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**Political Science 180**

**United Nations Studies**

Fall 2017 Syllabus



Meeting: xxxxxxx

Instructor: xxxxxxx

Office: xxxxxxx

Office Phone: xxxxxxx

Email: xxxxxxx

Office Hours: xxxxxxx

###### Course Description

This course will provide introduce you to the United Nations and the role it plays in the modern world. It will also prepare you to participate in a collegiate Model United Nations conference. Your experience at this conference will help you develop skills that will help your success in future endeavors, including being able to write clearly and concisely, conduct detailed research, speak persuasively in public, and build consensus between differing views. Past participants have gone on to use these skills in upper division college courses, student government, governmental internships, graduate studies, law school, and private business. Because of their universal benefit, these skills are well-worth pursuing. But they come only with effort on your part; all I can do is provide you the opportunity to acquire them. You will get out of this course what you put into it. The course is hybrid by design. We will meet in class Monday and Wednesday. Friday is a work day, and I will be in class for personalized assistance with the research, writing, and presentations you will need to succeed in the course.

**Required Texts**

Dille, Brian. 2017. *Engaging the United Nations*. Engagement Learning. ISBN: 978-0-9988518-0-8

You can purchase a copy of the text in class at a discount, or at [www.engagingtheun.com](http://www.engagingtheun.com). You can use either the paper or digital version.

You will also learn about the UN through the research you do and the on-line resources I will direct you to. One source to use is the UN Wire – on-line newsletter. Subscribe for free at <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/efjvCccamnCfshmQCidafSBWcNWJPZ>

We will use a shared Google folder, accessable with your Maricopa email account. Let yoru instructor know if you do not yet have access to it.

###### Course Requirements

**Attendance**

# Regular attendance is crucial to the quality of the class for both yourself and your classmates. If you must be late or absent, notify me before the meeting by phone or email. Any student who misses three classes may be dropped.

## Participation/Attendance

We rely on your active participation in the discussions and simulations at the weekly meetings. This means speaking frequently and showing through your behavior a desire to learn the material and procedures of conference. You will receive points for participating in many of the class exercsies and simulations. Of course, you can’t participate if you aren’t here, so be sure to come to each class. If you miss more than three classes you may be dropped from the course.

## Class Exercises

Each chapter in the text includes a class exercise. You will be expected to prepare for and participate in these activities. You will be graded for each exercise on either the work you submit or your participation, depending on the nature of the exercise. Each exercise is worth 20 points.

**Class Presentation**

The text is introductory in nature. This assignment is an opportunity to explore one chapter in depth and share your insights with the class. You will sign up for the chapter of your choice, then select one agreement, agency, or historical episode mentioned in that chapter to research further. You will then give a 5-10 minute presentation to the class on that topic. The presentation is due the first day that chapter is discussed, you will be introducing the topic to the class. You are encouraged to use audio and/or visual elements in your presentation, which is worth 25 points.

**Exams**

To assess your understanding of the course material, there will be three midterm exams. Each will ask a few questions that you will write a single paragraph answer to. Each exam will be worth 40 points.

## Credential Packet Contribution

To obtain credentials to attend a conference, each country team must submit a country profile and a policy statement for each agenda item being discussed in the conference committees. This means that each team member must submit two policy statements and a draft resolution. These will be worth 100 points each. You will turn in drafts well before the end of the term and have lots of opportunity to revise and resubmit them before the end of the term.

**MUN Conference Participation**

This is the primary purpose behind the course, and if you have prepared well you will have a great time. It is fun and exciting to interact with other college students from excellent schools. MCC has a history of performing as well or better than our peers, and that is a reward in itself. You will earn 50 points each day of conference. Note that these points will reflect the level of your participation, not the results of whatever committee you are engaged in. Your grade is not dependent on whether or not your resolution gets passed, but rather on your ability to function as a diplomat at conference. As preparing for this conference is central to the course, attendance is mandatory, so failure to attend will result in being dropped from the course.

## Final Essay

At the end of the term, you will turn in your final drafts of your policy statements and resolution. You will also will write a short essay reflecting on your experience. This is to be an academic assessment, not a personal essay. It is to be five pages, double-spaced. In the essay, answer the following questions. First, what did you learn about the United Nations that you did not know before this class? Second, in what way did the MUN conference you attend **not** match your expectations? Third, identify the most important thing you learned from the entire experience, including the preparation stage. You can submit this essay to me personally, to the social/cultural office staff, or to my email address. This assignment is worth 100 points.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic misconduct and dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, excessive absences, use of abusive or profane language, and disruptive and/or threatening behavior.  All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Chair of the Social Science Department and other appropriate authorities.  Students displaying acts of academic dishonesty are subject to grade adjustment, course failure, probation, suspension, or expulsion.  See the student handbook for more information regarding cases of academic misconduct.

## BEHAVING RESPONSIBLY AND COOPERATIVELY IN A POS CLASS

Part of becoming a better political science student is learning to appreciate the ideas and critiques of others.  Part of our purpose in this class is to come together as a community of learners in which ideas are shared and we learn by doing and explaining, not just by watching.  Often, you will find that your classmates have different perspectives than you and can offer tips or techniques that can enhance your learning and understanding.  You have a lot to learn from the instructor, but you also have a lot to learn from each other.  Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate.  Remember, none of us is as smart as all of us!  Everyone has something to offer.  You will be asked to work cooperatively with others and you are expected to be a contributing member to your group.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

For every hour you spend in class, you should spend at least two (2) hours outside of class studying the material and completing your assignments.  For example, if you take a class one (1) hour a day, three days a week, you should devote at least **6 hours** a week outside of class.

Students do not fail at the end of the semester.  If a student is failing in the last week, it is because of what he or she has done throughout the semester.  Keep up with the work.  Keep track of your points and percentage in the class. Keep track of assignment due dates on the course calendar.  Remember, you cannot complete all the assignments in the last few days of the semester.

## F-1 STUDENTS

If you are an F-1 student, I'm so glad that you're in my class! You bring diversity and a world perspective to the classroom, and that helps me to fulfill one of MCC's student outcomes: Cultural and Global Engagement. Please know that you must adhere to the attendance policy that is set for this class and is listed in this syllabus. If you are withdrawn by me for the class for non-attendance, I will not place you back into the class. If you earn a W or Y (for non-attendance) and this brings you below the required 12 credits that you need to maintain your F-1 status in the USA, I will not change your grade to an F. You are given the grade that you earn. If you fall out of status, you can go through a process called "F-1 Reinstatement" with the International Education (IE) Office located in Building 36N. IE regularly sends you messages to your MCC email regarding immigration matters. Be sure to check it regularly! They also check attendance reports for all F-1 students on a weekly basis. You are here in the USA to be a student on your F-1 full time study visa, and we'll help you to maintain that status.

## Point Summary

Class Exercises (8 @ 20 pts) 160 pts

Topic Presentation 25 pts

Exams (3 @ 40 pts) 120 pts

Policy Statements (2 @ 100 pts) 200 pts

Resolution 100 pts

MUNGSW Conference 200 pts

# Reflective Essay 100 pts

# Total 905 pts

Grades will be determined on a traditional percentage scale: 90%+ = A, 80 – 89% = B, etc.

#### **Course Schedule**

### **August**

21 Orientation

23 Chap 1 content

28 Chap 1 Sim

30 Chap 1 Sim

## September

4 Chap 2 Content

6 Chap 2 Content – Presentations

11 Chap 2 Sim

13 MUNGSW Country/Committee Selection – Basic Policy Statement Structure

18 Chap 3 Content – Presentations

20 Chap 3 Content

25 Chap 3 Sim

27 Chap 3 Sim, Policy 1 draft due, Exam 1 out

**October**

2 Chap 4 Content – Presentations, Exam 1 due

4 Chap 4 Sim

9 Chap 4 Content

11 Chap 4 Sim

16 Chap 5 Content – Presentations

18 Chap 5 Sim

23 Chap 6 Content – Presentations

25 Chap 6 Sim, Policy 2 draft due, Exam 2 out

30 Chap 7 Content – Presentations, Exam 2 due

**November**

1 Chap 7 Content

6 Chap 7 Sim

8 Chap 7 Sim

13 MUNGSW conference

15 Chap 8 Content – Presentations

20 Chap 8 Sim

22 Research

27 Chap 9 Content and Sim

29 Research, Resolution draft due, Exam 3 out

**December**

4 Research, Exam 3 due

6 Research

11 No class

13 Final Essay Due