GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

# POLITICAL SCIENCE 135 – MODEL UNITED NATIONS

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

POSC 135 Model United Nations 1 1 hour lecture: 16-18 hours

32-36 outside-of-class hours

48-54 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

None.

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

A course designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the role of the United Nations in world affairs. By assuming the role of different countries and by researching crucial topical issues, students will prepare for participation in United Nations simulations. The course will include participation in regional Model United Nations.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Examine and evaluate the purpose, role and operations of the United Nations.

b. Apply concepts and theories of international organizations to today’s problems and issues facing the United Nations.

c. Compare and contrast the policies and problems facing countries other than his/her own.

d. Develop skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, problem solving, conflict resolution, and data collection.

5. Instructional Facilities

a. Audiovisual equipment – television, video clips, overhead projector, projection screen, digital processing presenter, computer with data projector monitor and internet access.

b. Chalkboards or dry-erase boards.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None.

7. Course Content

a. Institutions, procedures and actions of the United Nations.

b. Issues facing specific assigned countries.

c. In-class practice of Model United Nations General Assembly meeting.

d. At least one off-campus Model United Nations simulation.

e. Key concepts of political science and international relations and organizations.

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8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture/discussion class will be held once a week to review required readings on the United Nations and student research.

b. At various points in the semester, in-class simulations will be run in order to practice UN procedures and build public speaking confidence.

c. Occasional videos on the United Nations or current world issues.

d. Out-of-class research and/or web-based assignments on topics such as the history and development of the U.N. or the national interests of specific states.

e. Participation in computer chat room.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Research papers.

b. Periodic assignments and examinations on course materials.

c. Class participation.

d. Participation in Model United Nations simulation.

e. Final exam.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Conduct independent research on topics such as the history and development of the U.N. or the national interests of specific states.

b. Reading assignments.

c. Participation in an online chat room to expand on the in-class discussion.

d. Participation in at least one regional United Nations simulation.

11. Texts

a. Required Text(s):

(1) United Nations Department of Public Information. *Basic Facts About the United Nations*. New York, NY: United Nations, 2011.

(2) Tessitore, John and Susan Woolfson, editors. *A Global Agenda: Issues Before the 64th General Assembly of the United Nations.* Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2010.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

* 1. Develop the skills necessary to understand the basic history and structures of the United Nations and issues of concern to that body.
  2. Analyze the structure and function of the United Nations.
  3. Develop a familiarity with the national interest of at least two states.

Date approved by the Governing Board: May 21, 2013