

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

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Danijela Dudley
Office Location:	Clark Hall 404F
Telephone:	408-924-5573 (during office hours only)
Email:	danijela.dudley@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday 3:00-4:15pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday 1:30-2:45pm
Classroom:	Clark 303A
Prerequisites:	Pols 152a or consent of instructor

Course Description

From the university catalog: Structure and operations of the United Nations explored and analyzed through participation in annual U.N. simulation.

Model UN is a class that provides an academic learning experience through the simulation of the structures, processes, and issues of the United Nations organization. The class offers students a unique opportunity to learn about international relations while role-playing United Nations delegates. The course is designed to acquaint students with the operations of the United Nations through the study of political positions of member states. Additionally, students should achieve a level of understanding in the use of simulation activities as a means for teaching and learning about political perspectives of different nationalities on contemporary world issues.

This semester, students will participate in the Model UN-Far West conference in Burlingame April 17-21. This year's theme is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Leave No One Behind" and San Jose State University will be representing Egypt, Syria, and Ukraine.

Required Readings

Issues Before the 70th Session of MUNFW, available at <http://munfw.org/issues/>. These are policy guides provided by the conference that explain the issues each committee will be discussing and previous UN efforts at addressing the 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/>

Students will also be required to read treaties, resolutions, and conference conclusions relevant to policies discussed in their committee. For example, if you have a seat on the UN Environment Assembly, you will be required to read treaties and resolutions passed within the UN system addressing issues of environmental protection, climate change, and similar. Also, you will read

reports published by UNEA, the International Panel on Climate Change, and similar. Partial lists of relevant documents are available in policy guides provided by the conference for each committee. Since each student will have different responsibilities (different countries, committees, and agendas), each student will complete different readings.

Finally, students must understand the workings of the UN and know the country they represent and its policy positions on various issues before the UN. For these, you will consult the UN website at <http://www.un.org/en/>, <http://www.un.org/en/members/index.shtml>, your country's government website, and 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 and Disciplinary Methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO 3 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 and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

PSPLO 4 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. Assessed by resolutions, mock sessions, conference participation, and post-conference reflections paper.

CLO 2: Understand and competently use the rules of procedure, diplomatic protocol, and negotiating techniques common to UN delegates. Assessed by in-class quizzes, conference participation, and reflections paper.

CLO 3: Demonstrate knowledge of important historical issues affecting the UN and evaluate the organization's effectiveness. Assessed by policy papers, in-class quizzes, conference participation, and post-conference committee briefs and reflection paper.

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. Assessed by pre-conference documents, quizzes, conference participation, and committee briefs.

Course Workload Expectations: Succeeding in a Four-Unit Course

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy University policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)

Model United Nations of the Far West Conference

The theme of this year's conference is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Leave No One Behind." The 70th Session of MUNFW will convene in San Francisco on Friday, April 17, 2020. Registration begins at 2:00pm. The closing session will take place on Tuesday morning April 21, 2020.

SJSU Countries and Committees

	General Assembly	Economic & Financial Committee	Economic & Social Council	UN Environment Assembly	World Health Organization
Egypt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Syria	✓	✓		✓	✓
Ukraine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Assignments:

Country Profile (Pre-Conference Documents)

Each delegation is required to submit **one profile** of the country it will be representing at the conference. This profile should be 4-5 single-spaced pages, written 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 (Pre-Conference Documents)

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 single-spaced document outlining 1) a historical overview of the issue from your country's perspective, 2) any action the UN

has previously taken on the issue, any contemporary aspects of the issue and how your country is involved or affected by it, and 3) the country's official policy on the issue and proposed solutions. While most committees have 3 issues on the agenda, **delegations are required to submit policy statements even for committees for which they don't have a representative.**

Draft Resolution (Pre-Conference Documents)

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. Delegations are required to submit draft resolutions even for committees for which they don't have a representative. There is no page limit for resolutions, but draft resolutions are generally 1-3 pages long.

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 in 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, there will be approximately 2-3 quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will test your knowledge of your assigned countries and their positions, the issues discussed in your committees, the rules of procedure, the process of negotiating, and committee structures and roles. Quizzes will be announced a week in advance.

Post-Conference Committee Reports

After the conference, you will write a 6-page report on issues discussed in your committee (2 pages per agenda issue). Combining your pre-conference research, arguments and evidence presented at the conference, and outcomes of conference proceedings, you will explain the issue and its significance, proposed solutions, practical implications of conference deliberations for the issues in question, and evaluate the likelihood of a successful resolution of the issues at the UN level.

Reflections paper

Each student will write a 5-6 page reflections paper on the conference experience. The paper 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. Additional guidelines will be provided later in the semester.

Conference Participation

University Policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) states "Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment." The culminating activity in this course is participation in the Model United Nations conference in Burlingame, California. **Students are required to attend all 35 hours of committee meetings at the conference in order to pass the class.**

Important note on assignments and deadlines:

Each delegation is required to submit all pre-conference documents for each committee the country has a seat on. **Even if a delegation does not have enough students to sit in each committee, the delegation is still required to submit documents for each committee.** As a result, students might be required to write additional policy statements and resolutions, depending on the size of their delegation. In addition, **all documents must be submitted on time.** According to the rules of MUNFW conference, if any of pre-conference documents are not submitted on time, the entire delegation is automatically excluded from consideration for awards, and in some cases the entire delegation may be excluded from participation in the conference.

Grading information: CREDIT/NO CREDIT

Grading for this course works on a credit/no credit basis. In order to receive a “credit” grade, the required components of the course must be completed at a “C” level or higher (73%). **In addition to receiving C or better on all assignments, in order to receive a “credit” grade in this course, students must participate (regularly and on time) in all 35 hours of committee meetings during the 5-day conference in Burlingame, display appropriate decorum and behavior during the conference, and must submit on time with a grade of C or better all required pre-conference documents. Failure to submit on time even one of the required pre-conference documents to the MUN conference or missing any days of the conference will automatically translate into a No Credit grade in class.**

Assignment tentative dates. Some dates subject to change with fair notice but deadlines for final drafts of pre-conference documents cannot be changed!

Assignment	Date	% of Course Grade	CLOs
Country Profile 1 st Draft	Feb 10	5	4
Country Profile 2 nd Draft	Feb 24	5	4
Country Profile FINAL	Mar 6	10* (Credit/No Credit)	4
Policy Papers 1 st Draft	Feb 10 & 17	5	3 & 4
Policy Papers 2 nd Draft	Feb 24	10	3 & 4
Policy Papers FINAL	Mar 6	10* (Credit/No Credit)	3 & 4
Resolution 1 st Draft	Feb 26	5	1 & 4
Resolution 2 nd Draft	Mar 4	10	1 & 4
Resolution FINAL	Mar 13	10* (Credit/No Credit)	1 & 4
Quizzes	TBA	10	2-4
Speeches and Mock Sessions	Mar 16-Apr 15	10	1 & 4
Conference	Apr 17-21	Credit/No Credit**	1-4
Committee Reports	May 4	5	3-4
Reflections Paper	May 11	5	1-3

*** Important note on FINAL Drafts of pre-conference documents: each FINAL draft must score at least C or better for you to receive credit for the assignment. A No Credit grade on any of these assignments will translate into an automatic No Credit grade in the course.**

**** Important note on Conference attendance/participation: conference attendance is graded on a credit/no credit basis. Students must participate (regularly and on time) in all 35 hours of committee meetings during the 5-day conference and display appropriate decorum and behavior during the conference to receive credit. A No Credit grade on conference attendance will translate into an automatic No Credit grade in the course.**

Late Work

Due to the above explained policy of the MUNFW conference, final drafts of pre-conference documents will NOT be accepted late under any circumstances. As entire delegations that submit late pre-conference documents may be excluded by the MUNFW from participating in the conference, **late submission of any FINAL drafts of pre-conference documents will automatically translate into a “no credit” grade in class.** For all other assignments, late submissions will be penalized 20% for each 24-hour period for the first 3 days. After 3 days, the assignment will receive 0.

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. This applies both to in-class and conference decorum.

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 positions. As a result of the nature of the class and the importance of group work for your overall conference experience and success, regular class attendance is required. In addition, regular and timely attendance of all conference meetings is required.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>. Make sure to review these policies and resources.

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 <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/writeandcite>. For assistance with writing, please see me or visit the Writing Center located in Clark Hall 126 (<https://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 (<https://sjsu.instructure.com/>). It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.

Note on the assigned readings: this is a schedule of readings and assignment that applies to all students. Individual responsibilities and reading lists will be discussed with each student separately.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES: all assignments are due online BY NOON on the day they are assigned

POLS 152B Spring 2020 Course Schedule Subject to change with fair notice	
Week/Date	Topics & Assignments
Week 1 Jan 27-29	Introduction & course overview Committees & issues on the agenda Read course syllabus Review the purpose and organization of the UN at http://www.un.org/en/ Review committee structure and roles at http://www.un.org/en/ Read Issues Before the 70 th session at http://munfw.org/issues/
Week 2 Feb 3-5	Writing country profiles, policy statements, and resolutions Read Conference Preparation Guide (pp. 4-19) at http://munfw.org/preparation/ Research your country and committee issues

POLS 152B Spring 2020 Course Schedule (continued)
Subject to change with fair notice

Week/Date	Topics & Assignments
Week 3 Feb 10-12	Review/revise country profiles & policy statements First draft of Country profile due February 10 First draft of Policy paper #1 due February 10
Week 4 Feb 17-19	Work on draft resolutions Read Tips for Effective Resolutions at http://munfw.org/preparation/ First draft of Policy papers #2 and #3 due February 17
Week 5 Feb 24-26	Debate process; Review/revise resolutions Read Guide to Committees http://munfw.org/preparation/ Second draft of Country profile due February 24 Second draft of Policy papers (all three) due February 24 First draft of Resolution due February 26
Week 6 Mar 2-4	Rules or Procedure Read Rules of Order, Short Rules, and/or Security Council Rules at http://munfw.org/preparation/ Second draft of Resolution due March 4
Final drafts of country profiles and policy papers due Friday March 6 by noon	
Week 7 Mar 9-11	Countries in your committee: friends/enemies Research other countries in your committee and their policy positions
Final drafts of resolutions due Friday March 13 by noon	
Week 8 Mar 16-18	Structure & purpose of general debates General debate speeches

POLS 152B Spring 2020 Course Schedule (continued)
Subject to change with fair notice

Week/Date	Topics & Assignments
Week 9 Mar 23-25	Structure & purpose of substantive debates Substantive debate speeches
Mar 30-Apr 3	Spring Recess
Week 10 Apr 6-8	Debating & drafting resolutions during the conference Mock MUN Sessions
Week 11 Apr 13-15	Final Conference Preparation Mock MUN Sessions
MUNFW Conference in Burlingame, California April 17-21	
Week 12 & 13 Apr 22-29	Conference reflections
Week 14 May 4-6	Committee reports due May 4
Week 15 May 11	Reflections paper due May 11