

Dalhousie University
Department of Political Science
Model UN (POLI 3532)
Fall 2016
Friday, 9:05am-11:55, McCain 2184

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appointment)

COURSE OVERVIEW

The goal of this experiential course is to help students understand the operation of the United Nations system through preparation for the McGill Model United Nations Assembly 2017 (McMUN). Although the course is designed primarily for students who are participating in McMUN, it is structured as a stand-alone course that will appeal to any student who is interested in the United Nations system. Participation in McMUN is NOT a requirement for enrollment in the course. Students who are planning to attend McMUN are strongly advised to complete registration as soon as possible in order to receive country and committee roles, as several course assignments presuppose this information.

The course will introduce students to the politics of UN voting practices of various countries and the relationships between domestic politics, international politics and UN voting records. It will also enable students to understand the internal dynamics of the UN General Assembly and committee systems, how UN meetings operate, and the professional skills involved in drafting and negotiating the text of resolutions. Finally, the course will provide students with the opportunity to learn about the political issues that influence the positions at the UN of various countries (assigned by McMUN to individual students), and about committee issues under debate at the UN (assigned by McMUN to individual students).

The first section of the class provides an overview of the United Nations system. It introduces the institutional framework of the UN system, discusses some of the major issues on the contemporary UN agenda, and offers practical information about how to effectively conduct primary source research involving the UN. The second section of the course provides additional information that will help students prepare for Model UN participation. It introduces key points involving the diplomatic history of McMUN-assigned country/countries, covers McMUN rules of procedure, and offers practical information about how to draft model UN resolutions. The third section of the course offers a stand-alone in-class model UN simulation, which will be aided by the use of Statecraft Sim, an online simulation program (www.statecraftsim.com). Each student will be assigned a specific country and will be expected to research, draft, and negotiate UN resolutions in a format designed to mimic the McMUN experience as much as possible.

Ultimately, the course differs from “traditional” courses that present material in the usual lecture/seminar format. Instead, the course places greater emphasis on class participation, public

speaking and debate, and hands-on engagement with UN material. Course assignments involve short presentations about McMUN-assigned countries and committees, the drafting of country position papers on key policy issues, and active participation throughout the entire course but especially during the in-class model UN simulation.

REQUIRED BOOKS AND READINGS

There are two required books for purchase. The Linda Fasulo book is available at the Dalhousie University Bookstore. Unfortunately, the Bookstore cannot stock the Kerem Turunç book and so it will have to be purchased elsewhere. Other readings are available online by the instructor. The two required books are:

Kerem Turunç, *The Winning Delegate: An Insider's Guide to Model United Nations*, 2nd ed. New York: iUniverse Inc., 2009.

Linda Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the UN*, 3rd ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015.

STATECRAFT SIM

The last three classes of the course provide students with an opportunity to participate in a stand-alone in-class model UN simulation. This experience will be aided by Statecraft Sim, an online simulation program that assigns countries, introduces simulation exercises, and allows students to easily share and edit content such as working papers and draft resolutions. The cost of Statecraft Sim is \$35 per student. For more information, please see www.statecraftsim.com

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

- 1) Presentation 1: McMUN-assigned Committee (Held in Class October 7): 15%
- 2) Presentation 2: McMUN-assigned Country (Held in Class October 28): 15%
- 3) McMUN 2016 Rules of Procedure Exam (Held in Class November 4): 15%
- 4) Position Paper (Due in Class December 2): 20%
- 5) Model UN Simulation (Held in Class November 18, November 25 and December 2): 25%
- 6) Attendance (Throughout the Course): 10%

ASSIGNMENTS

1) **Presentation 1: McMUN-assigned Committee.** Students will deliver a short presentation that provides an overview of the main purposes and procedures of a selected UN committee. Students who are attending McMUN should present the committee assigned to them. Students who are not attending McMUN are free to choose their own committee. The exact format of the presentation will depend on course enrollment and may be done individually or in small groups. More information will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Presentation 1 will occur in class on October 7. The presentation is worth 15% of the course grade.

2) **Presentation 2: McMUN-assigned Country.** Students will deliver a short presentation that provides an overview of one country's policy positions toward the issues addressed by the UN committee that was selected for Presentation 1. Students who are attending McMUN should present the country assigned to them. Students who are not attending McMUN are free to choose their own country. The exact format of the presentation will depend on course enrollment and may be done individually or in small groups. More information will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Presentation 2 will occur in class on October 28. The presentation is worth 15% of the course grade.

3) **McMUN 2016 Rules of Procedure Exam.** Students will write an in-class exam covering the McMUN rules of procedure. The format of the exam will be multiple choice questions. The Exam will be held in class on November 4. It is worth 15% of the course grade.

4) **Position Paper.** Students will write a brief position paper covering one country's policy position toward one theme/issue that is relevant to the country's contemporary engagement with the UN. Students who are attending McMUN must select the country assigned to them. Students who are not attending McMUN are free to choose their own country. The position paper should be between 750-1000 words (3-4 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font). The position paper is due in class on December 2. It is worth 20% of the course grade.

5) **Model UN Simulation.** The last three classes of the course will be run as an in-class model UN simulation. The simulation will be run with the aid of Statecraft Sim. Each student will be assigned a unique country and will be expected to draft one resolution addressing an issue that is relevant to the assigned country. Students will also debate, negotiate, and vote on resolutions introduced in the simulation. The simulation will take place during the final three classes of the course. It is worth 25% of the course grade.

6) **Attendance.** Because this course is an experiential course, consistent attendance is vitally important for the success of the course. Attendance will be taken each class (except September 9) and is worth 10% of the course grade.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1) **Academic Integrity.** Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with Dalhousie University's policies on academic integrity, particularly the section concerning plagiarism and cheating, but also the section concerning student resources:

http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Additional information about academic integrity and University policies can be found here:

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/healthprofessions/faculty-and-staff/academic-integrity/information-for-faculty.html>

All assignments submitted may be subjected to evaluation by Turnitin.com, a computer service that checks assignments for plagiarism. Students are required to retain an electronic copy of all papers in addition to the hard copy submitted to the professor.

2) **Academic Accommodation.** Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian human rights legislation.

Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca

3) **Key Dates.** The Last Day to Change and Add Classes for registered students in a fall term course is September 19. The Last Day to Drop without "W" and the Last Day to Change from Audit to Credit and Vice Versa is October 7. The Last Day to Drop with "W" is November 14.

4) **Grade Appeals.** Students who wish to appeal their grade must produce a brief written statement (approximately 250 words) explaining why they feel that the assignment/exam was not graded correctly. Appeals must be made within one week from the date on which the assignment/exam was returned. The appeal process will produce a revised grade that may be raised, unchanged, or lowered. The revised grade is final and cannot be appealed.

5) **Use of electronic devices.** Students are not permitted to use any electronic devices during the mid-term exam. Students are asked to turn off their cell phones during lectures. Laptops, tablets and other electronic devices may be used during lectures for note taking, but not for any purpose that, in the judgement of the instructor, is distracting to class (i.e. listening to music, streaming videos, etc).

6) **Email Communication with the Instructor.** Emails to the instructor must be sent from the student's official Dalhousie University Email Account. The instructor will not respond to emails sent from any other account. Grades will not be discussed over Email.

7) **Grade Scale and Definitions.** All course assignments will be graded according to the following grade scale, which was approved by the Dalhousie University Senate in 2014:

Grade	Grade Point Value		Definition	
A+	4.30	90-100	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding
A	4.00	85-89		

A-	3.70	80-84		capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
B+	3.30	77-79	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
B	3.00	73-76		
B-	2.70	70-72		
C+	2.30	65-69	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
C	2.00	60-64		
C-	1.70	55-59		
D	1.00	50-54	Marginal Pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of "C" or "C+" is required).
FM	0.00		Marginal Failure	Available only for Engineering, Health Professions and Commerce.
F	0.00	0-49	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
INC	0.00		Incomplete	
W	Neutral and no credit obtained		Withdrew after deadline	
ILL	Neutral and no credit obtained		Compassionate reasons, illness	
P	Neutral		Pass	
TR	Neutral		Transfer credit on admission	
Pending	Neutral		Grade not reported	

WEEKLY READINGS AND TOPICS

Friday, September 9 – Introduction to the Class

No readings

SECTION 1 – THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Friday, September 16 – The United Nations System

The United Nations Charter <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/un-charter-full-text/index.html>

Kerem Turunç, *The Winning Delegate: An Insider's Guide to Model United Nations*, 2nd ed. New York: iUniverse Inc., 2009, 1-25.

Linda Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the UN*, 3rd ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015, 1-45, 55-110, 171-175, 236-258.

Friday, September 23 – Researching Issues on the United Nations Agenda (Part I)

Kerem Turunç, *The Winning Delegate: An Insider's Guide to Model United Nations*, 2nd ed. New York: iUniverse Inc., 2009, 27-45.

Linda Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the UN*, 3rd ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015, 111-152.

“General Assembly” <http://www.un.org/en/ga/>

“Security Council” <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

“Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)” <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/>

“UN Member States: On the Record” <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/unms/>

“United Nations Bibliographic Information System (UNBISnet)” <http://unbisnet.un.org/>

“Dag Hammarskjöld Library Research Guides” <http://research.un.org/en>

“UN News Centre” www.un.org/news

“UN Global Issues” <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/>

Friday, September 30 – Researching Issues on the United Nations Agenda (Part II)

Linda Fasulo, *An Insider's Guide to the UN, 3rd ed.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015, 153-170, 176-228.

Friday, October 7 – Presentation 1: McMUN-assigned Committee

*** Presentations ***

No readings

SECTION 2 – MODEL UN PREPARATION

Friday, October 14 – Diplomatic History of McMUN-assigned country/countries TBD

Readings TBD

Friday, October 21 – General Assembly: Rules of Procedure and Drafting Resolutions

Kerem Turunç, *The Winning Delegate: An Insider's Guide to Model United Nations, 2nd ed.* New York: iUniverse Inc., 2009, 47-139.

McMun 2016 Rules of Procedure

OPTIONAL: Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.17).

OPTIONAL: Government of Switzerland, “The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly,” New York: Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, 2011.

http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/UN_PGA_Handbook.pdf

Friday, October 28 – Presentation 2: McMUN-assigned Country

*** Presentations ***

No readings

Friday, November 4 – McMUN 2016 Rules of Procedure Exam

No readings

Friday, November 11 – No Class (Study Week)

No readings

SECTION 3 – IN-CLASS MODEL UN SIMULATION

Friday, November 18 – Simulation

Readings TBD in September by class

Friday, November 25 – Simulation

Readings TBD in September by class

Friday, December 2 – Simulation

Readings TBD in September by class