

PSCH 212: Decision Making in the United Nations
Fall 2017 / Monday 6-9:50pm / Sykes 166



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION



UN SECURITY COUNCIL



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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 your professors 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 9, 10, and 11. 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 12, 14, and 15. 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 9 through 15 we hold 11 practice sessions (approximately 30 minutes a piece). This is an opportunity to practice floor debates and parliamentary procedure. For most of these sessions you will be a floor participant assigned a country but for one you will chair. At our first class you will be assigned a session to chair. The entire class will be prepared to argue the topic (available here <http://www.hnmun.org>) from their country's perspective. Chairing a panel involves a short (1-3 minute) 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 Monday 20 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 Friday 8 December. 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 9 – 15
UN Quizzes	Weeks 9, 10, and 11
Country Quizzes	Weeks 12, 14, and 15
Chair Panel	Once during Weeks 10-15
Committee Report	Monday 20 November
Position Papers	Friday 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 9 (Monday 23 October)

The United Nations and Its Institutions (**UN Quiz #1**)

Readings: *Fasulo* chs 1-8 and Appendix A-Diplomat for a Day and *HNMMUN Guide to Delegate Preparation and Rules of Parliamentary Procedure*.

Session: 1. TBA

Other: Assignment of countries to represent in practice sessions.

Week 10 (Monday 30 October)

Collective Security (**UN Quiz #2**)

Readings: *Fasulo* chs 9-13

Sessions: 2. The Necessity of Military Aid (DISEC) and 3. The Impact of Sharp Decreases in Commodity Prices (ECOFIN)

Other: Elect head delegate.

Week 11 (Monday 6 November)

Sustainable Development (**UN Quiz #3**)

Readings: *Fasulo* chs 14-20

Sessions: 4. Asylum for LGBTQ Individuals Fleeing Persecution (SOCHUM) and 5. Status of South Sudan (SPECPOL)

Week 12 (Monday 13 November)

Assigned Country's Security Situation (**Country Quiz #1**)

Readings: TBD

Sessions: 6. The Protection of Threatened Religious Minority Groups (LEGAL) and 7. Global Poverty and its Effects on Women (CSW)

Other: Select Committees.

Week 13 (Monday 20 November)

Trip to Boston General Overview

Week 14 (Monday 27 November)

Assigned Country's Political Economy (**Country Quiz #2**)

Readings: TBD

Sessions: 8. Agriculture and Climate Change (UNDP) and 9. The Rights of Linguistic Minorities (SOCHUM)

Week 15 (Monday 4 December)

Assigned Country's Social and Cultural Atmosphere (**Country Quiz #3**)

Readings: TBD

Sessions: 10. The Proliferation of Weapons in East Asia (DISEC) and 11. Sexual Rights (LEGAL)

General Classroom 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 requires accommodations 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 – Every student has the right to a comfortable learning environment where the open and honest exchange of ideas may freely occur. Each student is expected to do his or her part to ensure that the classroom (and anywhere else the class may meet) remains conducive to learning. This includes respectful and courteous treatment of all in the classroom. According to the terms of the University of Tampa Disruption Policy, the professor will take immediate action when inappropriate behavior occurs.

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 deteriorated. 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).

Title IX Statement - Sexual violence includes nonconsensual sexual contact and nonconsensual sexual intercourse (which is any type of sexual contact without your explicit consent, including rape), dating violence, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, and stalking. You may reach out for confidential help or report an incident for investigation. If you choose to write or speak about an incident of sexual violence and disclose that this violence occurred while you were a UT student, the instructor is obligated to report the incident to the Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students. The purpose of this report is to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all students. The Deputy Coordinator or his or her designee will contact you to let you know about the resources, accommodations, and support services at UT and possibilities for holding the perpetrator accountable. If you do not want the Title IX Coordinator notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, you can speak confidentially with the following individuals: - The Victim's Advocacy Hotline 813.257.3900; Dickey Health & Wellness Center (wellness@ut.edu) 813.257.1877; Health and Counseling Center (healthcenter@ut.edu) 813.253.6250. They can connect you with support services and discuss options for holding the perpetrator accountable.

Academic Assistance – The Academic Success Center (academicsuccess@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. The Public Speaking Center (KBB 200, speakingcenter@ut.edu) offers students help with presentations. 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 – Cheating, plagiarism, copying and any other behavior that is contrary to University standards of behavior will not be tolerated. Students caught violating any aspect of the University of Tampa's Academic Integrity Policy will be penalized in all cases. Penalty ranges from "0" on an assignment to "F" for the course without regard to a student's accumulated points. Students may also face expulsion. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the policies of the university regarding academic integrity and to avoid violating such policies. Policy information is found at: <http://ut.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/catalog/Academic-Policies-and-Procedures/Academic-Integrity-Policy>

Class Rules, Etiquette, and Advice:

We like our jobs a lot. There are few things we 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 the classroom just a bit more prepared to make their society better is sustaining. Following is a list of things you can do to help us 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 us happy whereas the converse will make us 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. We 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.

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 we think it is important that you not only read and hear the information, but have to reconstitute and challenge it. We are 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 assignments. 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 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. If you miss an assignment because of tardiness you will need to consult that assignment's make-up policy.

Class is done when the professor says something to the effect of "see you next class" and not before. We will do our best to end class on time if not a few minutes earlier. There will, however, be some class periods where we 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. We 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 us 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 NOT use cell phones, computers, or recording devices in class – There is a boatload of research suggesting students learn more during lectures when they take notes the old fashioned way with paper and a pen or pencil. Even if you do not buy this evidence or consider yourself an outlier, electronic devices prove distracting to your neighbors.

DO NOT ask for extra credit – Rarely we give out extra credit opportunities. When we do, the opportunity is initiated by the professor and open to all students in class. We 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 – We assume every student who enters the 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. Your grade represents both effort and skill so students that put in more effort than average and/or are more skilled than average will do best in the class, whereas students who put in less effort than average and/or are less skilled will do worse. We have given failing marks to students who we think are wonderful people and given A grades to students who we would rather never see again. Grades are not personal statements on your character, they are a professional opinion of the work you submit.

DO learn how to question grades respectfully – We do our 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. We will NOT change a grade or let you resubmit an assignment simply because you want a better grade. If, however, you think we have made a mistake we 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) a detailed explanation of why you think you deserve a different grade. We will review your submission and give you our final decision within a week of receipt at which time we 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 was making a good argument it just did not come across in my paper," "I was having a bad day can you cut me some slack," or "I need to pass this class to graduate" will be summarily dismissed as they do not speak to the quality of the work.

DO NOT send me an email unless it's an emergency – With several classes and nearly 100 students a semester emails can become burdensome. While we know email seems convenient from the student point of view because it is more instantly gratifying and relatively labor free, We have

found the method of communication a poor way to convey the complex concepts we deal with in class. So how can you decide if an email is an emergency? We would encourage you to ask yourself the following three questions:

- 1) Can I find the answer on the syllabus, in a text, or online?
- 2) Is it something one of my colleagues in class can answer?
- 3) Can it wait until next class or office hours?

If you answer any of these questions in the affirmative, PLEASE fight against the temptation to hit send. Also if you submit an assignment by email we will NOT grade it. Written assignments are submitted via Blackboard.

DO visit us 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 our office during office hours. We keep five hours per week and these hours are for you. You are not pestering us or taking me away from something more important. It is nice to talk with students outside of our regular classroom setting.

DO know the university policy on “excused” absences – The UT catalog has a section on “excused absences.” It falls under the heading “Class Attendance and Participation” in the Academic Policies and Procedures section. 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 following university procedures. The best way to be granted an excused absence is with prior approval. If you will miss an exam or presentation due to a previously scheduled event, let me know at least two weeks in advance and you will almost always be allowed an early exam or presentation. In the event that prior approval is not possible, you must provide acceptable documentation detailing the reasons for your excuse as soon as possible. Be thorough with this documentation as the burden of proving an absence is excusable falls on the student. 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 understand that we are 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. We post grades on Blackboard and the syllabus explains in detail our weighting formula so you have access to all the information we do regarding your current standing in the class and may share it with anyone you want.