

PSCH212-N: Decision Making in the UN (Honors)
Fall 2016 / R 6:00-7:50 / KBB 214

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday (1000am-1130am); Tuesday (600pm-800pm)

This course offers a unique experience at University of Tampa. We will combine traditional class lectures on the history, structure and political processes of the United Nations system with an experiential educational format. That is, students will learn, from the textbook and lectures, about the United Nations system – the political processes and decision-making processes. Students will then supplement this information with simulations on issues dealt with in the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. In these simulations, students will learn about various issues facing the UN in today's world, and how different countries respond to these issues. The purpose of this format is simple; in February students are required to serve as delegates at the Harvard National Model United Nations. In order to ensure preparedness, this class will teach students about the United Nations system, laws, political processes, and procedural rules for debates. Students will also prepare position papers and research the policy preferences of the country that will be presented at the HNMUN by the UT delegation. The challenges students face in this course are unique and exciting, as they will travel to Boston in mid-February to compete with hundreds of other college students from around the world in statecraft and diplomatic prowess.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed such that students who have immersed themselves in the material, attending lectures regularly, doing the readings, completing all assignments diligently, and studying for exams, should be able to do the following by the end of the course:

- The student will be able to explain the history, processes, and functions of the United Nations.
- The student will be able to describe and analyze how non-Western countries formulate and advance their foreign policy agendas in the United Nations.
- The student will be able to use formal rules of parliamentary procedure to participate in debates, write resolutions, and vote on them.

Requirements:

Given that this class is a combination of traditional and experientially-oriented exercises, the requirements reflect a diverse array of assignments. These assignments challenge you to learn about the UN and how it operates, your assigned topical area, and our assigned country. Though it may be altered slightly and/or clarified by professorial edict either in class or via email, consider this syllabus a contract between you and your professor that lists both what you can expect from class and what is expected of you. Check it regularly and always bring it to class with your notebook. You are expected to read EVERYTHING assigned on the syllabus. You are also expected to attend EVERY lecture. Visiting me on occasion during office hours to discuss issues raised in class and/or paper topics will not hurt either.

Neither will meeting with your peers to practice for the HNMUN. If you do these things you will do very well in the course. If you do not do these things you will not do so well in the course. Consider this fair warning up front.

You will be evaluated in this class based on your performance in 6 areas. These areas, along with their relative weights, are as follows:

UN Readings Quizzes (15%) – given out at the beginning of class for Weeks 3, 4, and 5. These short quizzes will be approximately 10 questions long and cover the assigned readings from Fasulo for that day. Lowest grade will be dropped so there are no make-up quizzes.

Country Readings Quizzes (15%) – given out at the beginning of class for Weeks 10, 11, and 12. These short quizzes will be approximately 10 questions long and cover the assigned readings about our country for that day. Lowest grade will be dropped so there are no make-up quizzes.

Chair Panel (10%) – During Weeks 3 through 12 we will hold 18 practice sessions. This is an opportunity to practice floor debates and parliamentary procedure. For most of these sessions you will be a floor participant but for one you will chair. At our first class you will be assigned a session to chair. Chairing a panel involves a short (1-3 minute summary of the topic) summary of the topic as well as governing the flow of debate through the correct application of parliamentary procedures.

Committee Report (10%) – After you are assigned a committee, you will write a 1-2 page (TNR 12 point, single-spaced, 1 inch margins) on your committee's history, rules, and major contemporary issues. This paper is due via Blackboard by Friday 11 November. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 10 percent per day.

Position Papers (25%) – HNMUN requires delegates to write one single-spaced page paper for each potential topic area their committee will consider. These papers will be forwarded to the HNMUN staff in January but should be submitted via Blackboard as a Word Document for the purposes of this class no later than Thursday 8 December at 6pm. Each position paper has three basic parts: your country's national interests, your country's national policies, and your opinion on potential resolution components. Sample position papers will be provided. If you are assigned a two delegate committee this is a group assignment. If you are assigned a one person committee this is an individual assignment. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 10 percent per day.

Participation (25%) - In order to prepare for the conference you must be present in class and participate in the simulations that will take place. You can only learn Robert's Rules through repeated engagement. This class offers plenty of opportunity to gain this experience. You may miss a single class without penalty. Any more than a single absence will result in the forfeiture of one-fifth of your participation grade. Excused absences will be determined according to the new university attendance policy regarding scheduled and unscheduled absences and must be accompanied with appropriate documentation: <http://ut.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/catalog/Academic-Policies-and-Procedures/Class-Attendance-and-Participation>. It is not enough to just show up to receive this grade, however. Students will be observed and evaluated on both the frequency and quality of their engagement. It would be hard to imagine a debate going by where an engaged student does not at least once voice his/her position.

Important Due Dates:

Participation	Weeks 1 – 15
UN Quizzes	Weeks 3, 4, and 5
Chair Panel	Once during Weeks 3 - 12
Country Quizzes	Weeks 10, 11, and 12
Committee Report	Friday 11 November
Position Papers	Thursday 8 December

Grading:

The course letter grade will be determined according to the following scale:

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Quality Points</i>	<i>Numeric Scale</i> *
A	4.0	93-100
AB	3.5	88-92
B	3.0	83-87
BC	2.5	78-82
C	2.0	73-77
CD	1.5	68-72
D	1.0	60-67
F	0.0	Below 60

*I will round up at the .5 and NOT before. For example, if you earn an 87.49 you will receive a B for the class. If you earn an 87.5 you will receive an AB. The only exception to this rule concerns the line between a D and an F. If you make below 60 points, even if it is by the smallest fraction of a point, I will NOT round up.

Required Texts:

Fasulo, Linda. *An Insider's Guide to the UN* (3rd ed).

(☞) Article or chapter available through UT Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule is subject to change at the professor's sole discretion. Any changes will be announced in class, via email, and/or via Blackboard.

Week 1 (August 29 – September 2)

Thursday Introductions
Readings: ☞ Syllabus

Week 2 (September 6 – 9)

Thursday Parliamentary Procedure and Debate (We will elect Head Delegate)
Readings: ☞ *HN MUN Guide to Delegate Preparation and Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.*

Week 3 (September 12 – 16)

Thursday The United Nations and Its Institutions (UN Quiz #1)
Readings: *Fasulo* chs 1-8
Sessions: 1. Offshore Bases (DISEC)

Week 4 (September 19 – 23)

Thursday Collective Security (**UN Quiz #2**)
Readings: *Fasulo* chs 9-13
Sessions: 2. Digital Divide (SOCHUM) and 3. Reforming UN Peacekeeping Operations (SPECPOL)

Week 5 (September 26 – 30)

Thursday Sustainable Development (**UN Quiz #3**)
Readings: *Fasulo* chs 14-20
Sessions: 4. Amnesty in Conflict-Torn States (Legal) and 5. Development after Health Crises (SSSD)

Week 6 (October 3 – 7)

Thursday Committee Work
Sessions: 6, 7, and 8. Violence Against Women (Commission on the Status of Women)

Week 7 (October 10 – 14)

Thursday Committee Work
Sessions: 9, 10, and 11. Weaponization of Social Media (DISEC)

Week 8 (October 17 – 21)

Thursday CLASS CANCELLED DUE TO UNICA CONFERENCE

Week 9 (October 24 – 28)

Thursday Committee Work
Sessions: 12, 13, and 14. Decolonization of Western Sahara (HGA)

Week 10 (October 31 – November 4)

Thursday Assigned Country's Security Situation (**Country Quiz #1**)
Readings: ☹ TBD
Sessions: 15. The Viability of Geoengineering as a Response to Climate Change (UNEP)

Week 11 (November 7 – 11)

Monday LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW

Thursday Assigned Country's Political Economy (**Country Quiz #2**)
Readings: ☹ TBD
Sessions: 16. Protection of Cultural Heritage Sites During Armed Conflict (UNESCO)

Week 12 (November 14 – 18)

Thursday Assigned Country's Social and Cultural Atmosphere (**Country Quiz #3**)
Readings: ☹ TBD
Sessions: 17. Economic Development in Indigenous Communities (SOCHUM) and 18. Espionage (Legal)

Week 13 (November 21-22)

Thursday HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Week 14 (November 28 – December 2)

Thursday CLASS CANCELLED DUE TO ASA CONFERENCE

Week 15 (December 5 – 9)

Thursday Overview: Work Over the Break and Trip to Boston

General Information:

These are a few things every student should know.

Emergency Conditions - In case of any adverse condition or situation which could interrupt the schedule of classes, each student is asked to access www.ut.edu for information about the status of the campus and class meetings. In addition, please refer to Blackboard for announcements and other important information. You are responsible for accessing this information.

Special Needs - If there is a student who has special needs because of any disability, please go to the Academic Success Center in North Walker Hall for information regarding registering as a student with a disability. You may also call (813) 257-5757 or email disability.services@ut.edu. Please feel free to discuss this issue with me, in private, if you need more information.

Classroom Disruption Policy – The University of Tampa has a policy covering disruptive classroom behavior. The policy will be applied in this course and is detailed in the Faculty Handbook Chapter 6 Section XI (available online at www.ut.edu/provost).

Mental Health Counseling – College can be a stressful time in a young person's life. The American Psychiatric Association published a recent study of college students observed over the course of a single academic year. Over 60% of students reported feeling things were hopeless one or more times, almost 40% of the men and 50% of the women reported feeling so depressed that they had difficulty functioning one or more times, and 10% of the students reported seriously considering attempting suicide at least one time. If at some point during your time at UT you begin to feel depressed or out of control for any reason you should realize that you are not alone and there is help available to you. Your professors are happy to counsel you on the problems you are having coping with academic life, but there are dedicated mental health counselors available to you through UT's Health and Counseling Center located at 111 North Brevard Ave. (behind Austin Hall) who you may feel more comfortable disclosing certain types of non-academic problems to. The time to deal with mental health issues is when they arise and not after your grade has been destroyed. Their email is healthcenter@ut.edu and their phone numbers are 813-253-6250 (during business hours) and 813-257-7777 (outside of business hours for emergencies).

Academic Assistance – The Academic Center for Excellence (ace@ut.edu) in North Walker Hall offers free peer tutoring, credited academic skills courses, national testing services, and services for students with disabilities. The Saunders Writing Center (323 Plant Hall, x6244) aids students with their writing projects. You pay for these services through your tuition and there is no shame in using them if you need help with your course work. I am more than happy to discuss any academic issues you might have during office hours but if I think one of these services can help you be more successful I will not hesitate to recommend it.

Academic Integrity – The University of Tampa is committed to the development of each student to become a productive and responsible citizen who embraces the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. The scholarly community at The University of Tampa strives to instill values that uphold academic integrity and promotes an ethical standard that does not condone academic misconduct. Violation of academic integrity and academic misconduct tarnish the reputation of the University and discredit the accomplishments of past and present students. Sanctions for violation of academic integrity and academic misconduct include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the University. I take integrity very seriously and will monitor all submissions and exams for violations of the academic integrity

policy. I also expect professional behavior in class that fosters an environment encouraging not only your learning but the learning of your peers. Students are held responsible for knowing and observing the University's Academic Integrity Policy (available online at www.ut.edu/provost). If you have any questions about the policy, please feel free to talk with me.

Class Rules, Etiquette, and Advice:

I like my job a lot. There are few things I can imagine doing more satisfying than providing inquisitive minds with an atmosphere conducive to thinking more critically about their own assumptions and the world in which we live. The image of students leaving my classroom just a bit more prepared to make their society better is sustaining. Following is a list of things you can do to help me maintain this image as well as some things you can do to reveal it as a mirage. Doing more of the former and less of the latter will make me happy whereas the converse will make me sad!

DO read the assigned texts – The amount and content of the reading assignments are well within the realm of reasonable for a class at this level. I have looked at syllabi from many different institutions of higher learning to come confidently to this conclusion. Do the assigned readings before each class and you will get the most out of the lectures. Though there are some things covered in the assigned readings that will not be covered in lecture, and vice versa, the lectures and readings build off each other. I will not hesitate to pull exam questions from readings not covered in class and from lectures not covered in the readings.

DO engage in class discussions in an intelligent way – There will be lots of opportunities for you to contribute to conversations in the classroom. Most of my lectures have a built in component for student input because I think it is important that you not only read and hear the information, but have to reconstitute and challenge it. I am also delighted to entertain questions when you have them and follow tangents that you would like to explore. Class periods when students are engaged and contributing seem to go by much faster than class periods when students are checked out. Students who regularly contribute to the classroom conversation do significantly better than students who do not on exams. So pretend the information we are covering is really interesting and jump at the opportunity to challenge the material. After a while you will find that you do not have to pretend any more. If you are shy this is good practice for you. Use the class to build your confidence and public speaking skills. If you are worried about your peers' impressions of you forget about it. Those who value education will find your contributions useful and those who roll their eyes are dull and uninteresting.

DO NOT ask for extra credit – Rarely I give out extra credit opportunities. When I do, the opportunity is initiated by me and open to all students in class. I have never given an extra credit assignment to a student who initiated the request. Giving out extra credit opportunities to select students makes grades for my courses unreliable measures of student success and your goal should be to master the material assigned on the syllabus.

DO understand what your grade represents – I assume every student who enters my class wants to take away a greater understanding of the world and that the grade (s)he receives is but a formal, and somewhat abstract and imprecise, reflection of the knowledge (s)he has gained. The average student in my courses typically earns a low B (3.0) or a high C (2.0). This grade represents both effort and skill so students that put in more effort than average and/or are more skilled than average will do better than this, whereas students who put in less effort than average and/or are less skilled will do worse. It is not easy to earn an A in my course and few will. On the other

hand it is even more difficult to earn an F in my course but a few students every semester put in nearly no effort and/or do not have the skills necessary for a college-level course in Government and World Affairs. I have given failing marks to students who I think are wonderful people and given A grades to students who I would rather never see again. Grades are not personal statements on your character, they are a professional opinion of the work you submit.

DO NOT send me an email without putting yourself in my shoes first – I respond to most student emails (this does not mean ALL student emails and it does not guarantee an IMMEDIATE response) but ask that you follow four simple rules before hitting send. First, DO NOT ask me a question via email that will take more than a few sentences to answer. With three classes and nearly 100 students I just do not have the time to provide these detailed answers online. Besides accurate answers to questions like “What should I write my paper on?,” “How can I make better grades?,” “Can you tell me what we did in last Wednesday’s class?,” or “I’m having a life crisis can I make up the exam?” require some student feedback that emails lack. Therefore, if you find yourself in need of an answer to a question of this nature please feel free to come by my office hours or talk to me after class and I will be happy to help you to the best of my abilities.

Second, DO NOT email me assignments unless specifically told by me or the syllabus to do so. I will neither grade nor respond to these emailed assignments. Emails get lost, attachments are sometimes difficult to open, and dealing with hard copy or Turnitin assignments and emailed assignments simultaneously creates logistical problems. If you will not be in class but owe me a hard copy of an assignment turn it in via the “Drop Off” box outside my office door.

Third, before you hit send on an email to me with a question about assignments, or deadlines, or readings check your syllabus and our Blackboard site to make sure the answer is not there. If this were an occasional issue I would not hesitate to re-answer questions addressed elsewhere. It is, unfortunately, a frequent problem.

Fourth, Blackboard, Turnitin, and Spartan Mail are subscription services provided by the University of Tampa. I administer none of these sites and have no formal training in problem solving in these platforms. So if you lost your password or cannot seem to get one of these websites to work, please seek help from one of your computer savvy colleagues or UT’s computer helpdesk.

DO visit me during office hours – If you have a question about something we covered in class, need feedback on an assignment, want to discuss something you discovered outside of class that you think connects to course content in an interesting way, or just want to chat FEEL FREE to drop by my office during office hours. I keep five hours per week and these hours are for you. You are not pestering me or taking me away from something more important. It is nice to talk with students outside of our regular classroom setting.

DO NOT be tardy or leave class early – If you come in late to class enter quietly and sit somewhere where you will not disturb other students. Classes will begin promptly as scheduled so you will need to copy notes from one of your colleagues on lecture days if you feel like you have missed something important. On assignment days you will not be given extra time for your tardiness. If you show up without an excuse 5 minutes before an exam is finished, you will only have 5 minutes to finish the assignment.

Class is done when I say something to the effect of “see you next class” and not before. I will do my best to end class on time if not a few minutes earlier. There will, however, be some class periods where I might need to go over time by a minute or two to finish an important point. Out of respect for your fellow classmates you should NOT begin filing papers into your book bags before class has officially ended. I realize that there will be classes where you have a job

interview or a club activity or a plane you need to leave early for. By all means let me know before class that you need to leave early, arrange with someone in class to take notes for you, and do not miss your important event.

DO know my policy on “excused” absences – There are no excuses for late papers. You know about them well in advance and a last minute illness or death in the family should not affect your ability to turn in the assignment or have a colleague do so on your behalf. Excuses for missed exams or presentations are granted at the sole discretion of your professor. The best way to be granted an excused absence is with prior approval. If you will miss a presentation due to a previously scheduled event, let me know at least two weeks in advance and we can almost always find a solution.

In the event that prior approval is not possible, you must provide acceptable documentation detailing the reasons for your excuse as soon as possible. These include a police report that indicates you were in their custody during the time of the exam/presentation, a doctor’s note that says explicitly you are contagious and/or physically incapable of attending the class (I will call!), or a copy of your friend/relative’s obituary with both the date of funeral visible and your name listed amongst the bereaved. A note from your parent or a receipt from Student Health are NOT acceptable documentation. For each assignment listed in this syllabus there is a detailed policy regarding late penalties. Many of these policies grant an exception for “excused” absences. Whether an absence is “excused” or not is up to the discretion of your professor based on the guidelines outlined above.

DO NOT use cell phones and computers in a distracting way – Turn your cell phone off or on silent mode when you enter the class. If there is a call you must take you should take it outside of class. Texting and cruising the Internet during class is rude and distracting so DO NOT DO IT. Computers can be useful for typing notes, working on papers in groups, and researching topics covered in class. They can also be significant distractions to you and your neighbors if you use them to check email, message friends, or cruise the web. If you must engage in any of this distracting behavior, do so from the comfort of your dorm room or home. This class has no attendance policy so if you have more important things to do during our class time than pay attention to lectures and engage in discussions there is no penalty.

If you choose to ignore this advice and engage in distracting behavior on your computer or cell phone in class you WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE and FORBIDDEN FROM RETURNING to future classes with your electronic device. You will not be permitted to use cell phones, computers, or any other electronic devices during exams or quizzes.

DO NOT tape or video record class without prior permission - Students are not authorized to make recordings during class without permission from the instructor. Exceptions to this rule will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances. If you are granted permission to record lectures that permission is only for your personal use and the recordings should not be shared with others to protect your colleagues’ ability to speak freely in class discussions.

DO learn how to question grades respectfully – I do my best to communicate expectations and make sure my comments on graded assignments pinpoint areas where you did well and areas where you needed to put in some more work. There will, however, occasionally be questions about the grade you receive. I will NOT change a grade or let you resubmit an assignment simply because you want a better grade. If, however, you think I have made a mistake I will consider changing a grade only after the following conditions have been met: 1) You must wait at least 24 hours but no more than ten days after receiving your graded assignment to file a complaint. 2)

You must submit in writing (*typed and printed* out) an explanation of why you think you deserve a different grade. I will review your submission and give you my final decision within a week of receipt at which time I will consider the “negotiation” complete and any further appeals on the issue will be directed to the department chair. Challenges that resemble “I’m an A student so there is no way this paper is a B,” “I don’t like this grade can I have another?,” “I was making a good argument it just did not come across in my paper,” or “I need to pass this class to graduate” will be summarily dismissed for lack of justification.

DO understand that I am interested in discussing your progress in the course with you – If you have a parent, coach, drill sergeant, etc. who is interested in learning about your status in this course feel free to share it with them. I post grades on Blackboard and the syllabus explains in detail my weighting formula so you have access to all the information I do regarding your current standing in the class.