

INTA 4813/8813: Model United Nations

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

SPRING 2015

TR 4:35– 5:55 PM, Instructional Center 109

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This course will prepare you for participation in the Model United Nations Program at Georgia Tech, both as a competitive collegiate delegate and as a director of committee.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate international concern.
- Students will be able to express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and in their research and oral presentations.

Required Reading

One textbook is required for this course. Copies are available at the student bookstores and elsewhere.

- Hodgin, Greg. *Model UN Handbook: A Preparation for MUN Conferences*. Lanham, Md.: Hamilton Books, 2012.

The T-square site will also contain other important material for the course, including sample position papers, Model UN rules of procedure, guide outlines, and so on. Regular access to T-Square is mandatory for this course. Most of you already have the necessary skills to use this tool, but if you don't OIT runs periodic workshops.

Recommended Reading

Being informed about what is going on in the world is always a good idea. We will spend some time in this course discussing contemporary world politics in a United Nations setting, and though it is not required I highly recommend spending a little time each day checking the international news. Keeping up with events will enhance the quality of our discussions as we incorporate what we are learning with what we see and read in the news. If you need to know some well-respected sources of information, I am happy to give you that info.

Class Format

This class will meet two times a week for 80 minutes each. A list of required reading before each class is listed on this syllabus. I expect all students to come to class having done the reading and ready to comment and/or ask questions. Remember, no question is too small or too obvious. Chances are your classmates will be wondering the same thing.

Course Requirements

- Attendance and Participation: 30%
- Midterm: 30%
- Position Paper: 10%
- Background Guide: 30%

Midterm (30%)

There will be one exam during the semester – the midterm. The midterm will cover all of the material prior to the date of the midterm. The exam will consist of a series of short answer, matching and identification questions. I will provide study resources prior to the exam. **The Midterm is scheduled for Tuesday, 10 February, during class.**

Position Paper (10%)

Student will write one position paper in preparation for the simulation. This paper will be on the assigned topic and country that will be determined the week of February 9th.

Background Guide (30%)

I will assign one final background guide to be written. This background guide will be used at GTMUN 2015 conference and will be required to follow specific guidelines determined by the GTMUN secretariat. Papers must be submitted on paper and stapled (double-sided is encouraged). Electronic submission will be not accepted. Late papers will not be accepted. Each student will have their own individual topic that will be determined during the semester. More specific instructions will be given in class.

Attendance and Participation (30%)

Attendance in class is mandatory. However, being in class is not enough – you should participate and ask questions, especially during each lecture. It is imperative that actively engage in each simulation exercise as this is the best way to learn Model UN. Please advise me ahead of time if you will miss class or afterward if you are ill. I will grant you two absences (for whatever reason) during the semester after which your final grade will be deducted 1 point for each additional absence (10 points off your participation grade). Obviously there are extenuating circumstances that I will consider, but you need to consider your presence in class as vital to your final grade. Only family emergencies, documented illnesses, or Institute-approved absences will count as excused absences.

Honor Code

Full compliance with the Georgia Institute of Technology's Honor Code is required on all assignments, exams, and papers.

Go to www.honor.gatech.edu for more information.

Special Needs

I am happy to meet any special needs you may have for the class in terms of assistance. You must present me with your ADAPTS office information so that I can make sure our learning environment is best suited to help you succeed.

Final Caveat

This syllabus is to be considered a living document and therefore subject to change. Any major changes (such as moving a due date) will be discussed with the class and posted to T-Square. If you have any questions about what you see on the syllabus, please see me to discuss.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One: January 5-9 : Introduction, MUN @ Tech, The United Nations

- Handbook, chapter 1 - 3

What are we doing this semester?

What is the MUN program @ Tech?

What is the history, structure and importance of the United Nations?

Week Two: January 12-16: Position Papers and Rules of Procedure

- Handbook, chapter 4, 5, & 10

How do you write a position paper?

What are the rules of procedure for Model UN?

Week Three: January 19-23: How to Run a Committee

- Handbook, chapter 6 & 7

How do I display effective leadership in committee?

How do I chair and conduct a committee?

Week Four: January 26-30: Draft Resolutions and Voting Procedures

- Handbook, chapter 8 & 9

How does voting work in model UN?

How do I create a concise Draft Resolution in committee?

Week Five: February 2-6: Crisis Simulations and How to Write a Background Guide

- Some T² resource about bg guides and crisis

How do I compete in and conduct a crisis simulation?

What are the parts of a background guide?

Week Six: February 9-13: Midterm, simulation topics, research

- **MIDTERM TUESDAY**

What should our topics for the simulations be?

Time to research and prepare for simulations and writing your background guide.

Week Seven: February 16-20: Simulation

Week Eight: February 23-27: Simulation

Week Nine: March 2-6: Simulation

Week Ten: March 9-13: Simulation

- **POSITION PAPER DUE THURSDAY**

Week Eleven: March 16-20: SPRING BREAK

Week Twelve: March 23-27: Simulation

Week Thirteen: March 30-April 3: Simulation

Week Fourteen: April 6-10: Simulation

Week Fifteen: April 13-17: Simulation

Week Sixteen: April 20-24: Simulation

Tuesday April 28th by 5pm: Background Guide Due