

PSC 355: Model United Nations

Spring 2015

Course Location: 223 McKee
Instructor: Dr. Sievert
Office Location: 347 Stillwell

Course Time: TR: 3:30-4:45pm
E-mail: jmsievert@email.wcu.edu
Office Hours: TR 11:00am-12:00pm, or by apt.

Introduction

Model United Nations (MUN) will introduce students to the history, structure, operations, and politics of the United Nations. During the semester the class will simulate the real UN by playing roles of diplomats and representatives of a country, researching the politics, policies, and positions of that country, giving ambassadorial speeches, and writing position papers and resolutions. This course is not a traditional seminar, there are no lectures, and it is expected that all students actively participate.

Students will have the opportunity to put their in class participation skills to work at the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference in Charlotte, NC (April 9-12, 2015). Throughout the course of the conference students will assume the identity of ambassadors from UN member states, debate other students, draft written policy decisions, negotiate with allies (and adversaries), compromise over conflicts, and adhere to parliamentary procedure. The conference will provide a unique opportunity and practical learning experience that will enhance allow students to immerse themselves in the politics of the international system.

Course Materials

The required textbook for this course is:

Kerem Turunc, *The Winning Delegate: An Insider's Guide to the Model United Nations*, 2nd Edition, published by iUniverse, 2009. ISBN: 978-1440144301.

The textbook is available as a rental through the WCU bookstore.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance (10%)** This is a course where your attendance is vital to your grade and the success of the class as a whole. If you are not present or are not engaged in our activity, the experience of everyone in the class suffers. Each class that you miss, beyond two classes, results in a five-point reduction from your participation and attendance grade. This is to encourage you to attend class as much as possible. The only "excused" absences that will not result in a grade reduction are hospitalization (a note from a doctor or the Student Health Center is NOT sufficient), death in the immediate family, or travel related to your status as a student athlete, and for each

of these excuses, you must have verifiable documentation. Use your two absences carefully.

Attendance at the Charlotte conference is mandatory. **If you do not attend the conference in full, you will fail the course.** We leave for the conference on Thursday April 9 and we will return early on Sunday April 12. You are required to stay for that entire period of time, so keep those dates clear on your schedule.

If you miss more than eight classes during the semester, for any reason, you will not be allowed to attend the Charlotte conference, which means you will fail the class. Missing eight classes means that you would have missed at least four weeks of class, and if you miss that much class, there is no way that you would be able to represent WCU at the conference with an acceptable level of participation.

2. **Participation (10%)** Much like attendance, active and engaged participation is crucially important in Model UN. This is a class where frequent participation and practice is necessary. You will not achieve the level of comfort in public speaking, debating, resolution writing, and negotiating unless you practice during our mock debate session.

What does good participation look like?

- (a) Pay full attention to other students when they speak during the course of debate.
- (b) Actively participate (meaning get out of the chair and work the room) while collaborating with other delegates during unmoderated caucuses.
- (c) Volunteering to speak on a daily basis during our mock UN sessions.

What does poor participation look like?

- (a) Completing homework for other courses during our Model UN time.
- (b) Looking at your phone and/or laptop while other students are speaking.
- (c) Leaving the classroom for extended periods of time during unmoderated caucuses.
- (d) Sitting in your seats/not actively collaborating with other students during unmoderated caucuses.
- (e) Not volunteering to speak in class on a daily basis.

3. **Preference Sheet (no grade)** On Thursday January 15 you must give me a piece of paper listing the following information:

- (a) **Rank your top three choices of in-class country assignments** You will have two country assignments in this class. One will be the country you are assigned to represent at SRMUN, and one will be the country you represent in our daily class simulations. For the in-class simulations you can rank any three countries in the world— choose places you are interested in learning more about. Please

understand that you may not get to represent one of your top choices (I need to make sure that the country representations within the class are distributed throughout each global region).

- (b) **Rank your choices of SRMUN countries to represent** Your choices are Argentina, Indonesia, and Kuwait.
- (c) **Rank your top two committee choices for SRMUN** Not every country is a member of every committee, below is the list of countries that serve on each committee for this year's Charlotte conference. To decide whether you should choose a particular committee, you should read a little about the topics each committee will discuss at the conference.

General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen): Argentina, Indonesia, Kuwait

- Topic I: Communicable Diseases: Countering the Threat of the Ebola Virus Disease
- Topic II: Enhancing Water Quality Management and Sustainability

International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol): Argentina, Indonesia, Kuwait

- Topic I: Developing an International Response to Thwart Cybercrime
- Topic II: Combating Transnational Firearms Trafficking

African Development Bank: Argentina, Kuwait

- Topic I: Addressing the Youth Employment Challenge
- Topic II: Strengthening Intra-African Trade through Investment and Infrastructure Development

United Nations Human Rights Council: Kuwait, Indonesia

- Topic I: Improving Self-Determination Amidst Religious and Inter-Sectarian Tensions
- Topic II: Deterring Human Rights Violations in Post-Conflict Zones

League of Arab States Heads of State Council: Kuwait

- Topic I: A Unified Front: Preventing the Rise of Terrorist Organizations
- Topic II: Addressing the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Security Council: Argentina [single delegate committee]

- Open Agenda

- (d) The **date** on which you would like to give your ambassadorial speech, March 3 or March 5.

I make no guarantees about assigning you all of your top preferences, but I will do my best.

4. **Fact Sheet for In-Class Country Assignment (5%)** In order to make in-class simulations more interesting and beneficial, each student will be assigned a state to

represent within the classroom. To prove you are familiar with the state you are representing, you must turn in a “fact sheet” on your state that covers its basic political, geographic, and demographic information. Guidelines for the fact sheet are posted on Blackboard. This assignment is due Thursday **January 22**.

5. **Committee Topics FAQ (10%)** Each student in the class will be assigned a committee to represent at the Charlotte conference. In order to prepare yourself for the conference, you need to be familiar with Argentina, Indonesia, or Kuwait’s position on each committee topic. Therefore, you will be completing an informal paper to prove your conference preparation. At the SRMUN conference you will need to be very familiar with the viewpoint of your assigned country. A series of questions aimed at allowing you to really think as a representative of your assigned country is posted on Blackboard. You will answer these questions in written format, and you can have a copy of your answers with you at the conference. Your FAQ is due on the same day as your panel discussion (see schedule below).
6. **Panel Discussion (5%)** To ensure you are prepared to represent your assigned country at the conference, each committee will participate as a group in a panel discussion in front of the class. During this panel discussion, the other class members will pose questions to the group about your topics, and the panel will have to answer those questions, while debating each other on the worth of the various approaches. Your grade here depends on your preparation for, and participation in, the panel.

This exercise will help you to better represent your assigned country at the conference, and the fact that you will have already completed a committee topics FAQ should prepare you to participate in the discussion. This information will be similar to the position paper you will write for the conference, but this exercise will you communicate those written answers verbally (a skill you will certainly need in Charlotte). Additionally, the debate should help you get deeper into the mindset of your country’s delegation.

Panel Discussion Dates

GA Plen: February 19

Interpol: February 26

African Development Bank: March 19

League of Arab States Heads of State: March 24

UNHRC: March 26

Security Council: April 3

7. **Conference Position Papers (15%)** SRMUN requires delegates to produce position papers on their committee issues written from the perspective of their assigned countries (either Argentina, Indonesia, or Kuwait). Guidelines for position papers are posed on Blackboard. These guidelines are handed down by SRMUN, and SRMUN is

very particular about the format and content of these position papers.

Position papers are an individual assignment. Many of our assignments in this class rely on group work, this one does not. Please make sure your work is your own.

Copies of award-winning position papers are on Blackboard (written by WCU delegates in semesters past). Please take a look at these papers before writing your own, and try to follow their example in terms of formatting and content. I have also posted a template of the position paper on Blackboard to help with formatting and content guidelines. Be aware of the need to use diplomatic language, to represent your country well, and you write in the “voice” of your country. Your position paper drafts are due Tuesday February 17. After I grade the individual paper assignments, you will team up with committee partner (if you have one, not all of you will have partners), and merge your paper into the strongest position paper possible. The merged version is the one I will turn into SRMUN for award consideration, and an electronic version of the merged paper is due to my email inbox by 5:00pm on Tuesday March 17. If you do not have a partner you will revise your position paper based on my comments, and turn in a final electronic draft for me to submit to SRMUN.

8. **Ambassadorial Speech (10%)** Students will prepare a brief speech (aim for 2.5 minutes) from the perspective of the state you represent in-class. You can speak on any politically relevant topic of your choice. Once you give the speech, the class and I will provide constructive feedback, which will improve your public speaking and presentational skills needed in Charlotte. The dates for the speeches are March 3 and 5.
9. **Research Binder (10%)** Your research binder serves as a compilation of information on the state we are representing at SRMUN (Argentina, Indonesia, and Kuwait). It is a valuable resource that you will have with you at the conference, and it is intended to make your lives easier in Charlotte.

Binders will be evaluated on the degree to which they are well organized, thorough, and represent a sound collection of quality resources. If you are unsure of what constitutes a quality and acceptable resource, please come ask. Each binder must include at least the following items, but you may include additional material if you wish:

- (a) Conference Rules of Procedure (a copy is posted on Blackboard)
- (b) Your committee Background Guide provided by SRMUN (on the srmun.org website)
- (c) Fact sheet on conference country (use the fact sheet format provided on Blackboard)
- (d) Copy of your finalized/approved position paper

- (e) Copies of position papers from two other states represented on your committee. These are located on the SRMUN website, choose any two states that are likely to lead discussion.
- (f) A listing and brief description of any UN Resolutions, Treaties, and Conventions that already exist on your topics (by brief I mean no more than a few sentences).
- (g) A sample resolution written on each of your committee topics. Remember each resolution requires at least three pre-ambulatory clauses and five operative clauses. This means that your binder should include two sample resolutions in total. As part of the operative clauses, you need to address potential solutions to each of the issues at hand.
- (h) A copy of your Committee Topics FAQ.

The binders' contents should be separated by file dividers and labeled accordingly. This assignment is due on Tuesday March 31. Please do not save the completion of the binders until the last minute because there is additional work required by you to assemble the binder correctly. Some of the required contents you will have completed already, or they will be very easy to locate on the website and print out, but other contents you will have to create and will take time to complete.

10. **Charlotte Conference (20%)** The Charlotte conference (April 9-12, 2015) is the culmination for all the time, work, and participation of the course and provides a real life appellation of all the discussions, ideas, and skills we have practiced all semester.

The cost of travel, hotel, and conference registration is covered by a combination of both your tuition fees and generous funding from the university, so those costs have already been paid. However, you will need to bring some additional spending money to cover other expenses, most importantly, food.

If I determine that a student has failed to adequately prepare for the conference or is engaged in behavior at the conference that might being discredit on Western Carolina University, that student will be dismissed from the conference immediately. This behavior ranges from excessive alcohol use to tardiness for meetings, and anything in between. **Any student dismissed from the conference will fail the course.** In the days leading up to the conference I will give each student a contract (which will also be posted on Blackboard) outlining specific behavioral violations at the conference along with the point deductions for each of those behaviors. I am sure that none of you will engage in any unacceptable behaviors at the conference! Just in case, I will provide the list of violations and resulting point deductions so that we all attend the conference with a uniform set of behavior expectations.

11. **Reflection Paper (5%)** Students are expected to reflect on the conference and write a brief two to three page, double-spaced paper on lessons learned. In this paper you should reflect on your conference and class experience– was the conference/class what you expected? What went well? What would you change in the future? Remember,

reflecting on your weaknesses will not hurt your grade, I want you to honestly assess your experience in the class. This assignment is due on our last day of class: **Thursday April 16.**

Grading and Quality Point System

A+	97-100	Excellent	4.0
A	94-96	Excellent	4.0
A-	90-93		3.67
B+	87-89		3.33
B	84-86	Good	3.0
B-	80-83		2.67
C+	77-79		2.33
C	74-76	Satisfactory	2.0
C-	70-73		1.67
D+	67-69		1.33
D	64-66	Poor	1.0
D-	60-63		.67
F	0-59	Failure	0

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments Due
1	January 13 January 15	Course Introduction Writing Resolutions	None Preference Sheet
2	January 20 January 22	Writing Resolutions Rules of Procedure	None Fact Sheet
3	January 27 January 29	Caucusing and Rules of Procedure Caucusing and Rules of Procedure	None None
4	February 3 February 5	Mock Session Mock Sessions	None None
5	February 10 February 12	Mock Sessions Mock Sessions	None None
6	February 17 February 19	Mock Sessions Panel Discussion	Position Papers Due GA Plen Panel and FAQ Due
7	February 24 February 26	No Class, Advising Day Panel Discussion	None Interpol Panel and FAQ Due
7	March 3 March 5	Ambassadorial Speeches & Mock Sessions Ambassadorial Speeches & Mock Sessions	Speeches Speeches
9	March 10 & 12	Spring Break	None
10	March 17 March 19	Mock Sessions Panel Discussion	Final Positions Papers Due ADB Panel and FAQ Due
11	March 24 March 26	Panel Discussion Panel Discussion	LASHOS Panel and FAQ Due UNHRC Panel and FAQ Due
12	March 31 April 3	Panel Discussion No Class	SC Panel and FAQ Due Binders Due
13	April 7 April 9-12	SRMUN Charlotte	None
14	April 14 April 16	No Class No Class	Recover from SRMUN
15	April 21	Wrap-Up	Reflection Paper Due

Course Policies

Attendance and Late Policy

Course attendance is crucial as we spend every day practicing skills and discussing issues that will prepare us for the Charlotte conference. Please see the course requirements above for more information about attendance policies.

If you are consistently late to class, I will deduct attendance points. If you are late one or two times for class, this is not a major problem, I understand some times things happen outside of your control and I will not deduct points. However, if you are constantly late for class day after day, I will start counting your tardiness as class absences.

Late Assignments

I am particular about deadlines, many of which are set by SRMUN, so there will be strict penalties for late work. I will accept late work up to 48 hours after an assignment is due, but 10 points will be deducted from your assignment grade for each day that it is late. The 48 hours begins at the end of class (4:45pm) on the day the assignment was due. After that 48 hour period (this includes weekends) I will not accept your late assignment and you will receive a zero.

I understand that circumstances arise outside of our class, and in the event that there is a truly extraordinary circumstance that prevents you from completing an assignment I may consider an extension on a case to case basis. However, in order to be considered for an extensions you must contact me **BEFORE** the assignment is due. Do not approach me after the due date and ask for an extension because I will not grant you one. It is important that you stay in contact with me, and if there is a situation that is affecting your course performance, please come and talk to me as soon as possible.

Communication

It is important to stay in contact with your fellow students and your instructor. I will hold regular office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays and can also be reached Monday through Friday via email. Please come see me, or email me, with any questions or concerns you have as they arise. The semester moves along very quickly, and it is always best to come to me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the semester to let me know if you have questions or problems.

Classroom Technology Policy

Active and engaged participation is key to the success of our class, and our conference experience. This means you need to be present and actively listening and discussing with your fellow students. Therefore while another student, or the professor, is speaking please give them your full attention and make sure that your electronic devices are put away and not in use.

However, if we are in unmoderated caucus (which means you are taking time to collaborate on resolution writing), you may find your laptops, phones, or tablets useful as you research the issues, and you are welcome to use them for that purpose.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Western Carolina University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. Students who require reasonable accommodations must identify themselves as having a disability and/or medical condition and provide current diagnostic documentation to Disability Services. All information is confidential. Please contact the Office of Disability Services for more information at (828) 227-3886.

Academic Integrity Policy

“I will practice personal and academic integrity”, WCU Community Creed.

Western Carolina University strives to achieve the highest standards of scholarship and integrity. Any violation of the Academic Integrity Policy is a serious offense because it threatens the quality of scholarship and undermines the integrity of the community. Any violation of the Academic Integrity Policy is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct (see dsce.wcu.edu for more information).

Violation of the Academic Integrity Policy include:

Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.

Plagiarism: Representing the words or ideas of someone else as one’s own in any academic exercise.

Fabrication: Creating and/or falsifying information or citation in any academic exercise.

Facilitation: Helping or attempting to help someone to commit a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy in any academic exercise (e.g. allowing another to copy information during an examination).

As a faculty member I reserve the right to determine the appropriate sanctions for violations of the Academic Integrity Policy, including a final grade of “F” in the course. Students will be notified, in writing, of any Academic Integrity Policy allegation and have the right to respond to the allegation. The full text of the WCU Academic Integrity Policy, Process, and the Faculty Reporting Form can be found online at academicintegrity.wcu.edu.

Blackboard and Email

I expect that you check Blackboard and your WCU email account on a regular basis. I will send out class announcements via email and post on Blackboard and it is not acceptable to tell me that you were not aware of an announcement because you did not check your email.

Please check the syllabus for important information about due dates, course policies, and any other information regarding Model U.N. If the answer can be found in the syllabus or on Blackboard expect a reply directing you to those locations.

Email communication with me is strongly encouraged, but remember is a professional environment. As such, please do not address emails as “Hi Jackie!”, “Wats Up?”, “Hey There!”, or any variation (yes these all really happen). “Dr.Sievert”, “Professor Sievert”, “Dr. J”, or any other respectful salutation is acceptable. If you have a question, please ask!

Student Support Services

Student Support Services provides support to students who are either first-generation, low-income or those who have disclosed a disability with: academic advising, mentoring,

one-on-one tutorial support, and workshops focused on career, financial aid and graduate school preparation. You may contact SSS at (828) 227-7127 or email sssprogram@wcu.edu for more information. SSS is located in the Killian Annex, room 138.

Red Zone Campaign

Western Carolina University supports its campus community members in their right to healthy, happy, consensual relationships and is dedicated to developing a culture of respect and non-violence. Early in the first and second year at college, students enter the “Red Zone”, where they are more at-risk for unwanted sexual experiences on college campuses. And, according to NCHA 2013 data, 16.0% of WCU men and women indicated being in an emotionally, physically, or sexually abusive relationship in the past 12 months. As a result, the Red Zone Campaign encourages and empowers students, faculty, and staff to develop an open dialogue on the dangers of sexual violence and to speak up when they see violent behavior occurring.

If you notice red flags in yours or a friend’s relationship, are experiencing violence or have in the past, you have a number of resources available to you:

- Counseling and Psychological Services (828.227.7469 or counselingcenter.wcu.edu)
- REACH of Macon County services in Jackson County (828.586.8969 or www.reachofmaconcounty.org)

To report a crime, please contact University Police at 828.227.8911 (Emergency line).

For more information, please visit redzone.wcu.edu.

Writing and Learning Commons (WaLC)

The Writing and Learning Commons (WaLC), located in BELK 207, provides free small-group course tutoring, one-on-one writing tutoring and academic skills consultations, and online writing and learning resources for all students. All tutoring sessions take place in the WaLC or in designated classrooms on campus. To schedule tutoring appointments, log in to TutorTrac from the WaLC homepage (<http://walc.wcu.edu>) or call 828-227-2274. Distance students and students taking classes at Biltmore Park are encouraged to use Smarthinking and the WaLC’s online resources. Students may also take advantage of writing tutoring offered at the Biltmore Park campus on certain days of the week; call 828-227-2274 or log in to TutorTrac and select “Biltmore Park Writing Tutoring” for availabilities.

One Last Thing...

This course and the Model U.N. conference will be as good as you make it. This can be a great opportunity to network, learn and practice new skills, and meet students and faculty from other universities. This is a very different kind of class; no lectures, no assigned reading, but a lot of independent work. I encourage you to make the most of this experience.