

PSC 430: UN and Global Affairs

Spring 2023

SUNY Buffalo State University

Department of Political Science, Public Administration & Planning

Instructor: Dr. Sarwari

Classroom: Caudell Hall 222

Class Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-3:15 p.m.

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m. and by appointment

Office: 224 Cassety Hall

Contact: sarwarm@buffalostate.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course will provide an overview of the United Nations, including its history, structure, objectives, and politics. Students will learn practical skills by participating in Model United Nations (UN) simulations in the class and at the Model UN Conference hosted by the International Institute of Buffalo (IIB). In addition to learning about the politics of the UN and that of their assigned country, students will gain an understanding of the relationship between the UN and the European Union. In addition, students will gain the research skills needed to conduct their own research on topics assigned to their individual NMUN committees.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Understand and apply key concepts and major theories to the study of international governmental organizations.
2. Evaluate existing arguments about the successes and weaknesses of international governmental organizations and their strengths and weaknesses.
3. Understand major empirical contributions and shortcomings in research on international governmental organizations.
4. Develop consistent and coherent written and oral arguments about political phenomena.
5. Demonstrate an improvement in applying social scientific reasoning.

Reading Assignments

Assigned readings are available online and/or posted on Brightspace (**). **You are expected to read the assigned readings listed before attending class.**

The Golden NMUN Delegation Preparation Guide:

- <https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/NMUNDelegatePrepGuide.pdf>

NMUN Rules of Procedure:

- <https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/NMUNRules.pdf>

United Nations Handbook 2022-2023:

- <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-Rights-and-Security/Our-work-with-the-UN/UN-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>

Individual Committee Background Guides:

- <https://www.nmun.org/conferences/new-york/prepare-for-committee/committee-materials.html>

Recommended Assignments

Kerem Turunc. 2009. *The Winning Delegate: An Insider's Guide to the Model United Nations* (2nd Edition). iUniverse, ISBN: 978-1440144301

Karns, Margaret and Karen Mingst. 2009. *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance*, 2nd edition. Rienner Publishers. ISBN 9781588266989.

Rochester, J. Martin. *Between Peril and Promise: 2012. The Politics of International Law*. CQ Press. ISBN 9781608717101

Course Requirements

I. Simulations 20% (4 simulations in total; each simulation is worth 5 %) Starting week 2, we will have weekly Model UN simulations (exceptions: week 1, 7, 8, 9, and 15). Each student will represent a country of their choice and address a specific topic (topics will change for each simulation). We will have 4 simulation sessions in total and each will cover topics currently being discussed at the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council (we will cover each topic for two weeks). These simulations will help familiarize students with some of the rules of procedure and behavioral expectations at the UN. In addition, students will learn skills important for participating in the conference, including research, public speaking, how to engage in negotiations, and resolution writing. **If you fail to attend class the day we are scheduled to have a simulation, you will not be allowed to do a make-up assignment unless proper documentation is provided (medical documentation, military duty, obituary, etc...).**

II. Country Fact Sheet 10%: students will write a 2-3 page factsheet (double-spaced) highlighting the following information about the country they have selected during week 1: **1)** where the country is located (discuss the region where the country is located and its neighboring countries), **2)** the political institutions of the country, including the different branches of government that exist and the type of electoral system the country has, **3)** facts about the state's economy (i.e., the type of economic system the country has, the country's current GDP per Capita, the types of goods imported and exported, stock of foreign direct investment (both abroad and domestic), major trade partners, and major aid donors, **4)** any challenges that the country currently faces (i.e., economic crisis, famine, human trafficking, poor human rights record, etc..), **5)** intergovernmental organizations the country belongs to, **6)** major international agreements that the country belongs to that are relevant to the topics of your assigned committee, and **7)** domestic law(s) that the country has adopted that is/are relevant to the topics of your committee. **Country fact sheets should be uploaded via Brightspace's Turn It In no later than Friday, February 10th. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

III. Delegate Speeches 5% (4 speeches in total; each speech is worth 1.25 %): Each student will prepare a 2-3 minute opening speech for each simulation topic. These speeches will be delivered in front of the class for feedback.

IV. Draft Resolutions 15% (3 draft resolutions in total; each draft resolution is worth 5%):

In preparation for the simulations, each student will write a 2-3 page resolution for each of simulation topic (no draft resolution for the first simulation), including three preambular and five operative clauses. **Draft resolutions should be uploaded via Brightspace's Turn It In no later than 3 p.m. on the first day of a new simulation session.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

V. Participation at the Model United Nations Conference hosted by the International

Institute of Buffalo (IIB) as a judge or chairperson (20%): The International Institute of Buffalo hosts an annual Model UN conference for local high school students in the spring. This year, the conference will take place on Tuesday, March 21st (8 a.m.- 3 p.m.). Each student will serve as a judge or chairperson at the conference to assess delegate performance. More information will be provided in-person and via Brightspace.

VI. Research Paper/Literature Review/Case Study 30% (paper 20%; presentation 10%) or Participation at the 2023 North American Model United Nations Conference (NAMUN) at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Canada (February 23rd-February 25th):

Students can select one of the following three (3) options:

- 1) 2) Choose a topic that the UN has or is currently working on and write a 13-15 page case study (12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins). The case study should address the following questions: What geographic area(s) have been affected by this issue. Who are the primary actors (state and non-state actors) involved? What factors contributed to the rise of this issue? When did the UN get involved in addressing this issue? What are the motivations behind the UN getting involved in addressing this issue? What specific approaches has the UN taken to resolve the issue? Has the UN been successful in addressing this issue? Why or why not? Have other foreign actors (foreign states or international organizations) attempted to address this issue? Have they worked with the UN in attempting to resolve the issue? Paper topics are due by the end of week 5. Papers should be uploaded via Blackboard's Turn It In no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 12th**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Be sure to include citations and a works cited page (minimum of 10 academic sources). Quotes may not be longer than 3 sentences. In addition, no more than 15% of your paper may be in quotes. No plagiarism. Students will present their research projects during weeks 14 and 15.
- 2) Write a research paper on a topic that the UN has or is currently working on and write a 13-15 page research design paper (12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins). The paper should include the following: abstract, introduction and discussion of the research question, literature review, theory, hypothesis (es), and a research design providing a detailed explanation of how the hypothesis(es) will be empirically tested. Paper topics are due by the end of week 5. Papers should be uploaded via Blackboard's Turn It In no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 12th**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Be sure to include citations and a works cited page (minimum of 10 academic sources). Quotes may not be longer than 3 sentences. In addition, no more than 15% of your paper may be in quotes. No plagiarism. Students will present their research projects during weeks 14 and 15.
- 3) Participation at the 2023 NAMUN conference that is scheduled to take place Thursday, **February 23rd- Saturday, February 25th**. If you choose to take this option, please note that you are required to attend each day of the conference, including the opening and closing ceremonies. Students are expected to pay for their own registration fees (\$110), transportation (i.e., \$50-60 round-trip Greyhound bus ride), lodging (approximately \$200-\$250 total), and meals. I will accompany students to the conference and serve as the faculty advisor. The

registration deadline for the conference is Friday, February 3rd. If you would like to participate, you must inform me by the end of the day on Thursday, February 2nd and register by 5 p.m. on February 3rd. For more information about the conference, please visit the conference page: <https://www.namun.org/>. More details will be provided in-person and via Brightspace.

Grading Scale

94- 100	A	77- 79	C+	61- 63	D-
90- 93	A-	74- 76	C	0-60	F
87-89	B+	70- 73	C-		
84-86	B	67-69	D+		
80-83	B-	64- 66			

Assessment

The course requirements help to evaluate each student’s progress in satisfying the learning objectives of the course. The table below highlights the course’s learning outcomes and the relevant course assignments that measure the achievement of each outcome.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measure(s)
Understand and apply key concepts and major theories to the study of international governmental organizations.	In-class Simulations, Country Fact Sheet, Conference Position Paper, Sample Draft Resolutions, Delegate Speeches, NAMUN Conference Participation, Research Paper
Evaluate existing arguments about the successes and weaknesses of international governmental organizations.	In-class Simulations, NAMUN Conference Participation, Research Paper
Understand major empirical contributions and shortcomings in research on international governmental organizations.	In-class Simulations, NMUN Conference Participation, Research Paper
Develop consistent and coherent written and oral arguments about political phenomena.	In-class Simulations, Sample Draft Resolutions, Delegate Speeches, NAMUN Conference Participation, Research Paper
Demonstrate an improvement in applying social scientific reasoning.	In-class Simulations, Sample Draft Resolutions, Delegate Speeches, NAMUN Conference Participation, Research Paper

eMail Policy

eMail: Students can expect to receive a response to their email within 24 hours (except on weekends and holidays). **Please address all of your emails to me as “Dr. Sarwari or Professor Sarwari.”** In addition, **please write PSC 430 and your full name in the subject line of your email.**

General email communication: Please do not send vague emails such as “what can I do to improve my grade on an exam/in the course” or “how should I study for an exam.” Also, please

do not send an email requesting extra credit. Finally, please do not attempt to negotiate final course grades and request that I give a higher grade due to x reason (I need to graduate, I am not doing well in my other courses, I have never reason x grade before).

Office Hours

Prior to coming attending office hours, please send me an email stating the day and time you would like to meet and the question(s)/issue(s) that you would like to discuss during the meeting.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to fully adhere to the academic integrity regulations set forth by SUNY Buffalo State. Any violation of the regulations will result in appropriate disciplinary action as set forth in University policy. Additional information regarding University policy is available at: <http://academicstandards.buffalostate.edu/>.

Americans with Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination law that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. The legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact me immediately.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to follow the University Classroom Conduct regulations. **Cell phone use for activities not related to the course will not be tolerated during class time (don't get me wrong, I love tik tok, but let's save it for after class)**. Additional information regarding classroom etiquette is available at: <http://academicaffairs.buffalostate.edu/viii-student-conduct>.

Ok, enough nagging about the course rules and requirements and on to the fun stuff....yes, I said fun. Don't judge me.

Course Plan

Week 1: Introduction and Review of Major International Relations Theories

Read:

- Walt, Stephen M. 1998 "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," Foreign Policy 110: pp. 29-46.
- Kegley, Charles W. and Gregory A. Raymond. 2010. "Theories of World Politics" In The Global Future: A Brief Introduction to World Politics. Boston, MA: pp.27-53
- Abbott, K.W. and Snidal, D. 1998. "Why states act through formal international organizations." Journal of Conflict Resolution 42(1): 3-32.

Week 2: History of the UN and Rules of Procedure and Caucusing

Read:

- Morris, Justin. 2018. "Origins of the United Nations." In *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations* (second edition), edited by Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws. New York, NY
- History and structure of the UN
 - <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/>
 - <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/structure/pdfs/un-system-chart-color-sm.pdf>
 - <https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/NMUNRules.pdf>
 - <https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/nmunrulesshortform.pdf>

In-class simulation (topic # 1)

Country fact sheet due

Week 3: Delegate Speeches, Resolution Writing, and Position Papers

Tips on writing position papers

- <https://www.nmun.org/conferences/new-york/prepare-for-committee/position-papers.html>

In-class simulation (topic # 1)

Week 4: Committee Research

Lecture on committee research

In-class simulation (topic # 1)

Week 5: Committee Research and IR Theory

Lecture on committee research

Draft resolution due for topic # 2

Paper topics due

In-class simulation (topic # 2)

Week 6: Committee Research and IR Theory

Lecture on committee research continued.

In-class simulation (topic # 2) continued...

Week 7: North American Model United Nations Conference in Toronto (NAMUN)

Participation at the North American Model UN Conference hosted by the University of Toronto

Week 8: IIB Model UN Conference

Prepare for serving as judges and chairperson's the Model UN Conference hosted by IIB on Tuesday, March 21st.

Participation at the Model UN Conference hosted by IIB (8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Knox Hall on UB-North Campus)

Week 9

No classes this week. Spring recess.

Week 10: Successes and Challenges of the UN

Read:

- Crisis Group's "Ten Challenges for the UN in 2022-2023"
 - <https://www.crisisgroup.org/b8-united-states/ten-challenges-un-2022-2023>
- Mingst, Karen A. and Margaret P. Karns 2012. "Is There a Future for the United Nations?" In *The United Nations in the 21st Century* (fourth edition). Boulder, CO.
- Majekodunmi, B. 2017. Prevention crisis: The need for new consensus at the United Nations. *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations*, 23(3), 349–361.
- Medhat, Ahmad. 2020. "A Critical Analysis to the United Nations' Performance in the light of Contemporary Global Challenges."
 - https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3564486

In-class simulation (topic # 3)

Draft resolution due for topic # 3

Week 11: Successes and Challenges of the UN Continued

Read:

- Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounder "The UN Security Council"
 - <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council>
- Sonnback, Anette. 2020. "How Successful Has the UN Been in Maintaining International Peace and Security?"
 - <https://www.e-ir.info/pdf/88224>
- Pay, Vahid Nick Pay and Przemysław Postolski 2022. "Power and Diplomacy in the United Nations Security Council: The Influence of Elected Members." *The International Spectator* 57 (2) 1-17.
 - <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03932729.2021.1966192>
- Winther, B. Z. 2020. "A Review of the Academic Debate about United Nations Security Council Reform." *The Chinese Journal of Global Governance* 6(1): 71-101.
 - https://brill.com/view/journals/cjgg/6/1/article-p71_5.xml?language=en

In-class simulation (topic # 3) continued...

Week 12: UN Peacekeeping

Read:

- Williams, Paul D. and Arthur Boutellis. 2014. “Partnership peacekeeping: Challenges and opportunities in the United Nations–African Union Relationship.” *African Affairs*, Volume 113 (451): 254–278.
 - <https://academic.oup.com/afraf/article/113/451/254/135556>
- de Coning C. “2019. “Africa and UN Peace Operations: Implications for the Future Role of Regional Organisations. In: de Coning C., Peter M. (eds) *United Nations Peace Operations in a Changing Global Order*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.
 - https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-99106-1_11
- Hegre, Håvard Lisa Hultman, and Håvard Mogleiv Nygård. 2019. “Evaluating the Conflict-Reducing Effect of UN Peacekeeping Operations.” *The Journal of Politics* 81:1, 215-232.
- Walter, Barbara F., Lise Morjé Howard, and V. Page Fortna. 2021. “The Astonishing Success of Peacekeeping.” *Foreign Affairs*
 - <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2021-11-29/astonishing-success-peacekeeping>

Explore

- UN peacekeeping data portal

In-class simulation (topic # 4)

Draft resolution due for topic # 4

Week 13: Future of the UN

Read:

- Hanhimäki, Jussi M. 2008. “Reform and challenges: the future of the United Nations” In *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*. New York, NY
- Acharya, Amitava. 2018. “Multilateralism and the Changing World Order.” In *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations* (second edition), edited by Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws. New York, NY.
- Thakur, R. 2020. “The United Nations and the North-South Partnership: Connecting the Past to the Future.” *Ethics & International Affairs* 34(3): 305-317

In-class simulation (topic # 4) continued...

Week 14: UN-EU Relations

Read:

- Panke, Diana. 2014. “The European Union in the United Nations: An Effective External Actor?” *Journal of European Public Policy* 21 (7): 1050–66.
- Blavoukos, Spyros, Dimitris Bourantonis, and Ioannis Galariotis. 2017. “In Quest of a Single European Union Voice in the United Nations General Assembly: The Politics of Resolution 65/276.” *Cooperation and Conflict* 52 (4) 451–68.

- Firuze Simay Sezgin. 2022. “The European Union’s Role in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.” *International Peacekeeping* 29 (3): 351-383.
- Schmidt, Julia. 2016. “The EU-UN Partnership in Light of the Responsibility to Protect.” In *The EU, Strategy and Security Policy: Regional and Strategic Challenges*, edited by Laura Chappell, Jocelyn Mawdsley, and Petar Petrov. New York, New York: Routledge.

Week 15:

Presentations and wrap up

Campus Resources

FREE and UNLIMITED academic support for all students is available, both in-person and online. Students can get assistance through the Math Center, Writing Center, and Tutoring Services located in Butler Library. After-hours online support is available through STAR-NY. Students in EOP may also seek support through the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) in Butler Library. Schedule your appointment today on the [Bengal Success Portal](#) (Find us under Your Services)!

Questions? Email Faherty Nielsen, Interim Coordinator of Tutoring Services, at nielsefl@buffalostate.edu. For more details check our website: <https://academicsuccess.buffalostate.edu/tutoring>.

Services Provided by the Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office helps students navigate the college experience, particularly during difficult situations such as personal, financial, medical, and/or family crises. If you or someone you know is in need of support, services are available. For a list of support services and information, please visit <http://deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu/>, 716-878-4618 or stop by 311 Campbell Student Union during business hours.

The campus offers an Emergency Relief grant program for students. More information on parameters of the grant and application requirements can be found [on line](#). Please share this information with matriculated undergraduate and graduate students who are in need of emergency funding.

The [Students of Concern Care Team](#) meets regularly throughout the semester to provide support for students who raise concern about their potential for harm to themselves or others. The Care Team will assess the potential risk to personal and campus safety that might result from the actions of individual students, will connect students in need with appropriate resources and will monitor compliance with required support plans. To report a concern you have please go to the following website: <https://pavesuite.com/BuffaloState/PublicPortal/ConcerningIncident> If you have any questions feel free to outreach to me at (716) 878-4618 or at youngsm@buffalostate.edu. In early fall semester the Care Team will be moving under the supervision of Rock Doyle. If you would like to outreach to Dr. Doyle you can email him at doyleld@buffalostate.edu or, call him at (716) 878-6711.

The [Milligan’s Food Pantry](#) is an excellent resource for students on campus. Milligan’s provides students who are food insecure with the opportunity to get non-perishable food from a campus source. Please remind students of the availability of our Food Pantry. Our Student Resource Coordinator, Kristen Helling, can respond to questions regarding Milligan’s or the Emergency Relief Fund and is available at catalakj@buffalostate.edu or at 716-878-3069.

For other [resources](#) to share with students:

[Student Conduct and Community Standards Office](#): Phone: (716) 878-3051

[Weigel Health Center](#): Phone: (716) 878 – 6711

[Weigel Health Promotions](#): Phone: (716) 878-6711, *Health Promotions also provides in class presentations. You can find out more at: <http://weigel.buffalostate.edu/node/254>*

[The Counseling Center](#): Phone: (716) 878-4436

Student Resources Page: <http://deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu/resources-students>

Sexual Violence Prevention Information and Resources

<https://deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu/sexual-violence-prevention>, Sexual Violence Prevention also provides in class presentations. You can contact Nina Pierino for more information, pierinng@buffalostate.edu or, at (716) 878-3069.

Buffalo State Equity and Diversity Office Statement of Principle on Diversity

Buffalo State supports diversity of thought, diversity of experience, and diversity of values. The college is dedicated to a visible commitment to these ideals by affirming and respecting differences in all interactions. Toward this goal, the college provides equitable opportunity and access through innovative recruiting, professional development and education programs that enrich the total academic experience and enhance the quality of life.