**POLS 104, 208, 209, 308, 309:**

**Model United Nations**

**3 Credits Fall 2012 & Spring 2013 Tuesday 4:00-5:00**

Faculty Advisor Dr. Ibrahim Zabad

Secretary-General Leanna Chojnacki

Chargée d’Affaires Lauren Loftin

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**Contact Information**

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**Required Text**

Turunç, Kerem. *Winning Delegate: An Insider’s Guide to Model United Nation*. Second Edition. Bloomington, New York: iUniverse, Inc., 2009.

**Course Objectives**

Model United Nations at St. Bonaventure University is an organization dedicated to building students’ knowledge and awareness of issues that the international community is engaged in through the perspective of various countries within the United Nations at conferences we attend. By the end of the course students will be able to effectively negotiate, debate, and develop public speaking skills. Students will also be able to develop leadership skills that can be used to persuade and compromise without having to change ones interest. Additionally, students will develop problem-solving skills and decision making skills, and learn rules of procedure. Furthermore, by the end of the year students will be able to run their own committees at our high school conference in order to be masters of rules and procedures that the United Nations use.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance Policy**

Students registered for this class are required to attend every scheduled class or activity and are allotted one (1) unexcused absence per semester. Students must attend all scheduled conferences unless stated otherwise. In the event of excused absences, please send an email before the beginning of class. Frequent absences will result in a deduction of points from student’s final grade. If work needs to be made up, please send an email to [mun@sbu.edu](mailto:mun@sbu.edu).

**Participation**

A large component of Model United Nations is participation in all class, conferences, or chairing responsibilities. Therefore, a portion of the student’s final grade will be based on how frequently he or she participates and the value of their contribution to debates.

**Quizzes**

There will be four (4) quizzes for the entire year. Each semester will have two quizzes, which consist of at least 15 questions and are graded according to the grading scale provided below. Questions will be taken from in class discussions as well as the textbook and assigned readings; therefore, it is important to study your notes and textbook carefully.

**Conferences and Scrimmages**

Throughout this academic year our class will participate in conferences and scrimmages and which you are required to participate in. Towards the end of Spring Semester, SBU Model United Nations will host a conference for regional high school students. This conference will provide the opportunity to turn theories into action. As a student in this course, you will act as chairs for the various committees of the UN.

**Conferences**

Throughout the year we will be going to several conferences. It is expected that all students will attend **The Lake Erie International Model United Nations Conference (LEIMUN) in Cleveland, OH from November 8th to the 11th** (and yes, we will be missing classes both Thursday and Friday – written excuses will be provided for students to have their professors sign before leaving the campus). We will also be attending at least one or two other conferences in the spring semester for students to attend. Further details will be provided once we get closer to potential conference dates.

**Scrimmages**

Throughout the year there will be various opportunities for students to visit Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA where students will be competing against other schools for awards. These scrimmages will be held on Saturdays throughout the semester (generally, we leave the University in the early morning and return in the early evening. These scrimmages are meant to help students practice for other conferences that will be held throughout the year. Students will be required to go to at least one per semester which will require students to attend two (2) scrimmages total for the year.

**How are conferences going to be graded?**

1. **Research Binder**
   1. For all major conferences that are not scrimmages or the high school conference, students will be required to put a one binder together that contains all pertinent information for their assigned country(ies) as well as their topic(s). **These will be quite useful for debate, and** **binders will be turned in at the beginning of class to be graded after each conference.**
2. **Position Paper**
   1. A position paper will be required to be written prior to any major conference for they are used to discuss pertinent information regarding a nation’s stance on issues that will be discussed in committee. They also include basic information such as geography, economy, political structure, a nation’s role within the United Nations, and so forth.

These are great for debates because students can use this information for opening speeches and in debate discussions. Additionally, it makes it easier to have a clear outline of each student’s position on each issue at hand, hence the name position paper. The paper should be three to four hundred words per topic. Also, make sure you proofread, cite your papers using the American Political science Association (APA) style (and no wiki is not a source), use page numbers, and please staple your papers.

**For scrimmages and major conferences:**

1. **Participation**
   1. Another portion of each student’s grade at conferences will be based on how well a students’ performance is in their committees which will be graded by Dr. Zabad who will be in and out of each committee to see how delegates are doing.
2. **Business Attire**
   1. At each conference it is mandatory that students are properly dressed in business attire. Therefore, make sure you have appropriate foot ware, skirt/ dress length, and enough coverage when it comes to dressing for each committee session.

**High School Conference (SBUMUNC)**

In order to provide students with a complete understanding of Model United Nations and the Robert’s rules of procedure, they are required to act as chairs as well as co-chairs. Students have to attend this event that will be held **Friday, March 15th to Saturday, March 16th, 2013** where over 300 high school students from the Western New York area and Northern Pennsylvania schools will be present. To prepare for this event students throughout the semesters will be creating topic guides and even a crisis that these students will be handling.

1. **Topic Guides for SBUMUNC**
   1. Students who will be participating as either Chair or Co-Chair for the high school conference will be working together to create topic guides for their assigned committee which will be graded. Topic guides are basically summaries that give background information on pertinent topics to particular committees. These topic guides can also be used to reveal certain countries’ positions on a matter or even the positions of a bloc of countries. All debate as well as resolutions for each committee will be based on these topic guides, so please choose topics wisely and give them some thought. Topic guides will have three topics per committee and must be at least three paragraphs a piece. They must also require a bibliography with helpful links for delegates to utilize for their own research. **The rough draft of these topic guides will be due November 27th, 2012 and final draft will be due December 4th, 2012.**
2. **Crises for SBUMUNC**
   1. Not only will students be required to write topic guides, but they will also be required to write an additional piece for their committees. The crisis is basically an additional topic that is unrelated to any of the other topics that are currently on the agenda. This gives a chance for delegates to think on their toes and makes for a great challenge that these high school students must complete within the duration of a small increment of time. These reports can come in all sorts of forms as a special news report from Secretariat members. **The final drafts of these crises will be due Tuesday, March 3rd, 2013 and again for those who want to submit rough drafts can do so by Tuesday, April 26, 2013.**

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be sanctioned and students caught cheating or plagiarizing. Students will face penalties, as prescribed by the University. For further information see the student handbook about academic dishonesty.

**Policy on Misconduct**

Any student who is caught with illicit drugs or alcohol en route to, from, or at conferences will not only receive a zero for that event, but will also face further judicial sanctions which include and are not limited to: being banned from other events, and the recommendation for possible suspension or expulsion at the discretion of Office for Judicial Affairs. Students are expected to follow not only the rules of the conference, but also local laws and ordinances.

**Grading**

Attendance- 300 pts

Participation- 300 pts

Quizzes- 300 pts

Scrimmages- 300 pts (150 pts per scrimmage)

Conferences- 400 pts

Attire- 75 pts

Binders- 140 pts

Position Papers-185 pts

High School Conference- 400 pts

Topic Guide-25o pts

Crisis- 100 pts

Additional Help- 50 pts

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**2,000 Possible points**

**Grading Scale**

A 93%

1. 90%

B+ 87%

B 83%

1. 80%

C+ 77%

C 73%

1. 70%

D 63%

F Below 60%

**Weekly Schedule & Important Dates**

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| --- | --- |
|  | **Fall 2012 Semester** |
| **8/28** | Introduction: Go over syllabus and discuss basic information regarding SBUMUN & how the UN functions |
| **9/3** | **Last day to add/drop** |
| **9/4** | Discuss Robert’s rules of parliamentary procedure and how they relate to Model UN; Choose potential debate topic and assign countries |
| **9/11** | Explain how to write working papers and draft resolutions |
| **9/18** | Start debate in class on topic of choice |
| **9/25** | Finish debate with working paper or resolution |
| **9/29** | Scrimmage at Mercyhurst (we will be back between 5:0o & 6:00) |
| **10/2** | **Quiz #1**; Discuss LEIMUN: have students choose committees and discuss details of conference; Talk about Historical/ Present day Security Council and NATO overview |
| **10/6-10/9** | **Midterm Break** |
| **10/16** | Announce countries and committees; Explain how to write a position paper; Discuss the European Council and European Union (EU), how it’s run, and current functions |
| **10/20** | Scrimmage at Mercyhurst (we will be back between 5:0o & 6:00) |
| **10/23** | Check to see how research is going; Discuss Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) |
| **10/24** | **United Nations Day** |
| **10/30** | **Quiz #2**; **position paper rough draft due;** Talk about Millennium Development Goals and International Organization for Migration (IOM) |
| **11/6** | **Position papers due**; Discuss LEIMUN’s dos and don’ts as well as any last questions regarding the conference |
| **11/8-11/11** | **LEIMUN Conference in Cleveland, Ohio** |
| **11/13** | LEIMUN Recap; Explain what are topic guides and how to write one. |
| **11/20** | **NO CLASS ☺** |
| **11/21-11/25** | **Thanksgiving Recess** |
| **11/27** | **Rough Draft of Topic Guides due;** Talk about the World Economy; Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) |
| **12/4** | **Topic Guides due**; World Health Organization |
|  | **Spring 2013 Semester** |
| **1/15** | **First day back to class**; recap; Discuss the conflicts in Israel and Palestine |
| **1/21** | **Last day for add/drop** |
| **1/22** | Religion and the United Nations; Catholic and Social Teaching |
| **1/29** | Non-Governmental Organization |
| **2/5** | Human rights; Rights of Women |
| **2/12** | Immigration and the rights of migrants; Refugees |
| **2/19** | Discuss what and how to write a crisis. |
| **2/26** | **Rough Draft of Crisis Due**; Nuclear Disarmament |
| **2/23-3/3** | **Mid-term Break** |
| **3/5** | **Final Draft of Crisis Due;** How to chair |
| **3/12** | **Quiz #3;** Talk about SBUMUN conference dos and don’ts, ask for volunteers to patrol hotels, and answer any last minute questions |
| **3/15-3/16** | **SBUMUN High School Conference** |
| **3/19** | Discuss and evaluate SBUMUN High School Conference 2013 as well as what can be changed for SBUMUN 2014 |
| **3/26** | **NO CLASS ☺** |
| **3/28-4/1** | **Easter/ Spring Break** |
| **4/2** | Peace Operation |
| **4/9** | The Holy See mission to the United Nations and the Path for Peace Foundation |
| **4/16** | **Quiz #4;** Nominations announced for upcoming Secretariat members; Climate Change |
| **4/22** | **Earth Day** |
| **4/23** | Secretariat Elections and course evaluations; UN Reform |
| **4/30** | **Last Day of class**; Secretariat Meeting |

**Disclaimer**

The above syllabus is not a contract and is subject to change with advance notice. The instructor will make every attempt to accomplish all above tasks, however, current world events may prompt us to add or remove content.