Course Description
Model UN is a simulation of the meeting of main governing bodies of the United Nations, such as the General Assembly, Security Council, and various committees. This course is designed for students interested in learning about the work of international organizations, and specifically, the United Nations. In preparation for meetings students will also learn about global issues and about specific countries they represent – their history, culture, foreign policy, regional, and international relations. There are several goals in the course. The first is to introduce students to global issues discussed by UN agencies. Second, to introduce students to formal rules of diplomatic procedures and protocols, which includes learning the parliamentary procedure, preparing position papers, and drafting resolutions. Finally, students will learn how to practically implement the knowledge by debating.

Course objectives
1) Demonstrate knowledge of important global issues
2) Recognize the differences between positions on global issues among various member states
3) Demonstrate mastery of the independent research process in preparation of position papers and resolutions.
4) Develop competency in the rules of the debate (the parliamentary procedure Demonstrate the ability to take a clear position on a global issue and communicate it in writing and during debates.

Develop knowledge of the political system, foreign policy, and international and domestic interests of the nation-state which we will represent at South Regional Model UN. In 2020 we will represent the Russian Federation.

Prerequisites: Minimum 2.5 GPA; permission of instructor.

Course Requirements
In addition to regularly attending class sessions, students will be expected to conduct a great deal of independent research and present this research to one another in preparation for the Southern Regional Model UN (SRMUN). Given the public health emergency, SMRUN will be a virtual event. Students should make plans to be available for a remote participation in SRMUN on Friday, October 23-Sunday, October 25.

Expectations
Attendance policy: I ask that you are present during face-to-face (F2F) sessions or synchronous online sessions. However, if you are ill or need to isolate yourself, please let me know asap. I will work with you to find reasonable accommodations for you if you are not in class. There are many projects that can be completed at home but there are important elements of the course that require students’ presence in class. For those students who are unable to attend F2F sessions, we will use Zoom.

Your participation in team exercises is imperative for the class success and for successful preparation for the regional conference. In addition to learning about the UN, we will discuss current events and students should keep up with current international events by reading daily and weekly newspapers. You
should make sure to read stories in-depth rather than simply browsing through the headlines. Below are the newspapers and websites I recommend:

- The UN website offers a good selection of international news http://www.un.org/News/.
- Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
- The Economist (www.economist.com)
- Al Jazeera America (http://america.aljazeera.com/)
- NPR World News (http://www.npr.org/sections/world/)

**Course materials**


2) Other materials are available via OAKS.

3) Students will be responsible for conducting their own research on global issues using online sources. Here are some useful links

- [http://www.srmun.org/prepare.php](http://www.srmun.org/prepare.php) - preparation info for SRMUN delegations: use the link to watch practice videos of debates, for guidelines on position papers, Security Council, draft resolutions, and research links
- The parliamentary procedure (Robert’s Rule of Order) - available in OAKS.
- [http://modelun.cofc.edu/](http://modelun.cofc.edu/) - info about CofC Model UN

**Grade scale**

A = 94-100; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F < 60.

**Grades**

1) Written assignments – 10%
2) Committee briefings – 10%
3) Position papers for SRMUN (first draft) – 10%
4) Revised position papers for SRMUN (second and final drafts) – 20%
5) Country presentations – 20%
6) Practice debates – 10%
7) SRMUN performance – 20%

**Assignments**

1. **Written assignments**
   Students will be responsible for finding academic articles on relevant topics and doing brief overviews of the findings, followed by class presentations.

2. **Committee briefings**
   This is a group assignment. Students will become experts on 2-3 topics central to their committees and will share their expertise with other students during in-class presentations. Students will need to closely examine the background guides for SRMUN to prepare for this assignment.

3. **Position Papers for SRMUN**
Position papers provide “building blocks” for developing recommendations that will be used by the UN committees to develop resolutions addressing specific issues. Each student will prepare 2 position papers addressing their committee topics for SRMUN and will use these position papers as an opportunity for in-depth research on the country and their topic. The general requirements set by SRMUN for position papers are available through OAKS. Each position paper should include the following information:

a. Brief statement on the issue and country’s position on this issue
b. Background information: country’s history and current situation on the issue
c. Recommendations for change: proposed policy and areas for negotiation

Position papers must be submitted to SRMUN by the deadline and unfortunately, there are no extensions. If one of our position papers is not submitted, it will affect the whole team. All position papers will be graded by the SRMUN staff and grades will be revealed during the conference.

First draft of position papers – September 9
Revised drafts of position papers – September 21
Final position papers – September 30

4. Country presentations
This is a group project. Students will be divided into groups of 2-3 students and will be assigned a chapter from Tsyganov’s book. Students will prepare presentations analyzing Russia’s foreign policy during a particular time period.

5. Practice (mock) debates
Students will learn how to use the UN rules, known as parliamentary procedures. We will use the same rules, as used during the actual UN meetings. Students will participate in weekly practice debates to present their positions using the parliamentary procedure. Each student will be required to learn the parliamentary procedure and to run a committee.

6. Performance at SRMUN
Participation in SRMUN in Atlanta is required and you must also be present there for the committee work and for all the team meetings. Students will be evaluated on their professionalism, work in committees, motions/points raised, and amendments proposed. I reserve the right to exclude from participation in SRMUN and remove from the course those students who fail to attend classes, team meetings, or other official functions.

Course/University Policies and Student Resources

Public health
Masks are required in class. Please wear a mask to protect others around you. Your mask should cover your mouth and nose and should be used at all times while in class.

Center for Student Learning
I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at http://csl.cofc.edu or call (843) 953-5635.
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor during the first two weeks of class or as soon as the student has been approved for services so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Center for Disability Services/SNAP.

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

Mental & Physical Wellbeing
At the college, we take every students’ mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at http://counseling.cofc.edu or 843.953.5640 3rd Robert Scott Small Building) or the Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863, visit http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php, or meet with them in person 3rd Floor Stern Center). These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health. Studies estimate that 1 in 4 women may be sexually assaulted while in college. Check out these resources.

Food & Housing Resources
30% of CoC students experience housing & food insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support. Also, you learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need.

OAKS
OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted.

Continuity of Learning (for hybrid classes with face-to-face meetings)
Due to social distancing requirements, this class will include a variety of online and technology enhanced components to reinforce continuity of learning for all enrolled students. Before the drop/add deadline, students should decide whether the course plan on the syllabus matches their own circumstances.

Recording of Classes (via ZOOM)
Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction
If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.
Online Courses with Exam Proctoring
This course will require the use of an exam proctoring service for the course exams. Students are responsible for registering, scheduling, and the cost of the service prior to each exam. Instructions and additional information on proctoring can be found at https://academicaffairs.cofc.edu/distance-education/online-proctoring/index.php.

College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity
Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved. Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Avoiding Plagiarism
“Plagiarism falls into two categories: using someone else’s words or using someone else’s ideas as if they were your own. You must be scrupulous in avoiding both categories of plagiarism in your writing. Properly cite all quotations, paraphrases, and summaries of information from other sources. The only exception to this rule is common knowledge, or information commonly known and accessible to your audience… If you are unsure whether certain information constitutes common knowledge, document it. Collusion, a form of plagiarism, occurs when two or more people agree to devise a piece of writing that will be attributed to only one of them… For any individual writing assignment, the idea and the organization of ideas in your paper must be your own… You can incorporate into your writing ideas that have arisen from class discussion [and] lectures… You may revise and edit your writing with other people… but you should not have others do your writing or revising for you.” (O’Hare & Kline 1996, 447-50).

Changes to Syllabus. I reserve the right to make minor changes to the syllabus during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class and via email (and posted in OAKS).
**Pandemic update:** We will begin our semester in an online format. We will be meeting via Zoom for 50-minute synchronous sessions from August 26-September 11. Starting on September 14 we will be meeting in the classroom (Jewish Studies Center, room 100). This classroom is big enough to allow students be seated at 6 feet from each other. Students who are not able to meet in the classroom, will be able to join the class via Zoom.

## Class Schedule and Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, Aug 26 (online)</th>
<th>Introductions, course details, and assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Aug 31 (online)</td>
<td><strong>Brief overview of UN mission, functions, organizational structure, &amp; global issues</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Home assignments to be completed by class time on Monday, Aug 31:</strong></td>
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<td>1) Read a chapter from Bennett (1995) Basic Principles and Organization of the United Nations (OAKS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 2 (online)</td>
<td><strong>Preparing position papers for SRMUN</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• How to prepare a position paper – step-by-step process.</td>
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<td>• Where to find the resources</td>
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<td>• Review and discussion of sample position papers.</td>
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<td>• Discussion and assignment of SRMUN committee topics.</td>
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<td><strong>Home assignments:</strong></td>
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<td>1) Review the list of committees for SRMUN (<a href="http://www.srmun.org/atlanta/committees">http://www.srmun.org/atlanta/committees</a>)</td>
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<td>2) Identify top-2 committees which you are interested in. Pay more attention to the topics rather than committee size.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 7 (online)</td>
<td><strong>Committee briefings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Home assignments:</strong></td>
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<td>1) Study the background guide for your SRMUN committee, take notes.</td>
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<td>2) Prepare a 1-page outline of the background guide</td>
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<td>3) Prepare a brief presentation (in powerpoint or google slides) for class to cover the following questions.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>a. What kind of problems/issues does your committee address?</td>
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<td>b. What is the central problem raised in each of the committee’s questions?</td>
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<td>c. Why is the problem important? What is the magnitude and the impact of the problem? What’s at stake?</td>
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<td>d. Which particular regions and countries are discussed?</td>
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<td>e. What has the UN done to address the problem? What are the shortcomings?</td>
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<td>f. What is the directive for the committee? What is the committee expected to do? What are the delegates expected to know?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 9</td>
<td>Position papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>(online)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Home assignments:</td>
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<td>1) First draft of position papers due on Google Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 14</td>
<td>Introduction to parliamentary procedure and rules of debate</td>
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<td>Home assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Watch SRMUN training videos <a href="http://srmun.org/videos.php">http://srmun.org/videos.php</a></td>
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<td>Wednesday, Sept 16</td>
<td>Practice debate</td>
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<td>Peer review of position papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 21</td>
<td>Home assignments:</td>
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<td>1) Second draft of position papers are due in Dropbox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 23</td>
<td>Resolution writing: step-by-step process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 28</td>
<td>Practice debate</td>
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<td>Introduction to Russian foreign policy</td>
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<td>Monday, Sept 28</td>
<td>Home assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 30</td>
<td>Peer review of position papers</td>
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<td>Home assignments:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Final drafts of position papers for SRMUN are due on Google Drive</td>
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<td>2. Students should be ready to deliver a 2-minute speech explaining their country’s position.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct 5</td>
<td>Student presentations on Russia’s foreign policy. Students will prepare presentations on changes in Russia’s foreign policy based on the chapters from Tsygankov’s book</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Group 1 (Chapter 3)</td>
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<td>Group 2 (Chapter 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct 7</td>
<td>Student presentations on Russia’s foreign policy</td>
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<td>Group 3 (Chapter 5)</td>
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<td>Group 4 (Chapter 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct 7</td>
<td>Student presentations on Russia’s foreign policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Group 3 (Chapter 5)</td>
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<td>Group 4 (Chapter 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct 12</td>
<td>Student presentations on Russia’s foreign policy</td>
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<td>Group 5 (Chapter 7)</td>
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<td>Group 6 (Chapter 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct 14</td>
<td>Catch-up class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Midterm grades due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct 19</td>
<td>Practice debate on Russia’s foreign policy. Each group should review material from their presentations and be ready to use them in practice debate.</td>
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### October 20-20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct 21</td>
<td>Preparing for SRMUN Practice debate</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Download and review resolutions from key member states in your committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct 23-25</td>
<td>Attending Southern Regional Model UN.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct 26</td>
<td>No class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct 28</td>
<td>Debriefing</td>
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<td>Monday, Nov 2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Nov 4</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Monday, Nov 9</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Nov 11</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Monday, Nov 16</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Nov 18</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Nov 23</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Nov 25</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-30</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break. No class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Nov 30 (online)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Dec 2 (online)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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