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## **MODEL UNITED NATIONS OF THE FAR WEST, INC.**

### **Sample Course Syllabus (Semester and Quarter Systems)**

The following document contains an example of a class syllabus for a college-level Model United Nations course, developed by conference faculty advisors. Faculty who are interested in textbooks recommendations or other course materials not listed in the sample syllabus may reach out to [faculty@munfw.org](mailto:faculty@munfw.org) for information regarding sources used by conference faculty in their own college courses.

This sample syllabus has been developed for easy application in either a semester or quarter system by faculty who teach in-person classes in each of these two term formats. For information and best practices related to other term systems and course modalities, contact [faculty@munfw.org](mailto:faculty@munfw.org).

## **POL170 Model United Nations Syllabus (Spring)**

Meeting: Wednesdays 2-3:15PM– Social Sciences Bldg.; Classroom 5  
Instructor: Prof. Dag Hammarskjöld  
Office: Social Sciences Bldg.; Room 110  
Office Phone: (555) 123-4567  
Email: dag.hammar skjold@muniversity.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 1-3PM or by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course will provide introduce you to the United Nations and the role it plays in the modern world. It will also prepare you to participate in a collegiate Model United Nations conference. Your experience at this conference will help you develop skills that will help your success in future endeavors, including being able to write clearly and concisely, conduct detailed research, speak persuasively in public, and build consensus between differing views.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Demonstrate research, negotiation, public speaking and interpersonal communication skills.
2. Compose draft resolutions for a Model United Nation conference.
3. Explain the policies and national interests of a United Nations member state

### **Required Texts**

- Preston, Bill, S., Esq. 2019. *An Excellent Guide to the United Nations*. San Dimas College Press.
- MUNFW Conference Preparation Guide (available for free on [www.munfw.org/preparation](http://www.munfw.org/preparation))
- MUNFW Rules of Procedure (available for free on [www.munfw.org/preparation](http://www.munfw.org/preparation))
- MUNFW Committee Issues Book (available for free on [www.munfw.org/committees](http://www.munfw.org/committees))

### **Additional Resources**

- UN Internet Resources :
  - The UN Website (<http://www.un.org>)
  - Dag Hammarskjöld Library Online (<https://library.un.org>)
  - UN Document Source (<http://unbisnet.un.org>)
- UN Foundation blog – weekly posts, review for current events (<https://unfoundation.org/blog>)

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Attendance and Participation**

This course relies on active participation in the discussions and simulations at the weekly class meetings. This means speaking frequently and showing through your behavior a desire to learn the material and conference procedures. You will receive points for participating in the class exercises and simulations. You can't participate if you aren't here, so be sure to come to each class. The class will also attend a Model United Nations conference in April, participation at the conference is required for all students.

#### **Class Exercises**

In addition to participating in class discussions, students will be required to give two speeches to the class. These speeches will be on two topics of your choice from the conference agenda (they must be agenda items for the committee you are assigned to). The speeches are worth 50 points each for a total of 100

points. This is an opportunity for you to hear feedback and advice from your fellow classmates and myself and to develop as a public speaker prior to conference, where you will put these skills into practice.

### **Class Presentation**

The text is introductory in nature. This assignment is an opportunity to explore one chapter in depth and share your insights with the class. You will sign up for the chapter of your choice, then select one agreement, agency, or historical episode mentioned in that chapter to research further. You will then give a 5-10 minute presentation to the class on that topic. The presentation is due the first day that chapter is discussed, you will be introducing the topic to the class. You are encouraged to use audio and/or visual elements in your presentation, which is worth 25 points.

### **Assignments**

To obtain credentials to attend the conference, each country team must submit a draft resolution, country profile and a policy statement for each agenda item being discussed in the conference committees. This means that each team member must submit three policy statements and a draft resolution as well as contribute to a group project developing your team's country profile. These will be worth 100 points each. You will turn in drafts well before the end of the term and have lots of opportunity to revise and resubmit them before the end of the term. Students assigned to the General Assembly will only have to submit two policy statements to the conference to obtain credentials. As a result, GA delegates will turn in a third policy statement on a topic of their choice for the purposes of the class.

### **Final Essay**

At the end of the term, you will submit the final drafts of your policy statements. You will also will write a short essay reflecting on your experience. This should be an academic assessment, not a personal essay. It should be three to five pages, double-spaced, and answer the following questions: What did you learn about the United Nations that you did not know before this class? What was the most important thing you learned from this experience, including the preparation stage. This essay is worth 100 points.

### **Points Summary**

Topic Presentation	50 pts
In Class Speeches (2 @ 50 pts)	100 pts
Policy Statements (3 @ 100 pts)	300 pts
Resolution	100 pts
Country Profile Group Project	100 pts
Reflective Essay	<u>100 pts</u>
Total	750 pts