Dr. Chris Van Aller

Spring 2015

323-4667 (342 Bancroft office), 2209 (UN Secretary) or
MODELUN@WINTHROP.EDU (ph: 2253) and vanallerc@winthrop.edu (please do
NOT send me emails unless it is a substantive question or problem)
Keep in touch with other students to obtain information about/from a
missed class or assignment. Blackboard is a good place to check for
info as well as our fact filled Model United Nations Website:
http://www.winthrop.edu/modelun/

OFFICE HOURS: Mon: 9-10:00, Thurs: 10:30-12:00, and by appointment.
There will be TWO MANDATORY OFFICE VISITS with extended office hours
in selected weeks. The first visit is to interview you about potential
countries, the second to make sure you are on track. These visits are
part of your overall grade.

Course Meeting Times

Section W, 201 Kinard, 3:30-4:45 Wednesday (sec 002)

Combined Night Section, 018 Kinard, 6:30-8:15 Thursday night
Note: class is limited to 65 for both sections due to space
considerations in Tillman at the Conference.

No prerequisites required for this course!

This course qualifies for three hours credit.

Conference Dates: Wednesday, March 25 - March 27, 2015-You need to
clear your schedule from 1 pm Wed to 5 pm Friday for this event! This
is no drill! You must remind professors, bosses, and remember to feed
your cat!

General Education Requirements:

This course may be used to meet up to two of the following program
requirements: social science, global perspectives or oral
communication.

University-Level Competencies: This course contributes to the
following university level competencies:

Competency 1: Winthrop students think critically and solve
problems.

Winthrop University graduates reason logically, evaluate and use
evidence, and solve problems. They seek out and access relevant
information from multiple viewpoints to form well-reasoned
conclusions. They will consider the full context and consequence
of their decisions and continually reexamine their own critical
Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.

Winthrop University graduates comprehend the historical, social, and global contexts of their disciplines and their lives. They also recognize how their chosen area of study is inextricably linked to other fields. Winthrop graduates collaborate with members of diverse academic, professional, and cultural communities as informed and engaged citizens.

Global Learning Initiative: This course is part of the Global Learning Initiative by its very nature.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Through a better understanding of this famous international organization, the student will gain a clearer insight into the problems of the world.

2. Through the preparation for participation in this unique simulation, Model UN XXXIX, the student will develop insights into the workings of the world diplomatic community and into international debate.

3. Through work with high school participants, the student will sharpen his or her instructional and leadership skills.

4. By speaking in both formal and informal settings, students will be prepared for those situations in their future where oral communication is required.

Students with Disabilities

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your Professor Notification Form, please tell me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first assignment or test.

Academic Misconduct

The Winthrop University Political Science Department abhors all forms of academic misconduct, and faculty members investigate all incidents of suspected cheating. This policy includes, but is not limited to, using turnitin.com. Please click on the enclosed link to read the enclosed policy in detail: http://www.winthrop.edu/plsc/PLAGIARISM/%20AND%20MISCONDUCT.doc
Decorum in class: This class deals with often controversial matters facing the world. One of the major reasons for the program itself is to teach all how to discuss these questions “diplomatically.” We therefore need to adhere to fundamental rules of politeness and respect. Also part of decorum is turning off all electronic devices in class, unless you use a laptop to take notes. Using the latter or other devices to do things other than participate in the course will be strictly penalized: confiscation may result. Decorum also means listening and speaking in an active way and being on time: parliamentary bodies depend on everyone being there as a matter of respect to all participants.

Course Arrangements:

Evening sessions: The combined evening sections, held on Thursday nights, are initially designed to give you an understanding of how the UN is structured and how it functions both structurally and as part of the international system. We will subsequently use this time to debate and discuss as much as possible, as practice is everything in this course. Remember that attendance is super important during all these sessions, which are akin to a play rehearsal or an athletic practice. You had better let your boss/significant other/children/coach/cat about the commitment involved. Because we finish substantially earlier than regular courses, with no final exam, your enthusiastic participation and attendance is mandatory, and a big part of your grade! For example, coming late and leaving early will be counted as an absence without permission, unless you can convince me otherwise.

Afternoon sessions: The afternoon discussion sections, which students attend on Monday or Wednesday, are designed to give insight into your nation's or region's behavior as well how other nations view the world in the context of the UN. The sections will be smaller so that you will ask or answer questions, enter into discussions and try out speaking in a smaller group. Those who are always silent should be prepared to be called upon by me!

National Assignment: Each student will be assigned a country and will prepare to guide that nation's delegation to our Model U.N. XXXIX. Nation interviews will be held in the first weeks of classes to establish your role in the Conference and class. Remember that small countries often speak as often as large ones in the real United Nations, so everyone will have an equal chance to participate as long as they are motivated to do so. At our conference in March, you will also help guide a high school delegation that has simultaneously been studying your country. It is in your interest to be informed and ready to help your delegation in a professional manner. We need those high school students to respect your skills and knowledge!


You will also be required to absorb some articles I send you from the New York Times on line, and other sources as well. Most of the
articles we discuss will come from the International Section. We will be using this source as an ongoing text as well as other articles I will send you. All materials will be on Blackboard unless they are from the NYT or similar due to archival/technical requirements. When you receive such a source, print it out or download it in its entirety so it can be accessed later no matter what.

Be sure to set up a Winthrop student account so I can keep in touch with you! If you are not on the class listserv, if you added the course late for example, this Tuesday class is plsc260002. This is your responsibility!

**Lab Fee:** Each student will be assessed $20.00 for materials relating to the class and Conference, such as a portfolio and other supplies. This fee will be billed to your student account.

**Grading**

- 10% Test on UN Structure and Function
- 10% Rules Test
- 15% Test on Regional Issues
- 5% Two Mandatory interviews
- 20% Briefing Folders on nation*
- 20% Performance in class each week
- 20% Conference leadership and debate

*The briefing folder is a 12-15 page written biography on the nation assigned to each delegate. Sources will include information from US government and country websites, journal articles, and primary quotes from the leaders such as speeches. Turnitin will be required.

**Grading Scale:**

- A 93-100
- A- 90-92
- B+ 87-89
- B 83-86
- B- 80-82
- C+ 77-79
- C 73-76
- C- 70-72
- D 60-69
- F 59 or less

**Absence Policy:** Any student missing more than 3 classes will automatically receive a letter grade lower for the course. Five missing classes will result in failure for the course. Leaving in the middle of the evening class is considered a cut. Tell your boss that you will make up for lost time after the Conference. Remember to clear at least the second half of the conference week of March with your other classes by saving your absences. Submit our Conference notification form to your professors promptly! It is on Blackboard.

**Dropping the course:** You must drop before February 16 as we end earlier than other classes. Please decide promptly for all our sakes!

**PLSC 261:** This is the course for “graduated” students of previous conferences that will help guide this class and conference by running our committees both on Thursday nights and also at the conference.
Please defer to their experience and wisdom!! Please get to know them as they have “been there” and can explain things from a student’s viewpoint.

**Syllabus Change Policy:** I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule depending on the unfolding needs of the class. Variations could include guest lectures, events on campus, or other changes. We might also have delays occasioned by weather or illness. Any such changes will be announced in class or by email/Blackboard, and it is the responsibility of the student to be aware of such changes by keeping in touch with other students should they miss the official announcement. Keeping in touch with several other students in your section will help you keeping track of changes.

**Week One:**

January 14 (Wednesday afternoon session)-Intro to course. Sign up for interviews next several weeks in my office for countries. Explanation of course, the **BIG Conference**, and our website.

January 15-Thursday (evening session)-Model UN, Introduction Welcome by **Big Three** who guide this year’s Conference. Intro lecture on United Nations. Read Intro and Chapter One of text. More background info on the UN on Blackboard, which should be printed out for ease of reference.

Week Two-MLK Day on Monday, January 19!

Monday and Wednesday afternoon classes **cancelled for this week.** 
**Interviews** for countries held for two weeks. Please use sign up sheet on office door if you did not sign up last week-no email appointments! I will interview each student to decide on which country they will represent-remember that all countries are equal in the United Nations: all can participate as much as they wish!

January 22-Model UN videos after formal welcome by 261 class. Read Chapter Two and Three in text. Keep coming for interviews. Next week as well if necessary!

**Note:** I will require **part** of the Briefing Folder to be due in the next few weeks: here is a handy Dacus Library site to help you:

[http://www2.winthrop.edu/dacus/researchguides/modelunrg.htm](http://www2.winthrop.edu/dacus/researchguides/modelunrg.htm)

The **Briefing folder template** is on Blackboard and on the Website.

**Week Three**

Jan.28th-Regional Issues Europe: I will send you some relevant area articles, but each student must bring one printed one themselves for discussion/collection. Make sure the url is evident on the printout. This will be **standard procedure** for each week after a mini-lecture by me.
January 29-Short TEST on UN structure. Receive nation assignments. Conference Overview. Secretariat/261 will be on hand to help explain how the experience unfolds. Mock debate by Secretariat/261.

Week Four

February 4-Regional Issues: The Middle East. Bring in articles for discussion/collection. Chapter Four in text.

February 5-Explanation of our Rules of Procedure, a simplified form of Robert’s Rules of Order, found on our website. Secretariat/261 will help explain their operation as well. One minute speeches in front of class on any issue of importance to your nation. Rubric will be sent to you on the essentials of a good public address.

Week Five


Feb. 12th—More review on rules of procedure. Secretariat/261 leads first Debate. At least one half-page double spaced printed position paper due from each delegate: standard procedure for each Resolution to be debated from now on. No emailed position papers before or after class. NO handwritten position papers!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Feb. 13 (Friday)—First Section of Briefing Folder due by 5 pm in a box outside my door. Turnitin will be required: no cut and paste: these folders must be in your own words. Come see me for examples of old folders—it will be worth it!

Week Six


Feb. 19- Review Blackboard materials on speechmaking to prepare. Quick Rules Test!!Secretariat/261 leads Second Debate!

Week Seven


Feb.26- Secretariat/261 leads Third Debate.

Week Eight

March 4—Regional Issues: Africa. Bring in relevant articles.

March 5—Secretariat/261 leads Fourth Debate

Note: Completed Briefing folders due by March 13th! Keep a copy for
yourself for use at the Conference. Folder must not be cut and paste. We will use Turnitin to make sure you have transcribed info into your own words. Evaluating/summarizing sources is vital.

Week Nine

March 11th. Regions Test in Section. Another Conference Review. Try to contact your high school delegation if you have not done so before.

March 12th-Secretariat/261 Debate Assistance with Fifth Debate

March 13th-Briefing folder due!

Week Ten

March 16-20st: Spring Break: Consider watching the news as you take respite from your sunburn. Conversely, you could work extra hours at your job to free you up for the Conference. We start the week of return so we have to be on task!

Week Eleven-The Big Week!

March 23 and 24: (Monday and Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30)-Evening Debate Practice in Tillman Auditorium: it is Mandatory to come to at least one of these and attendance at both preferred. No MW afternoon sections!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Secretariat/261 Assistance in Tillman.

March 25-March 27: Winthrop University Model United Nations XXXIX! Do your best for your sake and for your team!

There is no final exam for this course: our intensive three Day conference is our culminating academic experience: students will tested on their knowledge and abilities extensively over this period—but in a “real world” manner.

April 16th: Thursday night after the Conference in Kinard 018 at 7:00, we need to quickly meet and do evaluations and receive pep talk from the Secretariat for future planning and recruitment. Should only take about forty minutes.

A FEW BUT VITAL THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

The best way to get a good grade is to TRY to participate. Those people who consistently sit in the back and never speak should not expect to do well. Consider moving your seat in successive classes!

The more and the EARLIER contact you have with your high school delegation the better: I will take into account your high school teacher’s recommendation in determining your grade. Contact the Model UN office for contact information and ANY other help. You should personally hand the conference evaluation form to your teacher if possible.
For the conference week, we will cancel Monday/Wednesday afternoon class and practice Monday and Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:30. Make sure you make at least one practice—absolutely mandatory.

You need to plan to stay until five pm on the last day of the conference. It is ok to leave the conference on Thursday or Friday to take a test but otherwise you need to be there at all times. I hope for your sake you have saved your absences in those classes where the professors are strict about your attendance. Wednesday, March 25th, from two pm to eleven at night you have to be participating, without exception. A form to explain your participation to your professors or bosses is on the Blackboard site: I will sign it if that is necessary.

Remember that you are representing Winthrop to many high schools from three states: I need you to be at your professional best for the conference; as high school students are minors, our program depends on everyone being responsible and thoughtful.

You need to start your briefing folder as soon as possible to help you be aware of your country’s position in world affairs. You need to do a good job on those issues and areas that mean a lot to your nation, even if you have to take educated guesses on others. Example: South Africa had better know something about colonialism in Africa if not Basque terrorism in Spain. Yet the latter subject still must be generally understood by all countries, as there are “parallel” situations in many of them.

Be very sure to see me at least twice during office hours before the conference: once to be interviewed and second to check your progress on the briefing folder and other issues.

Extra Credit opportunities, such as helping with a second country, may be made available. International events on campus may also be utilized.

Remember, MODEL UN XXXIX will depend on you!