

INTA 4813/8813: Model United Nations

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

FALL 2015

TR 4:35– 5:55 PM, Instructional Center 113

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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.

- Hodgkin, 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: 25%
- GTMUN HS Conference: 25%
- Exam: 15%
- Position Paper: 20%
- Video: 15%

Exam (30%)

There will be one exam during the semester. The exam will cover all of the material prior to the date of the exam. The exam will consist of a series of short answer, matching and identification questions. **The exam is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, during class.**

Position Paper (10% each)

Students will write two position papers in preparation for simulations. These papers will be on the assigned topics that will be determined the week of August 31st.

Video (15%)

Students will either produce as a class or in groups a video explaining rules of procedure for use in the future by the GTMUN program. The video will explain rules of procedure and appropriate behavior during committee. Full instructions will be provided before production is to begin.

Attendance and Participation (25%)

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 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.

GTMUN HS Conference (25%)

The main GTMUN focus of the Fall semester is our HS Conference. All students are expected to participate in an active role in the conference. Participation will be graded on attitude, duty fulfillment, professional demeanor and overall performance.

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: August 17-21 : Introduction, MUN @ Tech, The United Nations

- Handbook, chapter 1 – 3
- Application due Friday

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: August 24-28: 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: August 31-September 4: How to Run a Committee, Draft Resolutions and Voting

- Handbook, chapter 6-9

How do I display effective leadership in committee?

How do I chair and conduct a committee?

How does voting work in model UN?

How do I create a concise Draft Resolution in committee?

Week Four: September 7-11: Simulation Prep/Exam

- T: Exam
- Th: Prep for Simulation

Week Five: September 14-18: Simulation

- T: Position Paper Due

Week Six: September 21-25: Simulation

- Prep Weekend for HS Conference: 9/26-27

Week Seven: September 28 – October 2: Simulation

Week Eight: October 5-9: Prep for HS Conference

Week Nine: October 12-16: HS Conference

- Mon and Tues: HS Conference
- No Class Th

Week Ten: October 19-23: Crisis Prep and Simulation

- Th: Crisis Paper Due

Week Eleven: October 26-30: Crisis Simulation

Week Twelve: November 2-6: Crisis and Duke Prep

- Duke International Security Conf 11/6-8

Week Thirteen: November 9-13: Duke Recap

- No Class Th

Week Fourteen: November 16-20: SRMUN Prep/Conf

- No Class Th

Week Fifteen: November 23-27: Video Production

- No Class Th (Thanksgiving)

Week Sixteen: November 30-December 4: Video Production