

# **Political Science (POLS) 3365 (27796), Political Simulations: Model UN**

**Spring 2017  
Benedict Hall 205  
M, W: 3:00- 4:20**

## **Dr. Charles Boehmer**

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**Office Hours:**  
2:00-3:00 (Mondays and Wednesdays)  
and by appointment

### **Course Website:**

Note that this course uses Blackboard (through the MY UTEP portal and the UTEP homepage) and will be used weekly to post vital information about the course schedule and content

### **Catalog Course Description**

Helps students participate in political simulations, such as the OAS, UN, Congress, and others. Preparation includes learning the structure and procedures of the organization or institution, understanding the objectives of relevant actors, creating proposals to address policy issues, honing verbal argumentation skills, and mastering parliamentary procedure.

Classification Restrictions:

Restricted to class of JR, SO, SR

Prerequisite(s): (POLS 2310 w/C or better) AND (POLS 2311 w/C or better) AND (POLS 3500 w/C or better) OR (PREQ ERROR)

### **Course Overview and Goals**

This course will focus on the United Nations and will include a model UN simulation. Content will include coverage of the structure of the UN and analysis of its mission and efficacy. This course also includes discussions of careers in international relations, such as the Peace Corps and US Department of State, or similar organizations. For students unable to travel to the model UN simulation, it will include a research paper on the

United Nations. After the completion of this course, students should have the following skills or knowledge:

- Have an understanding of the structure of the United Nations
- Have an understanding of the various issue areas that are part of the United Nations mission
- Have a basic ability to think analytically about the United Nations and its efficacy as related to its programs and mission
- Learn the rudiments of Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure
- Have some ability to think analytically and play a role in a political simulation/situation
- Have the ability to present formally a description and analysis of a topic, in this case UN agencies and their efficacy

### **Requirements and Evaluation of Performance**

This course is premised on the idea that students will attend the Model UN simulation sponsored by New York University (NYU). To do so, students will need to either raise money or pay part of their way. Students that will not be able to attend the simulation will instead take the research paper option.

Participating in the Model UN simulation will require registering as a delegation, with a cap of 16 (one delegate per committee). The registration fee is \$115.00 a person. See their website: <http://www.nyumunc.org/>. The Global Relations Organization has money left over from last year that can help pay the cost of members, especially for those members who were active last year. Funds may also be acquired by students by applying to SGA, the College of Liberal Arts, and to the Department of Political Science (for majors or minors). It is very likely that these funds will not cover all the expenses of the trip, such as food. Hence, you will either want to fund raise on and/or off campus, or pay out of pocket to cover the remaining costs.

#### Option 1: Model UN Simulation

Two Exams	10% each
Final Exam	10%
Attendance/Participation	20%
UN Agency Presentation	10%
UN Agency Report	10%
Simulation Preparation and Performance	15%
Simulation Reflection Paper	15%

#### Option 2: UN Research Paper

Two Exams	10% each
Final Exam	10%
Attendance/Participation	20%

UN Agency Presentation	10%
UN Agency Report	10%
Research Paper	30%

Exams 1 & 2: These exams will be used to assess comprehension of the lectures and readings. The format will likely be a combination of essays, short answer questions, and multiple choice questions. Students are required to bring their own clean bluebooks or white lined paper.

Final Exam: The final exam will cover material from the course textbook and lectures from throughout the semester. The purpose is to evaluate student comprehension of the subject matter. The format will likely be a combination of essays, short answer questions, and multiple choice questions. Students are required to bring their own clean bluebooks or white lined paper. The final exam will be cumulative. Note the early start time to the final exam of 1:00. Students will not be admitted to the final exam if they are late more than ten minutes without a valid excuse that can be verified with evidence (such as pictures of you in your clothing that day in front of the fender-bender). The exam must be taken on this day unless you have a valid university accepted excuse. Going on vacation or booked flights are not proper excuses.

UN Agency Report and Presentation: Each student will research an agency of the United Nations and provide a presentation and brief written report. The report will include a description of the agency and its programs, and an analytical assessment of the efficacy of the agency. The presentation will be twenty minutes in length total, with ten minutes devoted to the presentation and ten for Q & A. This is a formal presentation that requires business dress and a power point presentation. More details will be provided in a separate document.

UN Simulation Reflection Paper (option 1): This paper will be used to reflect on what was learned during the simulation from the readings and class sessions. More details are forthcoming.

Research Paper (option 2): Students who do not attend the model simulation will take this option. This involves a research paper of a topic relating to the United Nations and international organization in coordination with the instructor. Details will be forthcoming if there are students that take this option. The paper will be of an analytical nature similar to the UN agency presentations.

Simulation Preparation and Performance (option 1): Each student will be evaluated on their preparation for the Model UN simulation, including research on role to be played and parliamentary procedure practice. The grade will also be based on performance at the model, including any awards won.

Attendance and Participation: Students who participate actively in class by asking relevant questions, fostering discussion, or debates, will earn points in the course. You will also earn points for attendance. However, a lack of attendance will result in not only lost points, but may result in being dropped from the course. See the attendance policy below.

### Other Course Policies

This instructor abides by university policies, such as excused absences and attendance, as stated in the UTEP undergraduate catalog: <http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/academic-regulations/curriculum-and-classroom-policies/>. It is the student's responsibility to understand their rights and university policies. In addition to university policies, I add the following:

Attendance Policy (and make-ups): UTEP expects that students will not miss classes without valid excuses. To deter absences, I will drop students, counting against the six course drop limit, who miss more than two classes without a valid excuse. Valid excuses include religious holidays, recognized university related activities (with Dean of Students letter), and military leave. In addition, I add the following policies:

- The instructor reserves the right to accept, or not, excuses related to medical issues. It is usually infeasible to document in advance any time lost due to illness. Exceptions are planned surgeries and appointments, which means you should not plan these during class sessions or during the simulation. Any class time missed will not be excused without medical or other valid documentation. I have the ability to read in Spanish, so documentation in Spanish is permissible. Students with severe medical problems that result in missing a majority of the semester may want to consider a complete withdrawal from the university for medical purposes, which requires medical documentation and a withdrawal from all courses. In cases where there is a significant, and documented, loss of time, the instructor may withdraw a student (excused) or work with the student to set up an "incomplete" grade and course of action. The course of action will depend on how much time and assignments the student missed and the chance of the student passing the course. The more the work of a course is completed, the more an incomplete grade may be coordinated.
- Absences due to conflicts with work, child care, etc. that make it impossible for you to regularly attend this class are not permitted. If you know you will have scheduling conflicts with this class, then you should make other arrangements or post-pone this class until a future semester. Treat this course as you would a professional job in which you cannot miss many days; set yourself up for success.
- Missed exams or quizzes due to family hardship or family medical problems may not be accepted by the instructor as valid excuses. For example, helping family members move, picking up at the airport, driving family members to medical appointments when you know they conflict with class, and other such activities, will not be permitted as valid excuses. Emergencies such as deaths in the family must be documented, unfortunately.
- Missing any course assessments and work due to vacations and pre-booked travel arrangements are invalid excuses for make-ups. Note the date for the final exam on the course calendar.

Safety and Disruption: It is expected that students will treat the instructor and other students with respect, including refraining from disparaging remarks, personal insults, derogatory comments, and other unprofessional behavior, in person or electronically. Any problem related to rude conduct, or any threats to violence, etc., may result in the student being dropped from the course by the instructor and/or reported to the Dean of Students. It is important to maintain an objective and analytical approach to this subject matter and not debase course discussions with comments that are racist in regard to other races, nations, and cultures. There are at least two sides to every dispute.

Outside work or electronic disruptions: Outside work and other non-class related activities are not permitted in our classroom. If you engage in behaviors that distract others or create a disturbance, you will be asked to leave the class. If you refuse to leave class, university police will be contacted.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: The instructor follows the university policies on academic honesty concerning cheating and plagiarism. Such acts will not be tolerated. Plagiarizing is the use of other people's words, ideas (concepts, sentence or paragraph structure or phrasings), songs, or images without documentation or their consent. Anti-plagiarism software will be used in this course to evaluate papers. One can avoid plagiarism by being honest and using proper style guidelines concerning citations, footnotes, or endnotes for passages in the text that are borrowed or inspired by other person's works. See the paper guidelines for other instructions and tips.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, or otherwise seek additional information, please contact **The Center for Accommodations and Support Services** (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in Union East, Room 106. CASS' staff are the only individuals who can authorize accommodations for students with disabilities. The Student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions before arrangements need to be made for exams, quizzes, or other needs.

**Mandatory Course Materials (available at UTEP Bookstore, and note there new price matching policy with Amazon and a few other online vendors)**

- ❖ Mingst, Karen A., Margaret P. Karns, and Alynna J. Lyon. *The United Nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Westview Press. ISBN: 978-0-8133-4964-0 [Mingst on course calendar]
- ❖ Robert, Henry M. III, Daniel H. Honemann, and Thomas J. Balch, with the assistance of Daniel E. Seabold and Shmuel Gerber. *Robert's Rules of Order: Newly Revised in Brief*. Da Capo Press. ISBN: 978-0-306-82019-9 [Robert's Rules on course calendar]

**Schedule of Classes**

Week 1 (1/18): Introductions to the course

- No readings or assignments

Week 2 (1/23 & 25): The UN and International Relations

- Mingst Chapter 1 (pp. 1-12)

Week 3 (1/30 & 2/01): UN Principles

- Mingst Chapter 1 (pp. 12-20)
- UN Charter: Preamble and Chapters 1 and 2

Week 4 (2/06 & 8): UN System Structure and Evolution

- Mingst Chapter 2
- UN Charter: Chapters 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, 18, and 19

Week 5 (2/13 & 15): Actors in the UN

- Mingst Chapter 3

Week 6 (2/20 & 22): Security and the UN: Collective Security and Peaceful Diplomacy

- Exam #1
- Mingst Chapter 4 (pp. 111-131)
- UN Charter: Chapters 6, 7, and 8

Week 7 (2/27 & 3/01): Peacekeeping and State Building

- Mingst Chapter 4 (pp. 131-159)

Week 8 (3/06 & 8): Human Security, Arms Control, Terrorism and the UN

- Mingst Chapter 4 (pp. 159-189)
- Robert's Rules, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 9 (3/20 & 22): Robert's Rules and Practice

- Robert's Rules, Chapters 3-9, 12-13

Week 10 (3/27 & 29): Economic Development and Sustainability

- Mingst Chapter 5
- UN Charter: Chapters 9 and 10

Week 11 (4/03 & 5): Model UN, New York City, NY (4/6-9)

- No class at UTEP due to travel and simulation

Week 12 (4/10 & 12): Exam 2, then International Law and Human Rights

- Exam 2
- Mingst Chapter 6
- UN Charter: Preamble and Chapters 1, 14, and 16

Week 13 (4/17 & 19): Human Rights and International law continued

- See last week's readings
- Presentations

Week 14 (4/24 & 26): UN and Human Security

- Mingst Chapter 7
- Presentations

Week 15 (5/01 & 3): Future of UN

- Mingst Chapter 8
- Presentations

Week 16 (5/08, 1:00-3:45): Final Exam