Course Syllabus

Course Description
This course simulates the politics and the procedures of the African Union (AU). The AU is a regional organization comprised of 54/55 African member states. This overarching partnership attempts to address collectively some of the more pressing contemporary African issues in security, the rule of law, democracy, institution building, economic growth, and human development. In this course, students will climb into the heads of African diplomats and simulate how they pursue their particular national/regime interests. After spending several weeks preparing, we will travel to Washington, D.C. and perform.

The course has three intersecting goals. The first is theoretical, encouraging students to look more broadly at how Africa’s international relations work as a distinct region of the world. The second is practical, allowing students to examine how these relations play out through the nuts and bolts of high diplomacy, which involves making arguments, charming, cajoling, arm-twisting, and horse-trading in the context of a legislative body. Finally, students will learn the formal rules of parliamentary procedure, which involves drafting resolutions, making amendments, and voting.

Course Objectives
- Demonstrate knowledge of African political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations
- Demonstrate knowledge of the reasons why people behave in diverse political roles and spaces, especially in diplomatic relations
- Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective
- Develop competency in the rules of parliamentary procedure
- Demonstrate mastery of the independent research process

Course Requirements
*Attending class and participating in Model AU in Washington, DC (100%):* 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 trip to Washington, D.C. In doing so, students will develop expertise on either Central African Republic or Sudan. They will also become experts on a range of agenda items with in a particular AU committee. Students should expect to bring laptops to each class.
**Prerequisite(s):**
Minimum cumulative 2.500 GPA; permission of instructor.

**Course Materials**
Your main resource is the Model AU Delegation and Officer’s Handbook available here: [https://modelafricanunion.org/National_Model_African_Union/Model_AUDelegation_Handbook_Link.html](https://modelafricanunion.org/National_Model_African_Union/Model_AUDelegation_Handbook_Link.html)

Here are very good primers on CAR and Sudan:


**Course Policies**

*Grading Scale*

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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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*Attendance Policy.* Attendance is **REQUIRED**. Tardiness is not cool.

*Honor Code.* All students are expected be familiar with the College of Charleston Honor Code, and to abide by it. Violations will not be tolerated and will be dealt with appropriately. More is found here: [http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honorsystem/studenthandbook/index.php](http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honorsystem/studenthandbook/index.php)

*Accommodations for students with disabilities.* If you have a documented learning disability, please let me know as soon as possible so special arrangements can be made for certain class requirements.

*Other Special Circumstances.* I normally will do business with anyone who lets me know in advance of any special circumstances. But please note that the expression “it is better to ask for forgiveness than permission” was not invented by a College Professor.

*Center for Student Learning.* The Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services give 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 they are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at [http://csl.cofc.edu](http://csl.cofc.edu) or call (843) 953-5635.
Course Outline (adjustable)

1. Thursday January 9

Read: Entire Model AU Delegation and Officer’s Handbook

- Introduction to the class
- Africa’s International Relations I
- Sudan and CAR overview
- Country, Committee, and Country Report Assignments

2. Tuesday January 14

- Guest Speaker Dr. Jack Parson
- Africa’s International Relations II
- Country Report 1: Pre-Colonial Period
- Agenda Item Selection

3. Thursday January 16

- Country Report 2: Colonial Period to Independence
- Briefing on Parliamentary Procedure
- Begin research on agenda items

4. Tuesday, January 21

- Country Report 3: Politics of the Ordinary
- Committee Briefing: Peace and Security Committee
- Resolution First Draft: Peace and Security Committee

5. Thursday, January 23

- Country Report 4: Politics of the Extraordinary
- Committee Briefing: Technical Committee on Economic Matters
- Resolution First Draft: Technical Committee on Economic Matters

6. Tuesday, January 28

- Country Report 5: What is Happening Now
- Committee Briefing: Pan-Africanism and Continental Unity
- Resolution First Draft: Pan-Africanism and Continental Unity

7. Thursday, January 30

- Country Report 6: Regional Relations
• Committee Briefing: Technical Committee on Social Matters
• Resolution First Draft: Technical Committee on Social Matters

8. Tuesday, February 4

• Committee Briefing: Democracy, Governance & Human Rights
• Resolution First Draft: Democracy, Governance & Human Rights
• Simulated Meeting

9. Thursday, February 6

• Resolution Second Drafts – All Committees
• Simulated Meeting

10. Tuesday, February 11

• Resolution Final Drafts – All Committees
• Simulated Meeting

11. Thursday, February 13

• Simulated Meeting

***Resolution Final Drafts Due February 16th***

12. Tuesday, February 18

• Simulated Meeting

DEPARTURE TO WASHINGTON D.C. on Wednesday, February 19