

IR 491—Model United Nations

Dr. Douglas Becker

VKC 42A

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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 1-2

Tue/Thurs, 2-3

This class is a preparation to participate in the National Model United Nations Conference in NY on April 11-15, 2006. It is 2 units in the fall and 2 in the spring, and students must enroll in both semesters. There is the cost of the conference as well. And students unable to pay for the conference will be given the option to attend the Pacific Coast Model United Nations at the Biltmore Hotel in downtown LA. For this class, the focus will be on the United Nations. We will examine the history and theoretical importance of the UN throughout the class. We then will tackle contemporary issues which the UN confronts. Finally, we will conclude the course in the spring with a discussion of the theoretical importance of the UN in contemporary international politics.

The grades for this course are as follows:

2 short (5 page) papers	20% each
In-class simulations	10%
One-day conference	10%
Class participation and presentations	10%
Final exam	30%

The two short papers are meant to be policy papers, rather than in-depth research assignments. The first will examine an issue of importance in contemporary world politics, and is in essence a current affairs paper. The second will examine one of the key issues the delegates will prepare for the conference. The first paper is assigned randomly, while the second is assigned in connection with the committee assignment each of you will receive upon our reception of our country assignment for NMUN. The mandatory one day conference is a Saturday conference, October 29, 2005, in Anaheim. The course is a Tuesday/Thursday course, and each Tuesday we will cover regular material. Thursdays, we will conduct class in the parliamentary procedure for NMUN, and you will be assigned a country at random on Tuesday for the Thursday session. They will be issue-driven discussions and you will present your country's position on that issue. The final is scheduled and covers the course material. The penalty for late work is 10 points a class. The only excuses accepted are University sanctioned excuses, and must be documented. Also, this course will follow all of the guidelines for reasonable accommodations laid out in the University Handbook.

The books for this class are as follows:

A Global Agenda: Issues Before the 60th General Assembly. UNA-USA Publication.

NOT YET IN PRINT, SHOULD ARRIVE IN OCT.

Meisler, Stanley. The United Nations: The First Fifty Years. Atlantic Monthly Press, 1997. ISBN: 0871136562

Mingst, Karen and Margaret Karns. The UN in the Post-Cold War World. Westview, 1999. ISBN: 0813368472

- August
- 23: Hand out Syllabi, Introductions
- 25: How Important is the UN in world politics?
Mingst and Karns, Chapter 1, pgs 1-15
- 30: Historical Evolution of the UN
Mingst and Karns, Chapter 2, pgs 16-45
- September
- 1: What Role should the UN Play in Peace and Security?
Mingst and Karns, Chapter 4, pgs 74-116
- 6: Who rules the UN?
Mingst and Karns, Chapter 3, pgs 46-73
- 8: Should the UN Security Council be Reformed?
Readings, TBA, *on reserve*
- 13: The UN's founding
Meisler, chapters 1-3, pgs 1-54
- 15: Should the Bretton Woods Institutions Be Reformed?
Mingst and Karns, Chapter 5, pgs 117-157
- 20: The UN in the Early Cold War
Meisler, Chapters 4-6, pgs 55-114
- 22: What role should the UN play in promoting Human Rights?
Mingst and Karns, Chapter 6, pgs 158-198
- 27: The UN and Superpower Confrontation
Meisler, Chapter 7-9, pgs 115-168
- 29: Should humanitarianism govern the UN?
Reiff, readings TBA, *on reserve*
- October
- 4: The UN vs Israel
Meisler, Chapters 10-12, pgs 169-221
- 6: Should the United States pay for UN Bodies it does not support?
Meisler, Chapter 13, pgs 222-238
- 11: The UN and the End of the Cold War
Meisler, Chapters 14-16, pgs 239-293

- 13: What should be the relationship between Chapter VI and Chapter VII operations?
Meisler, Chapter 17-18, pgs 294-329
- 18: **1st papers due**
Paper presentations I
- 20: **Paper presentations II**
- 25: Does the UN make International Law?
Reading from ASIL, TBA, *on reserve*
- 27: What role should the UN play on international terrorism?
Issues before GA, pgs TBA

October 29, 2005: 1 Day Conference in Anaheim

- November 1: UN resolutions: international law or *opinio juris*
ASIL reading, TBA, *on reserve*
- 3: Is AIDS a security issue?
Issues before GA, pgs TBA
- 8: The UN and the US Invasion of Iraq
Readings TBA, *on reserve*
- 10: The UN and WMD
Issues before GA, pgs TBA
- 15: What is the relationship between the UN and regional organizations?
Readings, TBA, *on reserve*
- 17: The UN and Environmental protection
Issues before GA, pgs TBA
- 22: **Paper Presentations I**
- 24: Thanksgiving, no class
- 29: **2nd paper due**
Paper presentations II
- December 1: Review for the final

Final Exam Thursday, December 8, 4:30-6:30