The United Nations System
Political Science 225
Spring Semester 2017
Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-3:20pm in Kauke 137

Dr. Kent Kille
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Class web page: http://discover.wooster.edu/kkille/unsystem/

Office hours: Mon. 10:30-11:30am, Wed. 3:30-4:30pm, Fri. 2:00-3:00pm; or by appointment
*Schedule an office hour meeting at https://kentkille.youcanbook.me/

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Office Hour: Sunday 7:00-8:00pm in CoRE

Course Description:
This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of the United Nations through related readings, regular class sessions, and an interactive diplomatic simulation of the political processes of the organization that addresses a set of international problems selected by the students in the course. The first part of the course details the background, structure, political process, and financing of the United Nations system. The second part of the course explores how the United Nations has worked to address a range of global issues. The course concludes with students exploring the United Nations’ decision-making process by taking on the role of a particular member-state. Students prepare by researching their country and writing position papers and related draft resolutions outlining how the selected global issues should be addressed. Across several weeks they then negotiate with their classmates to create resolutions addressing these issues.

Required Reading:
There are three books required for this course. In addition, there are readings posted on electronic reserve at http://libguides.wooster.edu/er.php?ecid=12329 (a password will be given in class). Students are also required to follow the international news relevant to the United Nations on a daily basis.


4. Daily News: Students need to follow current UN actions in the international arena on a daily basis by monitoring the news for stories related to the UN. As part of this, students must subscribe to the UN Wire, a free summary of UN news stories from around the world distributed via e-mail. To subscribe, go to www.smartbrief.com/un_wire. Students may also follow UN news directly at www.un.org/News/ or UN News Reader app.
Course Requirements:

I. Class participation (20% of course grade)
Class participation is a vital part of this course. Before the conference simulation begins, students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to class and to participate in discussion on a regular basis. During the simulation, students must attend each session and be actively engaged in the resolution-making process.

II. Examinations (40% of course grade): Both exams are essay format.
A. Midterm Exam (20% of course grade): The midterm tests students’ knowledge of Part I of the course examining the basics of the United Nations System, including United Nations history, structure, political process, engagement with civil society, and financing the United Nations.

B. Final Exam (20% of course grade): The final exam primarily tests students’ knowledge of the Secretariat/Secretary-General and the material covered in Part II of the course on the United Nations in action.

III. Paper Assignments (40% of course grade)
A. Literature Review Paper (worth 10% total of course grade)
In order to explore a particular subject connected to the United Nations in more depth, students will undertake a review of related literature. Students have two options: (1) conduct a review of a single book or (2) conduct an integrated review of three related articles and/or book chapters from different volumes.

A literature review proposal must be submitted for instructor approval. This proposal should provide a full citation for each book or article, a one-paragraph description of each scholarly work, and a copy of a book’s table of contents or the first page of an article with the abstract (i.e. you must have the material in hand). Failure to turn in a proposal on time will lead to an automatic one-letter grade deduction from the final paper (see below in the syllabus for the proposal and paper due dates).

The paper must be a minimum of 5 pages in length (not including the bibliography). Be sure to address the following:

- What is the theoretical perspective and/or analytical framework employed? What are the main arguments connected to this perspective and/or analytical framework?
- How are the arguments supported? Areas to consider can include: the authors’ assumptions, logic, evidence, and methodology.
- Critically evaluate the scholarly work. Issues that you might address include: Are the arguments well-presented and properly supported? Are you convinced by the author(s) that their arguments are correct? Why? What are the strengths of the scholarly work? What are the shortcomings of the scholarly work?
- Building out of your critique, in your opinion what should further literature on this subject address in order to build our understanding in this area?

Reading on Literature Reviews:
In preparation for the literature review, students must read the following:
- Study and Learning Centre. 2011. Writing the Literature Review / Using the Literature. RMIT University. Available at: www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lse/content/2_AssessmentTasks/assess_pdf/PG%20lit%20review.pdf
In order to prepare for the Model United Nations Conference Simulation, students are required to research their country, the two issues that will be debated during the meetings, and the country positions to be argued. This paper covers three sections, and the first two sections must be a minimum of 10 pages in length total.

Section I: Country Information (4 pages minimum, not including the “Country Information Chart”)

- Present a brief, basic description of your country’s position and interests in international affairs. To help prepare this section, you must fill out the “Country Information Chart” (to be handed out in class) and attach this at the end of your paper.
- Provide background of your country’s place and role played at the United Nations in general.
- Detail your country’s specific efforts to address the two issues for the simulation, both through the United Nations and in other ways.

Section II: “Public” Position Papers\(^1\) (3 pages minimum for each issue)

This part of the paper provides a statement of your country’s position on the issue and serves as the basis for negotiating with other delegates. You will write two distinct position papers, one for each issue to be debated at the conference. You may adapt the position papers for public speeches or share a version with other delegates so that they are clearly informed regarding your position. Each position paper must include the following:

- A brief statement of your country’s current general position on the issue.
- A clear explanation of what the United Nations has already done to address this issue (be sure to provide specific UN documents - such as previous resolutions, treaties, statements by UN officials or representatives, the Charter - to support this discussion).
- Specific options for international action that your country supports in order to address the issue (provide a minimum of three action items, with details to explain and support each recommendation).

As part of their research, students must contact the permanent mission of their country at the UN. In your paper indicate how and when you contacted the permanent mission, and what response you received (or if no response was ever received despite multiple efforts).

Remember, as AMUN emphasizes, “a well written public position paper is not about your country, but rather about what your country would like to accomplish on the topics of discussion in each simulation. Thus, your public position papers should not talk about the problems facing your country, but rather the problems facing the international community” (Rules and Procedures).

Section III: Draft Resolutions

The ultimate goal of the Model UN simulation is to pass resolutions addressing the issue. Thus, you also need to formulate your ideas in the form of two draft resolutions (one for each issue). You should draw on the material employed in your position papers, but the resolutions must strictly follow proper resolution formatting. Further instructions for constructing a draft resolution, including a sample draft resolution, will be handed out separately in class.

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\(^1\) Instructions for the “public” position paper are adapted from the American Model United Nations Rules and Procedures Handbook
Note on Research and Citations: To complete the simulation preparation paper, students must do extensive research outside of the class readings. Students must carefully cite all information gained from outside sources using footnote citation format and should list all sources used in a bibliography at the end of the paper. Please note that web-based sources are acceptable, but must \textit{NOT} be the sole source of information for the paper and must be carefully cited as well. If there are any questions regarding proper citation technique please see the instructor.

C. Model UN Simulation Evaluation Paper (10\% of course grade)
Students will write an evaluative paper that demonstrates what they have learned from taking part in the conference simulation. Specific questions to be covered in the paper, which in particular will build upon the related Smith reading for this section, will be handed out in class.

Grading: As stated in The College of Wooster Catalogue, letter grades are defined as:
“\textbf{A range}” indicates an outstanding performance in which there has been distinguished achievement in all phases of the course
“\textbf{B range}” indicates a good performance in which there has been a high level of achievement in some phases of the course
“\textbf{C range}” indicates an adequate performance in which a basic understanding of the subject has been demonstrated
“\textbf{D range}” indicates a minimal performance in which despite recognizable deficiencies there is enough to merit credit
F or NC indicates unsatisfactory performance

Course Policies:
1. Remember, while students will be working together during the simulation to arrive at joint resolutions, individuals are responsible for researching and writing their own separate papers. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be treated as such. References must be clearly cited in the research. Work done by other students or work done previously for other classes is also unacceptable. Students who plagiarize will automatically fail the course and could be subject to further academic disciplinary action. If there are any questions regarding proper academic behavior please see the professor or refer to the “Code of Academic Integrity” in \textit{The Scot’s Key} (available at www.wooster.edu/students/dean/).

2. Exam make-ups will only be allowed in extreme circumstances, such as a severe illness or death of a close member of the family. A makeup exam will be administered only if the student contacts the instructor before the exam and has documentation to support his or her excuse.

3. There will be no extensions given for the paper deadlines. Students handing in a late paper will have one letter grade deducted for every day that the paper is late and papers will only be accepted in this manner with prior permission from the instructor.

4. Students must turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices before class. Any failure to do so, especially the use of cell phones during class time, will lead to a severe penalty for the student’s class participation grade. During regular class sessions laptop computers or tablets are allowed in class for note-taking and accessing electronic readings only, and it is highly recommended that students turn off wireless internet access before class. Any improper use of a laptop computer or tablet will lead to the loss of privilege of using this device in class, as well as a severe penalty for the student’s class participation grade.
COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS
Part I. The United Nations System
January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Campus-Wide Celebration

January 18: Introduction to Course and Overview of the United Nations System
Mingst, Karns, and Lyon, Chapter 1, “The United Nations in World Politics,” pp. 1-20

January 23: United Nations Historical Background

For reference: UN History Project, www.unhistoryproject.org

January 25: United Nations System Structure Overview
Smith, Chapter 6, “Formal Arenas: The Structures of Decisionmaking,” pp. 141-186

Skim for reference, Charter of the United Nations (available in Mingst, Karns, and Lyon, pp. 348-361)

Robert Kolb, “Membership of the United Nations,” pp. 106-114 (on reserve)
James Raymond Vreeland and Alex Dreher, “Reforming the UNSC,” pp. 220-241 (on reserve)
M. J. Peterson, “Key Criticisms of the General Assembly in Historical Perspective,” pp. 122-137 (on reserve)

February 1: Member States and Issue Review *Select Countries and Issues
Mingst, Karns, and Lyon, begin Chapter 3 “Actors in the United Nations System,” pp. 71-93
Smith, begin Chapter 2 “Member States and Delegates,” pp. 19-41 and 207-222 on voting

Smith, Chapter 3, “Groups and Blocs,” pp. 53-78


February 8: Civil Society and the United Nations


NGLS, “Introduction” (pp. vii-xii), “A Guide to NGO Participation” and “Accreditation” (pp. 51-63), and “Three Generations of UN-Civil Society Relations” (pp. 135-143)

Smith, Chapter 5, “Civil Society and the Private Sector,” pp. 109-138


February 13: Financing the United Nations

Review Mingst, Karns, and Lyon, pp. 59-64

Jeffrey Laurenti, “Financing,” pp. 675-697 (on reserve)


February 15: MIDTERM

February 20: Secretariat and International Administration

Review Mingst, Karns, and Lyon, “Administration, Management, and Coordination,” pp. 64-66 and read “The Secretary-General and the UN Secretariat as Key Actors,” pp. 94-99

Smith, Secretariat sections of Chapter 4, “The Secretariat and the Secretary-General,” pp. 79-86 and 99-107

February 22: Secretary-General
Smith, Secretary-General section of Chapter 4, “The Secretariat and the Secretary-General,” pp. 86-99

Kent Kille, Chapter 2, “The Secretary-Generalship: The Individual Behind the Office” and Chapter 3, “A Secretary-General’s Avenues for Influence,” pp. 7-66 from From Manager to Visionary: The Secretary-General of the United Nations (on reserve)

Kent Kille, “Introduction” and Chapter 1, “Moral Authority and the UN Secretary-General’s Ethical Framework,” pp. 1-24 from The UN Secretary-General and Moral Authority: Ethics & Religion in International Leadership (on reserve)


Part II. The United Nations in Action
February 27: Human Rights
Mingst, Karns, and Lyon, Chapter 6, “Human Rights,” pp. 235-289


March 1: Self-Determination


March 6: Gender and the United Nations *Class session by TA Sabrina
Reading to be determined

March 8: Peacekeeping Overview
*Final day to turn in Literature Review Paper

Video: The United Nations: Last Station Before Hell

March 13-24: NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
March 27: Maintaining International Peace and Security

Rama Mani, “Peaceful Settlement of Disputes and Conflict Prevention,” pp. 300-322 (on reserve)


March 29: Peacebuilding
Roland Paris, “Post-Conflict Peacebuilding,” pp. 404-426 (on reserve)


April 3: Terrorism and Arms Control
Mingst, Karns, and Lyon, continue Chapter 3 with sections “Arms Control and Disarmament” and “Coping With Terrorism” pp. 167-178

Edward C. Luck, “Another Reluctant Belligerent: The United Nations and the War on Terrorism,” pp. 95-106 (on reserve)

Monika Heupel, “Adapting to Transnational Terrorism: The UN Security Council’s Evolving Approach to Terrorism,” pp. 477-499 (on reserve)


April 5: United States-United Nations Relations
*Guest lecture by Alynna Lyon


April 10: Economic Development


April 12: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

Maria Ivanova, “Institutional Design and UNEP Reform: Historical Insights on Form, Function and Financing,” pp. 565-584 (on reserve)

Felix Dodds, David Donoghue, and Jimena Leiva Roesch, “The Big Year: The Preparatory Process,” pp. 70-112 from Negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals (on reserve)

Part III. Model United Nations Conference Simulation
*Remember that attendance is mandatory at all conference sessions

In conjunction with the simulation, students should read the following:
Smith, Chapter 2, “Member States and Delegates,” pp. 19-51
Chapter 8, “Informal Networking: The Personal Side,” pp. 223-245

April 17: Conference Simulation Launch *Final day to hand in Simulation Preparation Paper

Review Rules of Procedure to be used for in-class simulation
*Be prepared to set the agenda for the conference today as a review of rules of procedure

April 19: Conference Session #1
*Hand in text of speech for topic #1

April 24: Conference Session #2

April 26: Conference Session #3
*Estimated date to hand in speech for topic #2

May 1: Conference Session #4 (Final Session)

May 3: Conference Debrief and the Future of the United Nations
*Recommended due date for Model UN Simulation Evaluation Paper

Mingst, Karns, and Lyons, Chapter 8, “Is There a Future for the United Nations?” pp. 335-347


FINAL EXAM: Thursday May 11 at 2:00pm