POLI 266 International Diplomacy Studies: MODEL AFRICAN UNION

Maybank Hall 316
MW 5:30-8:15pm

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Course Syllabus

Course Description
This class simulates the politics and the procedures of the African Union (AU). The AU is a regional organization comprised of 54 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 class, 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
- To increase awareness of the role, structure and performance of the African Union
- To highlight key economic, social and political-security issues facing the African continent
- To generate understanding of the multi-various determinants, capabilities and constraints that shape the foreign policies of member states of the African Union
- To demonstrate the patterns of cooperation and conflict that characterize intra-African diplomacy in the search for solutions to continental issues
- Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective
- Demonstrate mastery of the independent research process
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 trip to Washington, D.C. In doing so, students will develop expertise on either Congo-B or Sudan. They will also become experts on a range of agenda items within a particular AU committee. Students should expect to bring laptops to each class.

Course Materials
The following book is available at the College Bookstore:


But your main resource is the Model AU Delegation and Officer’s Handbook. You will conduct research for everything else at the Addlestone Library. Steven Profit is the library’s research librarian specializing in Africa – profits@cofc.edu, 953-5855. Delegations should schedule an orientation with him at the beginning of the semester.

Course Outline (adjustable)

1. Wednesday, January 8

***No class SPSA Conference***

Read: *Makinda and Okumu* pp. 1-27

Read: *Entire Model AU Delegation and Officer’s Handbook*

2. Monday, January 13

Read: *Makinda and Okumu* pp. 28-57

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

3. Wednesday, January 15

Read: *Makinda* and Okumu pp. 58-74

- Guest Speaker Dr. Jack Parson
- Africa’s International Relations II
- Country Report 1: Pre-Independence
4. Monday, January 20

***No class MLK***

5. Wednesday, January 22

Read: Makinda and Okumu pp. 75-93

- Guest Speaker Roberto Jones (MAU 2013)
- Country Report 2: Politics of the Ordinary
- Agenda Item Selection

6. Monday, January 27

Read: Makinda and Okumu pp. 94-113

- Country Report 3: Politics of the Extraordinary
- Committee Briefings: Peace and Security Committee/Technical Committee on Economic Matters
- Resolution First Draft: Peace and Security Committee/Technical Committee on Economic Matters

7. Wednesday, January 29

Read: Makinda and Okumu pp. 114-121 and Appendices

- Country Report 4: What’s Happening Now
- Committee Briefings: Technical Committee on Social Matters/Committee on Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights
- Resolution First Draft: Technical Committee on Social Matters/Democracy, Governance & Human Rights

8. Monday, February 3

- Country Report 5: Regional Relations
- Resolution Second Drafts – All Committees
- Simulated Meeting

9. Wednesday, February 5

- Resolution Third Drafts – All Committees
- Simulated Meeting

10. Monday, February 10

- Simulated Meeting
11. Wednesday, February 12

• Simulated Meeting

***DRAFT RESOLUTIONS DUE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH***

12. Monday, February 17

• Simulated Meeting

13. Wednesday, February 19

DEPARTURE TO WASHINGTON D.C. (return Sunday, February 23)

14. FINAL CLASS TBA

• Debriefing Chez Day