

POLITICAL SCIENCE 405
CAPSTONE: OAS Simulation
Fall 2006
e-mail: friedmand@cofc.edu

Dr. Douglas Friedman
26 Coming St., Rm.202
Tel.# 953-5701

<http://www.cofc.edu/~friedman/chili.html>

CAPSTONE: Organization of American States Simulation

This will be an unusual Capstone course. Instead of the usual lecture, discussion, research format students will create, and partake in a simulation of one of the most important contemporary international organizations - the Organization of American States. The OAS is the oldest functioning international organization (it has its origins in the Pan American Union created at the end of the 19th century).

Students in this course will design, research, operate, and train university students for a simulation of the General Assembly of the OAS here on the College of Charleston campus. This exercise will allow students to employ the research, organizational and leadership skills they have acquired in their political science and general education curriculums. The OAS is one of the most important international organizations and is quite active presently. The exercise will emphasize the importance and difficulty of creating and maintaining peace, security and prosperity through such organizations.

Required Texts Articles, designated by *, are available in a packet you can purchase at *SAS/E* on Wentworth Street:

- *Viron Vakey, **The Future of the OAS**. Brookings Institute (selections)
- * U.S. Dept. of State, **Background Notes: Organization of American States**, March 1998
- *Heraldo Muñoz, **A New OAS for the New Times**
- * Cesar Gaviria OAS, **Towards the New Millennium**
- * **Organization of American States Headquarters Building**
- * MOAS, **Rules of Procedure**
- * MOAS, **Objective and Methods of Operation**
- * OAS, **Charter of the Organization of American States**

Selected speeches and publications available at: <http://www.oas.org/>

Plan of Action

We will create three (3) teams of approximately two to three (3-4) students each conforming to three of the five working committees of the OAS General Assembly (we will dispense with the fourth and fifth committees). First, all teams are responsible for developing teaching material about the OAS for the student participants. Each team will be responsible for two agenda topics - they must be researched and digestible briefing papers created for the student participants. Each team will be responsible for four country delegations (of 5-7 students each) - developing briefing materials on each country's foreign policy particularly with regard to the six agenda topics. Each team is responsible for the training of their country delegations in rules of procedure (parliamentary procedure), speech-making, and resolution writing.

Student Participants

Student participants for the simulation will come from LACS 101.001 - Friedman and LACS 101.002 - France. In addition, each team will provide its Committee with one Chairperson and one Rapporteur (these roles are defined in the readings).

States Represented

We will not be able to have all OAS states represented. However, a fair representation amounting to **12** of the 35 is possible. Each country delegation should have **6** members - two (a delegate and an alternate) for each committee. Countries to be represented are:

LACS 101.001 - Argentina, Colombia, Jamaica, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Chile

LACS 101.002 - Brazil, Mexico, United States, Guyana, Bolivia, Dominican Republic

Committees

General Committee - generally foreign ministers or ambassadors - most current issues

Topics

Combating Illegal Drugs

Lifting the Suspension of Cuba

First Committee - Political Affairs

Topics

Protection of Human Rights in the Combating of Terrorism

Women in Politics (Political Rights)

Second Committee - Economic, Social, Educational, Technology Issues

Topics

Free Trade Association of the Americas

Condition of Children in the Americas

Schedule

Aug. 23 **Introduction**

Aug. 28 - Sept. 13 **Teams create and produce preparatory materials for themselves and LACS students on the history, background, and operation of the OAS.**

Read: * Viron Vakey, **The Future of the OAS**

* U.S. Dept. of State, **Background Notes: Organization of American States**, March 1998

* Heraldo Muñoz, **A New OAS for the New Times**

* Cesar Gaviria OAS, **Towards the New Millennium**

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Sept. 13 - Oct. 18 Teams produce briefing papers on agenda topics and prepare background and briefing materials on individual country foreign policies. Study rules of procedure, protocol, resolution writing and speech-making. Develop and practice roles of Chair and Rapporteur.

Read: * MOAS, **Rules of Procedure**

* MOAS, **Objective and Methods of Operation**

* OAS, **Charter of the Organization of American States**

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Oct. 19 - Nov. 8 Teams prepare student participant delegations on agenda topics, country foreign policy, rules of procedure, protocol, resolution writing and speech-making

Nov. 6 Student delegations submit draft resolutions

Nov. 18 Simulation - 8am to 5pm.(Tentativ3) Schedule to be made by teams.

Nov. 20 - Dec. 4 Evaluation and discussion

Assignments - Due

September 13 - Preparatory materials for LACS instructors

October 18 - Preparatory materials for student participants

December 4 - Final Paper - Reflections on Experience and Evaluation

Grading

Team Grade - Preparatory Materials for Students on OAS	20%
Team Grade - Preparatory Materials for Students on Agenda & Country	20%
Individual Grade - Performance in Role at Simulation	25%
Individual Grade - Reflection and Evaluation Paper (Essay)	35%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100%

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is considered the worst academic offense. I will lead to failure in this course at the minimum. I am interested in what *you* have to say, not in your regurgitating what someone else says. Regurgitation is for birds.

Plagiarism is the verbatim repetition, without acknowledgment, of the writings of another author. All significant phrases, clauses, or passages, taken directly from source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself or in footnotes/ endnotes.

Borrowing without acknowledging the source.

Paraphrasing the thoughts of another writer without acknowledgment. Allowing any other person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his/her own.