

POLI 266 International Diplomacy Studies: MODEL AFRICAN UNION

Spring 2017

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

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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 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

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.

Course Materials

Your main resource is the **Model AU Delegation and Officer's Handbook**. You will conduct research for everything else in class and 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.

Recommended Books for Purchase

Robert O. Collins, *A History of Modern Sudan* (Cambridge University Press 2008)

Tatiana Carayannis and Louisa Lombard, *Making Sense of the Central African Republic* (Zed Books 2015)

Course Outline (adjustable)

1. Wednesday, January 11

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. Monday, January 16

No class MLK

3. Wednesday, January 18

- Guest Speaker Dr. Jack Parson
- Africa's International Relations II
- Country Report 1: Pre-Independence

4. Monday, January 23

- Country Report 2: Colonial Period to Independence
- Parliamentary Procedure I
- Agenda Item Selection
- Begin research on Agenda Items

5. Wednesday, January 25

- Country Report 3: Politics of the Ordinary
- Parliamentary Procedure II
- Committee Briefings: Executive Council/Peace and Security Committee
- Resolution First Draft: Peace and Security Committee

6. Monday, January 30

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

7. Wednesday, February 1

- Country Report 5: What's Happening Now
- Committee Briefings: Committee on Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights/Committee on Pan Africanism and Continental Unity
- Resolution First Draft: Committee on Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights/Committee on Pan Africanism and Continental Unity

8. Monday, February 6

- Country Report 6: Regional Relations
- Resolution Second Drafts – All Committees
- Simulated Meeting

9. Wednesday, February 8

- Resolution Third Drafts – All Committees
- Simulated Meeting

10. Monday, February 13

- Simulated Meeting

11. Wednesday, February 15

- Simulated Meeting

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS DUE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

12. Monday, February 20

- Simulated Meeting

13. Wednesday, February 22

DEPART FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.