

POLI 387 – International Simulation

Spring 2021

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30-4:45 PM, CCC 303 & Virtually Via Zoom

Professor Jennifer N. Collins, Ph.D.

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Zoom Student Hours: Tuesdays 9-10 AM & Wednesdays 11-12 noon, and by appointment

Course Description

This course aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of international politics, diplomacy, and crucial global issues through the study and simulation of the work of the world's most important international organization (IO), the United Nations (UN). Founded in 1947, the UN boasts near universal membership of the world's recognized states and plays instrumental roles in addressing vital global issues related to peace and security, development and poverty, the environment, and the promotion of human rights. We will study the history and structure of the UN system and explore key global issues addressed within the UN framework. Some students may choose to participate in one of the largest intercollegiate Model UN simulation conferences, the National Model United Nations that is held annually in New York City.

In this class, you will learn not only by reading and writing, but also through simulating and role playing. You will research and draft resolutions, make speeches, engage in negotiations, thus simulating the work of real-world UN diplomats. You will be tasked with researching an assigned country's background, government, and foreign policy, and you will research and develop expertise on specific global issues. Students will learn the basic rules and protocols that guide diplomatic work at the UN and then put this knowledge to work as you try to craft agreements to solve a pressing global issue during the final simulation at the end of the semester.

Required Texts

- Karen A. Mingst, Margaret P. Karns, and Alynna J. Lyon. *The United Nations in the 21st Century, Fifth Edition*. New York, London: Routledge, 2017. (Available through UWSP Text Rental)
- Other assigned readings will be made available on Canvas under the e-Reserves module.

Specific Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe basic facts about the UN.
- Explain how the core institutions and member states of the UN function in practice.
- Find and analyze information on specific countries and important global issues.
- Identify key components of some non-English-speaking countries and describe how their history, culture, or institutions shape their views of global issues and politics.
- Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the UN in contributing to global cooperation and interconnectedness between nations of the world.
- Put yourself in the shoes of a country not your own and play the role of that country in a simulation of an international meeting.
- Effectively communicate and advocate for specific policy preferences and negotiate with other parties.

General Education Learning Outcomes

This course fulfills the Global Awareness GEP category and aims to meet these learning outcomes.

GEP Global Awareness Learning Outcomes

- Identify the key components found within one or more cultures that are distinct from those found in predominantly English-speaking cultures.
- Analyze key forces or processes that contribute to global interconnectedness, and their implications.
- Demonstrate curiosity and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade will be based on your performance in the following areas:

Attendance & Participation	20%
Brief Homework Assignments	5%
Country Fact Sheet	10%
Group Presentation on General Assembly Issue Area	15%
Draft Clauses for Security Council Resolution	10%
Participation in Model Diplomacy Simulation	20%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

Course grades will be calculated on a straight percentage scale. An A equals 93 or above, A- 90-92.99, B+ 87-89.99, B 83-86.99, B- 80-82.99, C+ 77-79.99, C 73-76.99, C- 70-72.99, D+ 67-69.99, D 60-66.99, F 59.99 and below.

Attendance and Participation

This class will meet simultaneously in-person and via Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:45 PM.

Class sessions will combine lecture, discussion, and various activities. Attendance and participation are ***crucial*** to success in this course and will count towards 20% of your grade. You are expected to attend all class sessions and come prepared to engage in that day's activities having completed all assigned readings and tasks.

Each student will be allowed 2 unexcused absences with no penalty. Points will be deducted starting with the third unexcused absence. **More than 6 unexcused absences (3 weeks) will result in a failing grade for Attendance and Participation,** which means you will earn anywhere from 0-60% of the total possible 20 points and risk failing the course. Excused absences will not count towards these limits, but you should provide me with documentation, such as a note from a doctor or coach, if you request an excused absence. In addition to regular attendance, active participation in class is expected. I will keep a record of student participation and will refer to it when I calculate this portion of your grade.

For those students attending via Zoom, we will use the same Zoom link for every class session. This link is also provided in Canvas:

Topic: POLI 387 Class Meetings Spring 2021

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/94457429380?pwd=cEJlVUVlODlkQlY0UVByeTZhUUEwdz09>

Meeting ID: 944 5742 9380

Passcode: 054135

Brief Homework Assignments

A couple of brief homework assignments are included in the Class Schedule. These involve searching for information and briefly reporting back to the class. These homework assignments will not be graded. Students will earn full points for completion of these tasks.

Country Fact Sheet

Each student will be assigned to serve as representative of a country for the semester and for the final Security Council Simulation. In order to lay a foundation for understanding your assigned country, each student will fill out a sheet with a list of key background questions on that country. The questions will be posted to Canvas by the third week of class and the completed Fact Sheets will be due in Canvas on Monday, March 1 by midnight.

Group Presentations

In order to develop your research, teamwork, and public speaking skills, as well as learn about some of the many issues that the UN works on, the class will be broken up into groups with each one assigned an issue on which to present. Groups will research their topic and prepare a PowerPoint to present to the class. Each group will have about 15-20 minutes to present an overview of their issue and describe what role the UN currently plays. More specific instructions and guidelines will be provided

Draft Clauses for Security Council Resolution

In preparation for our final UN Security Council Simulation and after doing background reading on the case chosen to serve as the subject for the simulation, students will be guided in drafting draft clauses to be debated for inclusion in the final Security Council resolution. Draft Clauses will be due on Sunday, April 25, right before the start of the simulation. Further instructions will be provided.

Model Diplomacy Simulation

The culminating activity of the semester will be a two-week long simulation of a Security Council meeting called to address a hypothetical international crisis. We will use one of the simulations in the Model Diplomacy series prepared by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Most students will play the role of their assigned country, a few may be assigned other roles. Attendance and keen participation in the simulation exercise are essential and will count for 20% of your grade. Due to differences in personality and assigned roles, some students may participate more visibly than others. Regardless of these differences, all can in their own way engage actively in the simulation, grappling with the issues, attempting to persuade other members of the council, and ultimately helping to arrive at a final decision that will be captured in a final document.

Important Note: Unlike a written assignment, there will be NO MAKE-UP for the simulation exercise. The only exception would be some grave and unforeseen extenuating circumstance, like a serious illness or accident. Therefore, if you know now that you will be unable to attend class meetings (either in-person or via Zoom) during Weeks 13 and 14 (4/27, 4/29, 5/4, and 5/6), you should DROP the course.

Final Exam

The final exam will be given on Canvas during finals week. It will consist of a variety of question types, as well as a short essay that will have you reflect on the simulation. Further guidance, as well as a study guide will be provided towards the end of the semester.

Extra Credit

There will be several opportunities for extra credit. A key opportunity will be attending Council on Foreign Relations webinars. The schedule for these is posted on Canvas under Course Organization. To get extra credit, after attending any webinar, write up a brief 1-page reflection on what you learned, what questions you have, and/or what your impressions were of the views of the speakers and the topic. Turn these extra credit assignments into Canvas.

Current Events

I encourage all students to get in the habit of following the news, but it is especially important for this class, as we will be talking about many current global issues throughout the semester. Please try to keep up daily with international news. I strongly recommend that for the duration of this semester that you subscribe to “UN Wire” (it is free), which is an e-mail news service that sends links to stories from a variety of prominent global news sources on issues related to peace and war, international relations, the United Nations, development, poverty, etc. This is an excellent way to keep abreast of important developments in the world and begin to expand the number of news sources you read.

In terms of newspapers with excellent coverage of international events, I recommend, among others, the *New York Times*, *The Guardian* (London), and *Al Jaazera*. Another great way to keep up with the news, even when you do not have much time, is to listen to the daily news programs on National Public Radio (NPR). They will keep you up to date on current events and important issues, both domestic and international. You can hear NPR news on Wisconsin Public Radio, which has two local radio stations: The Ideas Network at 99.1 FM and News and Classical at 90.9 FM. You can also listen live and access podcasts of previous shows at www.wpr.org.

I also recommend the daily news program, Democracy Now! for excellent and critical coverage of national and world events from a progressive, non-mainstream perspective. This television news program is broadcast weekday mornings and can be heard anytime online at: www.democracynow.org

There are many terrific podcasts that can help you learn about and keep up with the news. One that I recommend for delving deeper into top news stories is “The Daily”, which is produced by the *New York Times* and is available for free on Apple Podcasts and other platforms.

Communications and Technology

There is a **Canvas** section set up for this class, which you should access regularly and get accustomed to using. There you will find the syllabus, e-Reserve readings, gradebook, and other materials that you will need as they become available. I will also use Canvas to post announcements and reminders. Finally, you will turn in all written assignments to Canvas.

I welcome your questions, thoughts, concerns, and suggestions. There are several ways you can communicate with me:

- **Zoom Student Hours** - I will be available on Tuesdays from 9-10 AM and Wednesdays from 11-12 noon if you want to meet with me via Zoom. Use the Student Hours link on Canvas, not the class meetings link. Feel free to pop in if you have questions or concerns or if you would like to chat.
- **Canvas Inbox and Email** - For private matters or questions that are of concern only to you, the most efficient way to contact me outside of class or Student Hours is via Canvas Inbox or regular email.
- **Hey Prof. Collins!** - For questions about the syllabus, course organization, specific assignments, or course content, I encourage you to use the “Hey Prof. Collins!” discussion board. This is meant to serve as a venue for you to ask me questions that might be of interest to the whole class, such as those concerning content or the mechanics of how the course is working. The board is NOT graded and will not have any impact on your final grade. Feel free to post questions or simply check in to see what questions other students are raising.

If you find you are having any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure to reach out to me as early as possible. Building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming a successful professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing me and your other instructors when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Technology Support

- Visit with a [Student Technology Tutor](#)
- Seek assistance from the IT Service Desk (Formerly HELP Desk)
 - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
 - IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu

The Writing Lab

The Writing Lab in the Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) offers free one-on-one help with papers for any class. Writing Lab consultants are successful UWSP students who can discuss any type of writing at any stage of the drafting process, including brainstorming, outlining, research, drafting and preparing citations. They work with experienced as well as struggling writers; we believe that everyone benefits from discussions about their writing.

- **The Writing Lab is currently working virtually via Zoom**
- **By appointment or short notice times are available**
- **You can send us your paper for revision via [an online form \(found here\)](#)**
- **All services in the Writing Lab are free**

If you have questions or would like to make an appointment, please contact the TLC via email (tlctutor@uwsp.edu) or phone (715-346-3568).

Privacy and Recordings

Lecture materials, Zoom classes, and recordings for POLI 387 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures or class discussions without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] ***Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities.*** Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Protecting Your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website. <https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/>

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP)
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your device

Academic Integrity and Turnitin

All students are expected to abide by the guidelines for academic integrity contained in the UW System Administrative Code. As a student it behooves you to be well acquainted with these guidelines and to understand clearly what constitutes plagiarism, as violations can result in severe consequences. We will use the plagiarism detection program, Turnitin.com, via Canvas. You will upload all your written work to Canvas, which is connected to the Turnitin.com database. **Please note that if you fail to upload a paper to Canvas you will not receive credit for the assignment.**

Course Schedule

Week 1 – Introduction to the Class and the UN

1/26 – Introductions and Course Overview

No assigned reading

1/28 – The UN in World Politics

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 1

Watch: The United Nations: It's Your World" (6 min. Video produced by the UN on e-Reserves)

Class Activity: Decide on UN Security Council Simulation

Brief Homework Assignment Due Week 2: Explore the UN website and find a useful information source to share with the class: www.un.org

Week 2 – The Origin and Structure of the UN

2/2 – The General Assembly & The Security Council

Readings:

- *Basic Facts About the United Nations*, pp. 3-5
- Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 2, pp. 21-42, ending at “The Secretariat”

Class Activity: Students share UN information sources with class (see HW from 1/28)

2/4 – Secretariat and Other Parts of the UN

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 2, pp. 42-55, ending at “Persistent Organizational Problems...”

Class Activities:

- Students share UN information sources with class (see HW from 1/28)
- Country Assignments

Week 3 – States in the UN System

2/9 – Major Powers

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 3, pp. 71-84.

Brief Homework Assignment Due Week 4: Outline and prepare to present your country’s position on assigned issue.

2/11 – Middle Powers and Developing States

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 3, pp. 84-93.

Discuss: Country Fact Sheet, Due March 1

Week 4 – The Second and Third UN; Peace and Security Agenda

2/16 - The Secretary General & Non-State Actors

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 3, pp. 94-107.

Class Activity - Assigned countries’ positions on UN committees’ key issues (see HW from 2/10)

2/18 - Problems and Criticisms of the UN

Readings:

- Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 2, pp. 55-67.
- Chris McGreal. “70 years and half a trillion dollars later: What has the UN achieved?” *The Guardian*, September 7, 2015. (Link is provided here and on e-Reserves)
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/07/what-has-the-un-achieved-united-nations>

Class Activity: Assigned countries’ positions on UN committees’ key issues (see HW from 2/10)

Week 5 – Peacekeeping and R2P

2/23 – Overview of the UN’s Role and Track Record on Collective Security

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 4, pp. 111-131.

2/25 – UN Peacekeeping

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 4, pp. 131-159. (Note: pp. 140-153 contain several case studies. Pick one from each category and skim the rest.)

Week 6 – R2P and Economic Development

3/1 - DUE: Country Fact Sheet, upload to Canvas by midnight

3/2 - Right to Protect

Readings:

- Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 4, pp. 159-167.
- Daniel P.L. Chong. *Debating Human Rights*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2014. Ch. 5 “Does the International Community Have a ‘Responsibility to Protect’?” (pp. 65-78). (e-Reserves)

Class Activity: Decide on groups and topics for group presentations

3/4 – Economic Development & Sustainability

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 5, pp. 191-223 (Note: You can skip the section on “Specialized Agencies, Programs, and Partnerships, pp 206-209.)

Class Activity: Groups begin to organize work on group presentations

Week 7 – Human Rights

3/9 – The UN and the Promotion of Human Rights

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 6, pp. 235-261, ending at “Case Studies of the UN in Action”

3/11 - Case Studies of UN Action on Human Rights

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 6

- Read at least one of the 4 case studies in the section titled, “Case Studies of the UN System in Action”, pp. 261-277, ending at “Ad Hoc International War Crimes Tribunals”.
- Read final section of chapter, “Evaluating the UN’s Human Rights Record, pp. 282-285.

Week 8 – Human Security

3/16 – Health

Readings:

- Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 7, pp. 291-293 & 315-321.
- Gayle E. Smith. “In Search of Sustainable Security: Linking National Security, Human Security, and Collective Security to Protect America and Our World.” In *Annual Editions: World Politics 9/10, 13th Edition*. McGraw Hill: 69-82.

3/18 – Migration

Reading: Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 7, pp. 321-330.

March 20-28 – Spring Break – Enjoy!!!

Week 9 – National Model UN - No class meetings

- Some students will be taking part in the National Model UN Conference
- Those students not attending should use this time to work on their Group Presentations

3/30 – *No class meeting and no assigned readings*

4/1 – *No class meeting and no assigned readings*

Week 10 – Group Presentations

4/6 – Group Presentations

No assigned readings

4/8 – Group Presentations

No assigned readings

Week 11 – Preparing for UN Security Council Simulation – Background Readings

4/13 – Case Study

Readings from Model Diplomacy TBA

Discuss Assignment: Draft Clauses for UN Security Council, Due 4/25

4/15 - Case Study

Readings from Model Diplomacy TBA

Week 12 – Group Presentations

4/20 – Rules of Procedure for UN Meetings

Reading: NMUN Rules of Procedure, 2018. (e-Reserves)

4/22 – Rules of Procedure for UN Meetings cont.

Week 13 – UNSC Simulation

4/25 (Sunday)- DUE: Draft Clauses for UN Security Council Resolution- Upload to Canvas by midnight

4/27 – UN Security Council Simulation

4/29 – UN Security Council Simulation

Week 14 – UNSC Simulation

5/4 – UN Security Council Simulation

5/6 – UN Security Council Simulation

Week 15 – Conclusions

5/11 – The Future of the UN

Readings:

- Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, Ch. 8, entire
- CFR.org Editors. “The UN at 75: How to Make it Relevant Again.” Council on Foreign Relations, September 14, 2020. (Link available here and on e-Reserves)

<https://www.cfr.org/article/un-seventy-five-how-make-it-relevant-again>

5/13 – Conclusions and Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM PERIOD: WEDNESDAY, MAY 19th, 5:00-7:00 PM

EXAM WILL BE TAKEN ON CANVAS