



POL 350-B: International Organizations Introduction to the United Nations and Multilateral Diplomacy

Spring 2019 / Thursdays 7:00pm–8:40pm / IDC 116

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Course website: <http://www.jkarreth.net/modelun.html>

Important dates — please note in your calendars:

Saturday, February 9, 11:59pm: First drafts of position papers must be submitted on Canvas.

Saturday, February 23, 11:59pm: Final position papers must be submitted on Canvas.

Sunday, March 24, 11am: Departure from campus

March 24-28: NMUN conference in New York City

Thursday, March 28, 10pm: Return to campus

You must clear your absences with your professors by the end of January!

Course description

This course is the second part of the two-course sequence POL 350 for the Model United Nations program at Ursinus College. Students will build on their experience from POL 350-A to prepare for representing Iraq at the Model United Nations Conference in New York City. Students will familiarize themselves with the politics and foreign policy of Iraq and act as Iraq's representatives on a UN committee during the 2018 National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference. Working with a partner, members of each committee will prepare a position paper outlining their country's stance on issues such as climate change, disarmament, economic development, human rights, refugees, and women's rights. Students will also learn rules of procedure and gain experience with oral presentation and debate.

A considerable portion of the class in both semesters is dedicated toward the development of so-called soft skills—team work, writing and speaking clearly, adapting to changing circumstances and interacting with others from different backgrounds. Toward this end, you will be practicing persuasive writing, public speaking, critical thinking, problem-solving, strategizing and group work.

Learning outcomes

Upon successfully completing both courses of the POL 350 sequence, students will:

- have developed and improved core skills in research, writing, public speaking and team work.
- understand the organization of the United Nations, its role in international politics and the contemporary issues that it faces.
- look at contemporary issues from a global perspective, considering the distinct viewpoints of other countries and actors. In so doing, students will gain a better appreciation for the benefits and challenges of multilateral diplomacy.

Materials

Your primary reading material for this semester is posted on the National Model UN website:

- Your committee's background guide: http://nmun.org/ny_committee_guides.html.
- The *NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide*: <http://nmun.org/downloads/NMUNDelegatePrepGuide.pdf>.
- The *NMUN Rules and Overview*: <http://www.nmun.org/downloads/NMUNRules.pdf>.

Two full books are useful to catch up on background knowledge. Students can borrow these books from the instructor.

- Fasulo, Linda (2015). *An Insider's Guide to the UN*, 3rd edition. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Moore, John Allphin and Pubantz, Jerry. 2017. *The New United Nations: International Organization in the Twenty-First Century*. New York, NY: Routledge.

All other relevant readings (articles and book chapters/excerpts) are posted on Canvas or linked in this syllabus.

Requirements and assignments

Attendance & preparation (required to pass this course)

In keeping with a strong liberal arts tradition that encourages active learning and complete participation in the education process, Ursinus College expects you to attend class. In addition, this class serves as preparation for the NMUN Conference. For this conference, it is important that your fellow delegates can rely on you. Missing more than one single class during one semester (for any reason) therefore means that you will become ineligible to attend the NMUN conference.

Students must complete and take notes on all assigned readings prior to the class in which they are scheduled to be discussed. You should plan on spending **about 4-6 hours per week outside the classroom** on this class, plus any additional time required for specific assignments.

In the event that you experience a significant health problem or other issue that may prevent you from performing adequately in your academic work and/or attending class for a number of days, you should notify the Office of Student Affairs. The Student Affairs phone and email contact is Lynda Manz: lmanz@ursinus.edu or 610-409-3590. Upon your return to class, it is your responsibility to talk to professors and to develop a plan for making up missed work.

1. Quizzes (20% of your course grade)

Before most class meetings, short quizzes on Canvas will test your comprehension of the material assigned for that class. These quizzes will take about 5–10 minutes to complete and will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. **Quizzes not taken by 6:45pm on the respective class day will earn 0 points.**

2. Current events reports (10% of your course grade)

Each student will be responsible for sending two international news digests during semester weeks 1–9 to the team listserv at ucgroup_modelun2019@ursinuscollege365.onmicrosoft.com. News digests should cover a sample of relevant international news and be modeled after the New York Times' *Evening Briefing*. A sign-up sheet for dates will be provided on Canvas.

3. Short written assignments (20% of your course grade)

On dates indicated in the syllabus, students will prepare (mostly short) written assignments before or during class. Specific instructions, grading rubrics, and deadlines are posted on Canvas.

4. Oral presentations (10% of your course grade)

On two days as indicated below, each student will deliver oral extemporaneous presentations. For the first presentation, on Day 2, each student will deliver a 3-minute presentation of Iraq's key positions on the student's committee. For the second presentation, on Day 6, each student will deliver a short policy proposal. Each presentation will contribute 5% to the overall course grade. A grading rubric will be posted on Canvas.

5. Position paper (20% of your course grade)

By February 23, each student will submit a revised position paper to Canvas. This position paper must incorporate any feedback received on earlier drafts. It must also follow all guidelines in the MUN *Position Paper Guide*.

6. Conference participation (20% of your course grade)

For a good grade in this class, every student needs to be an active and productive conference participant. Specific guidelines and instructions for excellent conference participation will be posted on Canvas.

Grading

Rubrics for all assignments are posted on Canvas. The course grade consists of the components below, sums to 100, and converts into letter grades as stated below. **Late assignments will receive a grade of 0. No exceptions.**

Quizzes	20%	A	100 - 93.0	C+	79.999 - 77.0
Current events reports (online)	10%	A–	92.999 - 90.0	C	76.999 - 73.0
Short written assignments	20%	B+	89.999 - 87.0	C–	72.999 - 70.0
Oral presentations	10%	B	86.999 - 83.0	D+	69.999 - 67.0
Position paper	20%	B–	82.999 - 80.0	D	66.999 - 63.0
Conference participation	20%			D–	62.999 - 60.0
Total	100%			F	59.999 - 0

Course policies

Disability accommodations. Ursinus College is committed to ensuring equal access and providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students requesting academic accommodations must meet with the Director of Disability Services at the Institute for Student Success in Lower Wismer. At the beginning of each semester,

qualifying students must meet with the Director of Disability Services to reinstate accommodations and pick up their accommodations letters. Students are responsible for presenting their letters to their professors. For more information, see [Ursinus College Disability Services](#) or contact Shammah Bermudez, Director of Disability Services, at 484-762-4329 or by email at sbermudez@ursinus.edu.

If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this course, please inform me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met during the class as well as the conference.

Religious observance. I will also make every effort to accommodate religious observances and obligations. You are asked to bring any possible conflicts to my attention as soon as possible. Students should not expect that, if they do poorly on an assignment, to claim, at that time, the need of an accommodation. This statement is to preclude that problem, and allow people with a need for accommodations to be treated fairly and appropriately. However, **please note that** due to the nature of this class, **attending all class meetings and the MUN conference are required, without exception, for earning a passing grade for this class.**

Classroom interactions. Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to this standard may be subject to disciplinary procedures. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, class, and nationality. Course rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name, but I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please be patient with me as I learn your names and pronouns and I encourage you to correct me when/if I make a mistake (i.e., call you by the wrong name/pronoun or mispronounce your name).

Academic honesty. All students at Ursinus College are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of our institution. Please familiarize yourself with this policy at (<https://www.ursinus.edu/student-life/handbook/academic-policies/academic-honesty/>). Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. **The policy also prohibits submitting material that you previously submitted in another course.** If you are involved in plagiarism, the penalty will be failure in the course and you will be reported to the College. In this one regard there are no second chances. If you are not sure if something violates standards—ask. If you are not sure whether to cite or not to cite—cite. **Please note that plagiarism in position papers, draft resolutions, or other documents will also result in exclusion from the NMUN conference.**

Emergencies and absences. Attendance is especially important because this course prepares you for participating in the National Model UN Conference where you will be representing Ursinus College. **If an emergency prevents you from attending class, please notify me as soon as circumstances allow.** Except for major emergencies, missing one or more classes results in removal from the Ursinus Model UN delegation.

Electronic devices in the classroom. Cell phones and tablets must be stored away during class. Laptops can be used for class-specific purposes only on selected dates.

Schedule

This schedule will be updated during the semester. Please visit <http://www.jkarreth.net/modelun.html> for the most recent information on deadlines, assignments, and additional readings that may be added to this schedule.

Day 1 (January 24)

Who are you? All about Iraq; (P)refresher: Rules of procedure

- **Before class**, revisit information on Iraq:
 - CIA World Factbook entry on Iraq
 - BBC Timeline on Iraq (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14542954>)
 - International Model United Nations country profile: Iraq (<http://www.imuna.org/resources/country-profiles/iraq>)
- **Before class**, also look for:
 - potential controversies *within* Iraq regarding ethnic and religious minorities, suppression of dissent, division of wealth, freedom of the press, development, health care, education, poverty, the environment, human rights, etc.
 - more nuanced aspects of Iraq's domestic and foreign policies: what are Iraq's key priorities at the UN and in international relations in general? What initiatives is Iraq known for?
- **Before class**, read pp. 5–18 of the Delegate Preparation Guide.
- **Before class**, read the following guides from the UN (all on Canvas):
 - Fundamentals of negotiation
 - The process of negotiation
 - Bargaining and problem-solving
 - Preparation
- During class, we will discuss key characteristics of Iraq and its foreign policy.

Day 2 (January 31)

Understanding your committee and committee topics

- **Before class**, read your full committee's background guide.
- During class, you will outline a fact sheet on your committee topics, prior related activities, and Iraq's position on these topics.

Day 3 (February 7)

Researching prior UN activities & outlining an initiative for your topics

- **Before class**, re-read your committee's background guide.
- **Before class**, read the Position Paper Guide.
- **Before class**, complete a rough draft of the position paper.
- During class, we will host a writing session to finalize your position papers (first drafts due 2/9; final drafts due to Chelsey Thomas 2/23)

First draft of position papers due on Canvas at 11:59pm on February 9.

Day 4 (February 14)

Conference overview; Drafting policy language and contributing to resolutions;

- **Before class**, read the *NMUN Rules and Overview*, pp. 1–11, at <http://nmun.org/downloads/NMUNRules.pdf>.
- **Before class**, re-read the *NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide*, pp. 19–24, at <https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/NMUNDelegatePrepGuide.pdf>.
- **Before class**, read the UN guide on drafting resolutions at <https://outreach.un.org/mun/content/drafting-resolutions>.

Day 5 (February 21)

The ins and outs of drafting resolutions

- **Before class**, read the *NMUN Rules and Overview*, pp. 1–11
- **Before class**, re-read the *NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide*, pp. 25–36
- **Before class**, read the UN guide on drafting resolutions.

Final position paper due on Canvas at 11:59pm on February 23.

Day 6 (February 28)

Tricks of the trade, and planning for the Iraqi mission meeting

- Readings TBA
- During class, you will further practice negotiation and drafting resolutions.

Talk at 4:30pm: Joseph S. Bermudez, Senior Fellow for Imagery Analysis, Center for Strategic and International Studies, will speak about recent developments on the Korean peninsula and US-North Korean relations.

Attendance required for NMUN delegates.

Day 7 (March 7)

Communicating your agenda to others (the “elevator pitch”), convincing others, and public speaking

- **Before class**, read <https://outreach.un.org/mun/content/speaking-conference> and all four subsections linked on that site.
- **Before class**, prepare a 3-minute presentation of your key positions for your committee.
- During class, you will deliver short ad-hoc proposals in the form of extemporaneous presentations.
- During class, you will take notes on your fellow delegates' presentations.

Day 8 (March 21)

Final preparation: Iraq's strategy for NMUN; communicating across cultural backgrounds; navigating NYC during the conference

- **Before class**, submit four questions for the briefing at the Iraqi and U.S. Permanent Missions to the United Nations on Canvas.
- **Before class**, revisit your position paper and committee background guide.
- **Before class**, read one position paper from one other country for your committee and compare it to your position paper.
- **Before class**, revisit your notes on Iraq (including the group worksheet on Google Drive and other notes you have taken).
- **During class**, you'll take a pop quiz on Iraq's politics, foreign policy, and other relevant information.

NMUN conference in New York City March 24–28. Plan ahead for all your classes that you will miss.

Day 9 (April 4)

Post-conference reflection; planning for CoSA; building on your NMUN experience for professional development

- **Before class**, please fill out the anonymous feedback form at . . .
- **Before class**, please submit your conference reflection and your committee's resolution(s) on Canvas.