PLSC 261-Model United Nations Symposium  
Spring 2014
Section 001
Location/Time: Owen 209 at 12:30-1:20 on Monday and Kinard 018 at 6:30-8:15 on Thursday
Prerequisite: PLSC 260
One Hour Course Credit

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

Dr. C. Van Aller, vanallerc@winthrop.edu –use only for substantive issues.
323-4667, Office 342 Bancroft, UN office: modelun@winthrop.edu or 323- 2253
Office Hours: Monday-9-10:00, Thurs: 10:30-12:00, and by appointment.

*******Conference Dates: March 26-March 28, 2014**********

Course Goals

By the end of this course students should be proficient in the following areas. The first one is to understand the basics of chairing and administering committees in our program. Basic knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order will be internalized and will be useful for understanding and participating in myriad professional meetings in the future, from zoning boards to Congress. Another goal is to train students in the organization and efficient operation of a large conference, another life skill. A final goal is the expectation that students will be proficient in instructing their high school delegates in committee in parliamentary procedure and conference protocol, to teach as well as supervise debate, as well as in other conference related operations. Last, Big Three administrative personnel are recruited and trained by this class! This year they are:

Kayla Davis - Secretary General
JC Dougherty - Director General
Parker Quinlan - Coordinator General

Please give them your full support!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Students with Disabilities

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Office of Disabilities Services, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your Professor Notification Form, please call 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 consult the Winthrop
University handbook for further information and specific policies on plagiarism. 
See http://www.winthrop.edu/plsc/PLAGIARISM%20AND%20MISCONDUCT.doc

Course Explanation

Welcome to the class that helps train Secretariat members for the Winthrop Conference in late March. The idea for this course is to initially train in a small group and then meet in parallel with the Thursday night class, although since 261 is a one hour class, all of you would not have stay from 6:30 to 8:15 every Thursdays until the Conference. Then again out of class studying is minimal, so practicing is necessary and will take time. Class members will take turns chairing and performing other duties. We will discuss with the Secretary General on the best way to meet, so there might be fewer/shorter meetings at the beginning of the semester to enable longer ones at the end, when debate practice is at its height. We also will discuss ways to efficiently run the Conference, hopefully with skills that will be useful for your future. The core text for this class is based on Robert’s Rules of Order, actually our Winthrop manual on these rules, as well as materials concerning conference preparation and administration. While this experience may not be a formal service-learning course, its aim to give real life skills for future professional activities.

Enrichment activity: We are signed up for the second SRMUN Model United Nations in Charlotte in April 10-12, 2013. Students in this class have places although others may join us as well. Participation is mandatory but not graded. See http://www.srmun.org/charlotte/. We may consider other activities as well, such as World-quest in Charlotte or other regional activities-if the budget and other time constraints permit.

Decorum in the classroom: Please turn off all electronic devices in class, except for laptops engaged in solely class-related activities. Decorum also means an emphasis on polite and diplomatic behavior when administering committees, whether on Thursday nights or at our three day conference. Learning to be firm but polite in a pressure driven venue is one of the key goals of this course.

Grades and Assignments: we may experiment with different assignments to enhance class performance and efficiency in committee

Two quizzes: 30%
Participation in Monday class: 15% (being there counts!)
Participation in Thursday night sessions: 20% (being there when called on really counts!)
Participation in Conference: 25%
Reflection Paper: 10%

Grading Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>59 or less</td>
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Absence Policy

Class attendance is extremely important, as the grade distribution above indicates. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Over 3 absences will result in a grade a letter lower than you would have otherwise obtained. Five absences equals a failed grade. As I said to you in your 260 days, you need to clear your schedule for the Conference, March 26-March 28, Winthrop Model United Nations XXXVIII. Submit our Conference Notification Form to your professors promptly to explain your potential conference absence well in advance.

Drop Date Policy As our class ends before the official date of the semester, students must drop Before February 28th, three weeks before the normal drop date for other classes. After this date, professors can NOT give a “N” grade for any reason; only the Registrar can judge deserving withdrawals. Needless to say, please decide promptly whether to stay or continue in this course for all our sakes.

Syllabus Change Policy- I reserve the right, often in consultation with our Secretary General, to make changes to the schedule below. We will be experimenting for example with the best ratio of small to large class training. We also may experiment with ways to incorporate volunteer Secretariat members into our proceedings, as I know some students want to help even though this course would not fit their schedule.

Email and Blackboard- Be sure you are on the class listserv and also materials for class will be on Blackboard for the first time.

Please let me know if you are confused by the different times and places of the schedule below, particularly if we make some changes.

January 15-Class introduction: Discussion of class scheduling/practice for semester, such as the incorporation of volunteer Secretariat members. The Notes section below is intended for in-class adjustments to the schedule or other concerns.

Notes

January 22-Diagnostic (no credit) quiz on rules to help on assignments. Review of responsibilities for the semester.

Notes

January 23- Meet and greet 260 class (Kinard 018 at 6:30) in combination with the Big Three full timers. Your enthusiastic participation may encourage fence-sitters to stay in
the course! In short this class is there in part to be elder statespersons/advisors/mentors/recruiters.

Notes________________________________________________________


Notes________________________________________________________

January 30- Mock Debate by 261/Secretariat members. (Kinard 018 at 6:30) on Thursday. Make this debate a good and motivational experience for the class!!! I would like this debate to run at least half an hour, after the 260 class takes their first test. More discussion of conference duties. 261 class to help explain their experiences at the night session.

Notes________________________________________________________


Notes________________________________________________________

February 12- Practice chairing, rapping, and other duties. At some point, we will cease meeting on Wednesday and concentrate on Thursdays.

February 13- First Debate for 260 class! 261 will be split up into teams while the rest of the class practices in a spare room. This will be SOP for the rest of the semester.

Notes________________________________________________________

February 19- Discussion of Conference planning, equipment, and concerns. There is a “constitution” for Secretariat members to understand, as well as the operations of the entire conference. Future Big Three applicants take note!

February 20 (Thursday)- Debate help with class in their Second debate.

Notes________________________________________________________

February 26- clicker review and practice.

February 27- Debate help with class in their Third debate

Notes________________________________________________________

March 5- 2nd Quiz on conference basics.
**March 6**-Help with debate practice in the **fourth** debate!!!! Clickers to be used!

**March 12**-Debate Practice and **HELPING WITH LOGISTICS OF THE CONFERENCE, SUCH AS MOVING AND ORGANIZING MATERIALS WITH THE BIG THREE**

**March 13**-Help with debate practice in the **fifth** debate. More clicker practice.

**March 17-21st**-Spring Break-Try to practice with note-cards or *anything* that works for the Conference the week we return!!!!!!! This year we have to be ready sooner!

**March 24, 25**-help with debate practice on Monday and Tuesday nights in Tillman. No afternoon MUN classes for 260 or 261! Also note that the Big Three will ask you for help getting ready for the conference in various ways, based on planning done on March 12.

**March 26-28**-Model UN XXXVIII! We need everyone to be as professional and well trained as possible for this experience. Note that there will be three main locations for the conference: Tillman, Tuttle Dining Room, and the DiGorgio Center.

**April 17th**-very short class for evaluations and fun awards. Conference/class reflection is due as well.

Thank you for your support of Winthrop Model United Nations!