Instructor:

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Office hours: M 1:00-2:00; T/Th 11:00-12:00; By appt.

Class description:

This class is designed for students participating in TCU’s Model United Nations program. It will examine the historical foundations of the United Nations, the structure of the UN, contemporary issues facing the global community, and the nature of representation in the United Nations. The class will have a heavy emphasis on research on both an individual and group basis in addition to clear and succinct writing.

Every week will begin with a discussion of current events, and then proceed to a lecture / discussion of that week’s topic. Some weeks, we will have student led discussions of topics; others will be led primarily by the professor. As this is a 2 ½ hour class, it will get rather boring unless you actively participate.

To qualify for the New York Model UN Team, students must make a grade of B or higher!

Class objectives:

1) To develop an understanding of the United Nations’ historical and current role in the international political system.

2) To examine the UN structure in detail, and to understand the roles of the various UN bodies.

3) To understand the causes and nature of major questions in the international system (e.g., economic development, conflict, the environment, human rights).

4) To examine global questions from the perspectives of other nations.

5) To study the policies of other nations and groups of nations to better understand the process of policy making at the United Nations.

6) To prepare students for participation in a Model United Nations conference.

Class texts:

One book is available for purchase at the bookstore. It is:


You should also already have purchased Linda Fasulo’s An Insider’s Guide to the United Nations. We will have some readings out of that book later in the semester. Some sites are sold out of it; it should still be available here: http://yalepress.yale.edu/yupbooks/book.asp?isbn=0300107625.

Additional readings will be made available on Ecollege.

Finally, students are expected to stay abreast of current events, particularly international events. I highly encourage you to read the UN News website daily.

Attendance policy:

As this class only meets once a week, attendance is of paramount importance. Students should contact the professor about each absence to class. After two unexcused absences, students may be removed from the Model UN team and will receive no higher than a “B” for the class.
**Grading:**

Students will have three two-page, double-spaced, papers for this class and one five-page paper. These papers serve as the primary basis for students’ grades. In addition to the papers, students must also complete one in-class assignment and a mid-term exam.

- Two-page papers: 45%
- Final five-page paper: 20%
- Mid-Term: 25%
- Presentations / daily grades: 10%

The due dates for your two page papers are in the syllabus below. You will be given an open-ended prompt that will require you to do a small amount of independent research. All papers (including the final paper) will be turned in using the drop box function on the TCU Global homepage.

Students will have one major and two minor presentations during the semester, and will have occasional reading quizzes that will count toward 10% of the grade (students should expect 3 reading quizzes).

Grades are determined on a 100 point scale as follows:

- A: 89.5* and above
- B: 79.5-89.4
- C: 69.5-79.4
- D: 59.5-69.4
- F: 59.4 and below

*Grades of 89.45 and above will be rounded to an A, 79.45 to a B, and so on.

**Statement on Disability Services at TCU:**

Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Eligible students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities in the Center for Academic Services located in Sadler Hall, 11. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at (817) 257-7486.

**Academic Integrity:**

(Sec. 3.4 from the Student Handbook). Any act that violates the academic integrity of the institution is considered academic misconduct. The procedures used to resolve suspected acts of academic misconduct are available in the offices of Academic Deans and the Office of Campus Life. Specific examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** Copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files and listings; Using, during any academic exercise, material and/or devices not authorized by the person in charge of the test; Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or laboratory without permission; Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in its entirety or in part, the contents of a test or other assignment unauthorized for release; Substituting for another student or permitting another student to substitute for oneself;

- **Plagiarism:** The appropriation, theft, purchase or obtaining by any means another’s work, and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of that work as one’s own offered for credit. Appropriation includes the quoting or paraphrasing of another’s work without giving credit therefore.

- **Collusion:** The unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work offered for credit.

**Class Schedule**

**August 22:** Introduction to the Course Syllabus and Model UN

**August 29:** International Organizations: What purpose do they serve?

**Readings:** Moore Introduction

**Objective:** To consider theoretically the role that the United Nations and other international organizations fill in the international system.
September 5: The History and Development of the UN System

**Readings:** Moore Chapters One and Two

**Objectives:** To identify the factors that led to the creation of the UN System and to examine the growth of the UN system since its inception.

**Assign Topics for UN Reform presentations**

September 12: The UN Charter & International Law

**Readings:** Moore pgs. 77-92

**Objectives:** To be able to explain the basic sources of international law, the role of international treaties, and the major elements of the UN Charter.

September 19: UN Reform

**Readings:** Moore pgs. 92-117

http://www.reformtheun.org
http://www.un.org/reform/

**Objectives:** To be able to analyze the current arguments in favor of UN reform and progress that has been made toward reform.

**Student Presentations: reforming the UN**

**Paper One Due (Based on UN Reform)**

September 26: UN Institutions

**Readings:** Moore Chapter 4

**Objectives:** To be able to identify the main UN bodies and affiliated institutions and their primary purposes.

October 3: International Peace and Security

**Readings:** Moore Chapter 5


Suzanne Werner and Amy Yuen, “Making and Keeping Peace”


**Objectives:** To further clarify the role of the main UN bodies in regards to the maintenance of international peace and security, to explain the purpose of arms control, and to analyze active UN efforts to achieve security.

October 10: UN Peacekeeping

**Readings:** Moore Chapter 6

Gwinyayi Albert Dzinesa, “A Comparative Perspective of UN Peacekeeping in Angola and Namibia”

**Objectives:** To trace the evolution of UN peacekeeping efforts and to analyze the general effectiveness of UN peacekeeping.

**Paper Two Due (Discussing the efficacy of UN efforts to maintain international peace and security)**

October 17: Human Rights & Democracy
Readings: Moore Chapter 7

Objectives: To discuss and debate the evolution of human rights law and the role of the United Nations in promoting human rights and democracy.

October 24: The Economy and the Environment / Exam Review

Readings: Moore Chapter 8 & Epilogue
2007 MDG Development Report

Objectives: To examine the role of the UN system in promoting economic development and to understand current efforts to address global environmental concerns.

October 31: Diplomacy at the UN

Readings: Linda Fasulo, “An Insider’s Guide to the UN,” chapters 3, 4, 7, 9, 16 & 17 (they’re short!)

Paper Three Due (How effective is the UN?)

November 7: Exam!

November 14: Introduction to our country assignment / committee assignments

Readings: CountryWatch website review of our assigned country

November 27: Student presentations on your committees / topics

December 5: Student presentations on your committees / topics

Final paper due