

**San José State University**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**Pols 152b: Model United Nations**  
**Spring 2017**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Danijela Dudley
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 3-4pm, and by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday and Wednesday 12:00-1:15pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	HGH 116
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Pols 152a or consent of instructor

**Course Description**

Model UN is a class that provides an academic learning experience through the simulation of the structures, processes, and issues of the member nations of the United Nations Organization. The class offers students a unique opportunity to learn about international relations while role-playing United Nations delegates.

The Model UN course is designed to acquaint students with the operations of the United Nations through the study of political positions of member nations. Additionally, students should achieve a level of understanding in the use of simulation activities as a means for teaching and learning about the political perspectives of different nationalities on contemporary world issues.

This semester, students will participate in the Model UN-Far West conference in San Francisco April 21-25. This year's theme is "Old Threats, New Threats: Global and Human Security in 2017" and San Jose State University will be representing China, the Netherlands, Venezuela, and Saudi Arabia.

**Required Readings**

*Issues Before the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of MUNFW*, available at <http://munfw.org/issues/>

Conference preparation documents, including *Conference Preparation Guide*, *Guide to Committees*, *Rules of Order*, and *Tips for Effective Resolutions*, available at <http://munfw.org/preparation/>

In addition, students must understand the workings of the United Nations and know the country they represent and its policy positions on various issues before the United Nations. For these consult the United Nations website at <http://www.un.org/en/>, <http://www.un.org/en/members/index.shtml>, as well as reputable news sources such as The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, and similar.

## **Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PSPLO)**

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

**PSPLO 1 Breadth:** Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

**PSPLO 2 Application:** Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

**PSPLO 3 Disciplinary methods:** Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

**PSPLO 4 Communication Skills:** Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics, public administration, public policy, and law.

**PSPLO 5 Citizenship:** Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

## **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

**CLO 1:** Define the structures and general procedures of the United Nations.

**CLO 2:** Understand and competently use the rules of procedure, diplomatic protocol, and negotiating techniques common to UN delegates.

**CLO 3:** Demonstrate knowledge of important historical issues affecting the UN and evaluate the organization's effectiveness.

**CLO 4:** Analyze issues currently before the United Nations from the selected member country's perspective, and articulate the foreign policy of the selected country.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

## **Model United Nations of the Far West Conference**

The theme of this year's conference is "Old Threats, New Threats: Global and Human Security in 2017." The 67th Session of MUNFW will convene in San Francisco on Friday, April 21, 2017. Registration begins at 2:00pm. The closing session will take place on Tuesday morning April 25, 2017.

## SJSU Countries and Committees

	GA	1st	UNEP	WHO	CSTD	UNHCR	SC
China	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netherlands	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Venezuela	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Saudi Arabia	✓	✓	✓	✓			

### Grading: CREDIT/NO CREDIT

To receive credit, students must attend class meetings and participate in assigned class activities, **participate** (regularly and on time) in the 5-day conference in San Francisco, complete **on time** and pass **all required assignments** and quizzes and display **appropriate decorum and behavior** during conference. Failure to submit on time even one of the required documents to the MUN or missing any days of the conference will automatically translate into No Credit in class!

### Country Profile

Each **delegation is required to submit one profile of the country** it will be representing at the conference (one profile per country). This profile should be in narrative form, not a listing of facts. The delegation should work together as a group on this project and it should reflect the delegation's knowledge of the country and its ability to communicate that knowledge clearly and concisely.

### Policy Statements

Each delegation is required to submit **one policy statement for each issue on the agenda for each committee** the country has a seat on. Each policy statement will be a 1-page document (single spaced) outlining a historical overview of the issue from your country's perspective, any action the UN has previously taken, any contemporary aspects of the issue and how your country is involved or affected by it, and the country's official policy on the issue and proposed solutions.

### Draft Resolution

Each delegation is required to submit **one draft resolution for each committee** the country has a seat on (one resolution per committee). A resolution is a statement of intent by the assembled body and a list of actions the body is calling for or recommending. As such, the resolution should be a complete thought and take matters to their conclusion.

### In-class Speeches and Mock Sessions

In order to prepare for the conference, each student is required to give at least one general and one substantive debate speech in class and participate all mock sessions that will be held before the conference.

### Quizzes

As early preparation for the MUN proceedings and country positions is essential to your success at the conference, I may administer quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will test your knowledge of your assigned countries, rules of procedure, the process of negotiating, and committee structures and roles. Passing the quizzes is **necessary to receive CREDIT** in class.

## Reflections paper

Each student will write a 4-5 page reflection paper on the conference experience. The paper will be due one week after the conference and will assess your experience as a member of the United Nations and as a delegate of your selected country. In addition, the paper should evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations in managing global affairs.

**Assignment tentative dates. Some dates subject to change with fair notice but final conference submission deadlines cannot be changed!**

Assignment	Date
Country Profile Draft	February 15
Country Profile Submission to MUN	March 10
Policy Papers Draft	February 20
Policy Papers Submission to MUN	March 10
Resolution Draft	March 1
Resolution Submission to MUN	March 17
Quizzes	Throughout the semester
Conference	April 21-25
Reflections Paper	May 1

## Late Work

**Absolutely no late work will be accepted.** Countries that submit late pre-conference documents may be excluded by the MUNFW from participating in the conference. For this reason, it is essential that all assignments be completed and submitted on time.

## Use of Electronic Devices

Please **turn off cell phones** before entering the classroom. **Computer use is only allowed on group-work days.** While technology can be very useful in our daily lives it can also cause unnecessary distraction during class both to those using it and to those around them. Thus, bring a pen and a notebook for taking notes. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for medical reasons.

## Classroom Courtesy

The purpose of discussion in this course is to provide a forum in which students can safely and supportively ask questions, present and debate their ideas, receive and interpret new information and perspectives, and develop and clarify their thinking. While you will likely be passionate about some issues discussed in class, it is essential to be **respectful** to others and their opinions. Offensive remarks or attacks of personal nature will not be tolerated! Please **come to class on time and stay for the entire period.**

## Attendance

Attendance is essential for your success in this course and successful participation at the conference. In addition to affecting your level of preparation, your attendance (or lack of thereof) will affect your entire delegation since you must work as a team to prepare your country's profile and foreign policy position.

## University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

## Political Science Departmental Writing Policy

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks and a specific reference to the page in the source from which it was taken. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at the library website at [http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info\\_comp/citing.htm](http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm). For assistance with writing, please see me or visit the Writing Center located in Clark Hall 126 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>).

## The Fine Print

Information in this syllabus can be changed with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via announcements through Canvas (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>).

**It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.**

POLS 152B Course Schedule – Spring 2017 Subject to change with fair notice		
Week/Date	Topic	Assignment
WEEK 1 January 30- February 1	Introduction, Course overview Purpose and Structure of the UN Committees and issues on the agenda	Read course syllabus Review the purpose and organization of the UN at <a href="http://www.un.org/en/">http://www.un.org/en/</a> Review committee structure and roles at <a href="http://www.un.org/en/">http://www.un.org/en/</a> and Issues Before the 67 <sup>th</sup> session at <a href="http://munfw.org/issues/">http://munfw.org/issues/</a>
WEEK 2 February 6-8	Writing country profiles, policy statements, and resolutions	Read Conference Preparation Guide (pp. 4-19) at <a href="http://munfw.org/preparation/">http://munfw.org/preparation/</a> Research your country and issues
WEEK 3 February 13-15	Work on country profiles & policy statements	<b>Country Profile Draft Due February 15</b>
WEEK 4 February 20-22	Review country profiles and policy statements Work on Draft Resolutions	Read Tips for Effective Resolutions at <a href="http://munfw.org/preparation/">http://munfw.org/preparation/</a> <b>Policy Papers Draft Due February 20</b>

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<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
WEEK 5 February 27- March 1	Debate process	Read Guide to Committees <a href="http://munfw.org/preparation/">http://munfw.org/preparation/</a> <b>Resolution Draft Due March 1</b>
WEEK 6 March 6-8	Review of Draft Resolutions Rules or Procedure	Read Rules of Order, Short Rules, and/or Security Council Rules at <a href="http://munfw.org/preparation/">http://munfw.org/preparation/</a>
<b>March 9</b>	<b>Final drafts of country profiles and policy papers due to me March 9 by 6pm</b> <b>Policy papers and country profiles due to MUNFW March 10</b>	
WEEK 7 March 13-15	Countries in your committee: friends/enemies	Research other countries in your committee and their positions on issues on the agenda
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Final drafts of resolutions due to me March 16 by 6pm</b> <b>Resolutions due to MUNFW March 17</b>	
WEEK 8 March 20-22	General and Substantive Debate Speeches	Prepare one general debate 3-minute speech and one substantive debate 3-minute speech
March 27-29	Spring Recess, no class	
WEEK 9 April 3-5	Drafting Resolutions during the conference	Mock MUN Sessions
Week 10 April 10-12	Practicing debates	Mock MUN Sessions
WEEK 11 April 17-19	Final Conference Preparation	Mock MUN Sessions
<b>April 21-25</b>	<b>Conference in San Francisco. Conference and hotel registration April 21 at 2pm.</b>	
Week 12 April 26	Conference reflections	
WEEKS 13-15 May 1-3	TBA	<b>Reflections Paper Due May 1</b>