
87-89% = B+  
83-86% = B  
80-82% = B-  
77-79% = C+  
73-76% = C  
70-72% = C-  
67-69% = D+  
63-66% = D  
60-62% = D-  
59% & less = F

**Spring 2018 MUN Mandatory Event:**

1. Westminster College High School Model United Nations Simulation, **Monday April 15th. (required of all students)**
Weekly Course Schedule:

Jan 16 Introduction to Model UN/ Committee and Topic Selections

Jan 23 Scenario Writing
Readings: Westminster Delegate Handbook pp 8 – 28 (in passim)

Jan 30 UN Sustainable Development Goals
Readings: Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see D2L)

Feb 6 Parliamentary Procedures: Basics
Draft of Scenarios due

Feb 13 Debates over the SDGs
Readings: The transformative potential of the SGDs; Sustainable Development Goals and Inclusive Development (see D2L)

Feb 20 Parliamentary Procedures: Voting
Final Version of Scenarios due

Feb 27 Case Study on Country policy
Readings: Case Study: Taiwan (see D2L)

March 6 Simulated Session
Readings: End of Poverty (see D2L)

March 13 No class meeting, Spring Break

March 20 Managing a Committee/Chairing Workshop/Simulated Session

March 27 Simulated Session

April 3 Simulated Session

April 10 Final Briefing for Westminster MUN

Monday April 15: WESTMINSTER MODEL UN SIMULATION

April 17 Conference Debriefing/ Review for Exam

April 24 URAC, no class meeting

May 1 Exam