

POLS 3998.10- Model U.N.

This course is designed for students in the Model United Nations club who are preparing for the MUN conference. Students will learn the rules of procedure, the art of diplomacy, negotiating skills, and public speaking. It is largely a student-driven course.

POLS 3998.11- Mock Trial

This course supports and supplements to Mock Trial Team in preparation for competition. We will study trial strategy, direct and cross-examination skills, witness preparation and performance, opening and closing arguments, handling of evidence, impeachment of witnesses, and other essential mock trial skills

POLS 3998.18- International Organizations

This course is structured to further familiarize students with the history, politics, philosophy and functions of international relations from the perspective of International Organizations (IOs). Over the last two centuries, processes of Westernization, globalization and economic interdependence have led to the rise of global and regional institutions to shape common norms, build consensus, resolve conflicts and manage common goods. International governmental and non-governmental organizations have greatly influenced the shaping and resolution of issues and conflicts at the global level. They have also set the conceptual, legal, institutional and procedural foundations for creating common perceptions and solutions. The record of both governmental and non-governmental organizations is a mixed one but their existence is central to the promotion of peace and resolution of conflicts. This course will focus on the theoretical foundations of IOs as well as their history, philosophy, structure, role, and functions. International organizations such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, World Health Organization and World Labor Organization will be thoroughly analyzed. Regional organizations such as the European Union, African Union, Organization of American States, ASEAN and Shanghai Cooperation Organization will also be scrutinized. Furthermore, the relevance and the functions of specialized organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization and human rights organizations will be evaluated. The course will also analyze an array of international non-governmental organizations such as those focused on disease prevention, climate change and democracy promotion and their regional and global influence in encouraging debates, shaping decisions, and resolving conflicts. Through studying regional and international organizations, the course will demonstrate the interconnectedness and interdependence of states, societies and economies.

POLS 5998.01 - Food Politics

Why do millions of people go hungry on a planet that produces enough food to provide each and every person with an adequate diet? This course is built on three prongs: discussion of salient topics related to food justice, a series of critical thinking and writing workshops, and a semester-long research paper. For the first, we examine food poverty, domestic food policy, fast food and the Slow Food Movement, eating animals and industrial farming, and biofuels and GMOS. For the second prong, students will participate in a series of critical thinking, writing, and presentation workshops. For the final prong, students will submit and revise multiple templates and drafts for their research papers..

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be well-versed in the key intellectual concepts of food poverty, will have developed their own reasoned position on how to address global and local hunger, will be knowledgeable about food production and the environment, will have a well-thought out opinion of controversial issues such as biofuels and GMOs. Students will also hone their analytical, research, argumentation, writing, and presentation skills. You will be challenged and your will leave this class with top-notch academic skills. Finally, it is my hope that students will leave this class committed to the elimination of hunger on our planet.

POLS 5998.03 - Intl Law & Maritime Disputes

The rationale for this course is to provide an interdisciplinary approach to understanding a pressing real-world problem: the potentially explosive issue of maritime territorial disputes in East Asia. The East Asian region is replete with territorial conflicts. As the People's Republic of China (PRC) has grown more powerful, it has been increasingly assertive in its territorial claims, including its declaration of its now infamous "nine dash line" that makes ambitious territorial claims covering about 80% of the entire South China Sea. These claims overlap with the territorial claims of Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. The issue of territorial disputes straddles multiple fields. International law covers important international agreements that govern territory, such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), and codifies processes for resolving disputes. The issue of territorial disputes is also a central topic in international relations, as a source of conflict, and in some cases war. For this course, we would like to provide students a chance to explore these issues from both perspectives. Throughout this course, we will guide students to explore the terrain of this complex set of issues. This will include a required trip during spring break to China – Beijing and Hainan Island.

LEARNING GOALS:

- Develop understanding of territorial conflicts and the issues at stake in East Asia
- Learn the basics of international law and application to territorial and maritime issues

- Strengthen oral rhetorical skills
- Strengthen research skills and analytic writing