

# American Model United Nations

PSCI - 210 A - F01 International Organization- United Nations

**Semester:** Fall 2015

**Time and Place:** Thursdays 4:30 to 5:40, room 238 main building

**Instructor:** Bob Wood

**Office Hours:** 3:25 - 4:25 pm (TH) after class any night or by appointment

**Office Location:** Room 242 Telephone: 231-777-0639 (Office) 616-402-8668 (cell)

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**Blog:** [thebuddhasaidiamawake.com](http://thebuddhasaidiamawake.com)

**Required text:** “We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families” by Philip Gourevitch, Picador, Straus and Giroux, New York, 1998.

**Course Description;** 1 credit hour, 1 contact hour

From November 21 to 24, 2015 our class will participate with hundreds of college and university students from all over the United States, representing 121 countries, in an [American Model United Nations](#) Conference in Chicago. We are one of three Community Colleges participating in the event. We will transport together via University vehicle. We will stay at the [Sheraton Towers Hotel](#) from November 21 to 23. We will return in the early evening of November 24. MCC is not in session on November 25. Thanksgiving is on November 26, 2015.

**Description of AMUN from AMUN** - “American Model United Nations (AMUN) is a non-profit, educational organization founded in 1989 to provide students with the highest quality, most professionally run simulation of the United Nations available. AMUN strives to combine educational quality with highly realistic simulations of the United Nations to give students an unparalleled Model UN learning experience.”

**Everything** we do in the course will be in preparation for that Conference. There will be no final exam for this course.

## Course Objective:

- As with any social studies course we will work together to develop a more keen awareness of issues of the world. We will intellectually contemplate and question our working role in this world. Our ultimate goal: to be *Awake* to the challenges of our world.
- We will investigate the structure and the process of the United Nations. By preparing for and participating in this simulation, we will gain a keener understanding of this significant world wide institution.
- We will learn about issues of the world, via preparation for and participation in the conference, through the lens of our chosen member state – **Rwanda**. Consequently we

will work to be extremely familiar with **Rwanda** and the issues that affect it and the neighboring states of **East Africa**.

- I hope that we will have *fun* at the conference in Chicago. This can only be accomplished if we are fully prepared for the experience.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- You must attend the entire AMUN conference in Chicago. No exceptions.
- Attendance - since we only meet ten times in preparation for the AMUN conference you are expected to be at ALL classes.
- Participation - since we are in essence a Team, and since our success depends upon relying on one another in Chicago, class preparation, class participation, and class cooperation will be of the essence.
- Come to class prepared. Come to class on time. Come to class. Please don't bring food or phones.

### **Evaluation Criteria:**

*I will not grade you on the quality of your contribution to the Chicago conference.* I don't think that fulfills the course objective of being prepared and having *fun*. It causes undue stress. The quality of your Chicago experience will be directly related to your preparation prior to going. I do not want to unduly influence that experience with phony on-site participation requirements; if you want to gain from Model UN - then you will be prepared and you will get involved. I will be present however, and we represent not only Muskegon Community College, also the state of Michigan. MCC has made a substantial financial commitment to us. We have a responsibility to put our best foot forward. I will expect that you are on-time for all official meetings and that you are dressed appropriately. Failure to adhere to those two stipulations will result in a final grade reduction

*\*A special note. In 2014 we had some participants skip one of their required committee meetings. That is fully unacceptable and can result in your failure of the course.*

Your final grade will come from a blending of the three categories below. Each will count for 1/3 of your final grade.

- **33% Attendance:**

We only meet ten times in preparation for this Conference. We are dependent on one another for our combined success. We are a team. We cannot be successful if the players don't show up for practice. Consequently missed classes will weigh heavily on your final grade. No absences - 100%. One absence - 75%. Two absences - 50%. If you miss three classes you will fail the course. If something serious comes up contact me ahead of time and we can work within the parameters of this portion of the grade without penalty. *If you do not go to Chicago you cannot earn credit for the course.*

- **33% Binder & Position Paper:**

- *Binder* - You will need to compile a working binder of everything that we cover in the course - organized in a way that will help you to communicate your position when we go to Chicago. Remember, everything we do relates to preparation for the conference. ] We will work together in sharing how best to go about this organization. The empty binder should probably be 1 1/2 to 2 inches wide. It should be well organized with dividers. Your maps should be easily accessible. Bring it to class and add to it weekly. You will walk me through your binder for a final binder grade prior to our leaving for Chicago.

- *Position Paper* - A significant requirement for all participating delegates to Model UN is the submission of one position paper per delegate on the topic of their committee assignment. The due date for this Position Paper is TBA. In 2014, in comparison with other schools, we did an excellent job on these papers. In fact I think it was our strength. These papers will help you to center yourself for challenges in Chicago. We will work together to perfect the papers prior to their final due date. Your final position paper grade should be an A or B, since we will be working together to improve the final product.

**33% - Online posts (related to weekly topics) and in class quizzes:**

- I like online discussion. It keeps students and instructors up-to-date about Current Issues. I like in-class quizzes because it keeps students up-to-date on their reading assignments. We will do both. I will use the online posts as a preview to our weekly discussion topics. Class discussion will be essential if we are to be prepared for Chicago. So, when I post, I will expect you to comment.

- Also, I hope to introduce you to the book, *"We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our Families"* by Philip Gourevitch...reading assignments from the book will be ensured by in-class quizzes prior to discussion. I used this book to prepare myself for my travels this summer in Rwanda. It is an excellent read by a well established and talented author. We will talk in the second week of class what role we want to ensure for this book, however you will be required to read through page 43 and be prepared for discussion on week #2. The quizzes and posts will count for one third of your grade.

## Tentative Course Schedule:

This is a tentative schedule for our class. Dates and assignments are subject to change depending on class progression through topics and requirements, and what students see as most helpful to their success at the Chicago Conference. *Position Paper and travel times however are hard dates and will not change.*

**(W1) 9/17 Introduction to Political Science 210A.**

We will review the syllabus, talk about the challenges of the Model UN, and get acquainted with one another. Students should read the blog posts on Mr. Wood's trip to Rwanda in the summer of 2015 and read through page 43 of the Gourevitch book, and be prepared to discuss each on 9/24.

**(W2) 9/24 Background on Rwanda, structure of the United Nations**

We will concentrate our discussion on past and present Rwanda. We will discuss Mr. Wood's website and the Gourevitch book and what role it should play in this course. Students must acquaint themselves with the various committee descriptions so that they can make a choice on which committee they would like to serve.

**(W3) 10/1 Committee and Delegate Discussion**

We'll talk about committee focus in class – as well as local, regional, and international issues that might pertain to each of the committees. *Students must e-mail Mr. Wood with their committee requests by Sunday October 4. Mr. Wood will email committee assignments prior to October 8 class.*

**(W4) 10/8 Committee Assignment Announcements & Introduction of Parliamentary Procedure**

We talk about how exactly this conference works - in committee and caucus.

**(W5) 10/15 Independent Research / Discussion for Committees** - and updates on Rwanda.

**(W6) 10/22 Independent Research / Discussion for Committees** - and updates on Rwanda.

**(W7) 10/29 Position Papers due** - *posted to Mr. Wood by Sunday 11/1 @ 11:59 PM.* Mr. Wood will assemble and post them all for discussion at November 5 class.

**(W8) 11/5 Position Paper review** - and updates on Rwanda

**(W9) 11/12 World Issues - Issues of East Africa** - World (and West Africa issues) that will be addressed at the Conference.

**(W10) 11/19 Research Binders due – final preparation**

We'll work together to improve or weaknesses and go over final preparation for Chicago Conference.

**11/21 - 11/24 AMUN Conference - Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Chicago, IL**

**Thur 11/26 No class @ MCC - Thanksgiving**

**(W11) 12/3 Class/Conference Review** We will talk about the conference, about the course, about the syllabus, about how to make it better in the future. This is a required course meeting. Maybe we can meet someplace more interesting than MCC.

## **Muskegon Community College Evaluation Criteria:**

**Grades:** (As per MCC handbook)

100-93.0=**A**, 92.9-90.0=**A-**,  
89.9-87.5=**B+**, 87.4-82.5=**B**, 82.4-80.0=**B-**  
79.9-77.5=**C+**, 77.4-72.5=**C**, 72.4-70.0=**C-**  
69.9-67.5=**D+**, 67.4-62.5=**D**, 62.4-60.0=**D-**  
59.9-00.0=**E**

### **Statement on Student Assessment and Accreditation**

Muskegon Community College is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission located in Chicago (<http://ncahlc.org/>). The Higher Learning Commission accredits degree granting postsecondary educational institutions in the North Central Region. Accreditation helps ensure students that they are receiving a quality education and can transfer to other colleges and universities with ease and confidence. MCC is committed to an essential part of the accreditation process: assessing student learning. You will likely be asked to participate in assessment activities as part of MCC's assessment of programs and general education.

### **Statement on MCC Email**

All email Communication originating from MCC to students will be via their MCC email account. **CHECK YOUR MCC EMAIL FREQUENTLY.**

### **Statement on Student Behavior**

Muskegon Community College is a community of scholars whose members include administrators, faculty, staff, and students. Mutual respect and civility are expected in the classroom and other college academic settings, as well as in any communication.

- MCC has the duty to provide students with privileges, opportunities, and protections that best promote learning;
- Students have the right to a non-threatening learning environment;
- Students have the responsibility to refrain from infringing on the right of others to learn and on the right of teachers to teach; and
- Any student whose behavior disrupts learning may be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Muskegon Community College Catalog.

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Muskegon Community College expects that all faculty and students will adhere to high standards of personal and academic honesty. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind. Faculty members, for their part, will exercise care in

the planning and supervision of academic work so that honest effort will be positively encouraged.

Academic dishonesty consists of, but is not limited to:

- Cheating. Cheating is defined as using or attempting to use, giving or attempting to give, and obtaining or attempting to obtain, materials or information, including computer material pertaining to a quiz, examination, or other work that a student is expected to do alone.
- Plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's words or ideas without acknowledgement.
- Penalties for violation of these standards of conduct may result in sanctions of up to and including suspension or expulsion from Muskegon Community College.

### **Statement on Dispute Resolution Process**

Should a student not agree with a faculty member's decision or actions as they may relate to this policy, the following steps shall be followed:

1. A student suspected of academic dishonesty shall be notified in writing within two school days of the time the violation is discovered. Copies of the written notification shall also be filed with the department chair and Vice President of Student Services.
2. The student should try to reach resolution of the matter through direct discussion with the involved faculty member within three (3) school days of the written notification.
3. If the matter is not resolved in Step 2, the student shall bring the matter to the attention of the department chairperson of the involved faculty member.
4. If the matter is not resolved at the department chairperson level, the student shall bring the matter to the attention of the Dean of Instruction (Academic Affairs Office) who shall render a decision within five school days of the receipt of the dispute information.
5. If a satisfactory solution is not reached at the Step 4 level, the student may file a written request with the Vice President of Student Services for a hearing before the disciplinary board. This meeting shall be held not more than 20 days following the written request. A student may request a hearing before the disciplinary board. The disciplinary and judicial procedures are outlined in the Muskegon Community College Catalog.

### **Recommended Material for the Statement on Student Behavior**

- MCC has a Behavioral Intervention Team whose responsibility is to identify and coordinate services or intervention strategies for a broad range of troubling student behaviors, including but not limited to substance abuse, mental illness, disruptive, aggressive, and threatening conduct. MCC administrators, faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to report any issues of concern to the BIT team through the MCC website: <http://www.muskegoncc.edu/student-services-and-administration/campus-safety-and-security/behavioral-intervention-team-bit/>.