

**PLS 2070-001: Model Arab League
Spring 2012—Oxendine 3231**

Instructor: Dr. Kevin S. Freeman
Office: Oxendine 1309
Phone: 521-6447

Class Hours: M 12:20-1:10 PM
Office Hours: MWF 1:30-3:30 PM
Email: kevin.freeman@uncp.edu

Course Description: This course will provide the necessary skills, background and preparation for successful participation in the Southeast University Model Arab League, to be held in Spartanburg, South Carolina March 16-18. This year UNCP will represent Saudi Arabia at the conference.

The format for class meetings will consist of a number of teaching methods—lectures tied to learning about Saudi Arabia, parliamentary procedure, as well as in-class workshops intended to get students familiar with Robert's Rules and other forms of etiquette and protocol tied to the conference. We will also practice once or twice.

Emphasis is placed on developing students' writing, research and speaking skills. By engaging in short assignments and in-class activities throughout the semester, students will not only become more knowledgeable about a variety of global issues, but will also become comfortable with discussing these issues with each other and advocating their own views.

Course Objectives

Following students' participation in the Model Arab League Conference at the end of the course, students should:

1. Have a deeper understanding and appreciation of the complexity of the League of Arab States,
2. Have a deeper understanding of a particular issue area that the Arab community is trying to address,
3. Recognize that there are a wide range of global perspectives and points of view of other countries,
4. Gain greater skill in caucusing and consensus building among actors with different interests
5. Improve independent research and writing skills.
6. Gain an understanding of parliamentary procedure and develop a level of comfort to work under those strict conditions.

Text: There are no required books for this class. However, I do recommend that students consult the following web sites for more information on the two countries and the conference:

<http://ncusar.org/modelarableague/uregionals/usoutheast.html>: Official website of the conference.

<http://www.al-bab.com/arab/docs/league.htm>: A decent website covering issues and facts about the League of Arab States.

<http://www.saudiembassy.net/>: Official website of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

Please also join the UNCP Model Arab League Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/uncpmaal/>. I will put links and information there that you will find useful.

Participants should read all of the provided handouts carefully and devote themselves to their research readings.

Attendance: Attendance is expected in this class. We are only meeting a limited number of times, and having a grasp on the concepts we learn in this course is integral to your performance at the conference. As such, three unexcused absences will result in automatic failure in this class.

Tardiness: Do not make it a habit of arriving into my class late. I will keep track of late arrivals, and two tardies will count the same as one absence for the purpose of attendance grades. This policy is instituted to discourage chronic tardiness which has become increasingly prevalent in recent semesters.

Classroom Etiquette: While as a whole I have minimal in-classroom requirements, I do expect some degree of respect to be shown in the classroom environment. This includes having your cell phone OFF or on VIBRATE when in class, not bringing your breakfast or lunch into class, not studying for another test while in my class, and not talking when others are. Systematic violations of this can result in a reduction of grade. This is a university-level class, and you will be treated as adults. As such, you will be expected to act like adults.

Office Visits: You are more than welcome to meet with me at any time that is mutually convenient. My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. If these times are not convenient to you, we can easily arrange some other time. Do not assume that office visits are only to address problems you might be having in class. I'm happy to talk about whatever you like, including any difficulties you may be having in class.

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak directly to Disability Support Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please contact DSS at 521-6695. This syllabus is also available in alternative formats upon request. Please call the aforementioned number if you desire this. Do not spring this on me on the day of a test.

Grading: Grading will come from three primary areas in this course. The first segment is the completion of a "preparation paper to be handed in to me on the last day of class (March 12). It should be approximately 1,000 words and should contain the following information:

1. The position of Saudi Arabia on each of your committee topics
2. How you, as a delegate of Saudi Arabia, are going to approach each issue in committee.

The second grading component is class participation. You will be required to give short public speeches and actively participate in formal and informal caucuses in preparation for the simulation. Attendance, of course, is an important part of this as well. Finally, you will be graded based on your performance and participation at the regional conference. Your performance will be evaluated on the basis of *informed* and regular participation in the MAL sessions. It is expected that students will behave in a professional, punctual, and personable manner.

Preparation Paper.....	100 points
Class Participation.....	100 points
Conference Performance.....	100 points
TOTAL	300 points

Note: Winning an official award of any type at the SRMAL Conference will result in an automatic grade of "A" for the course.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty of any variety will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, unauthorized collaboration on an

assignment, and plagiarism. Any instance coming to the attention of the instructor will result in the assignment of an “F” grade for the course, and notification of appropriate Deans. In order to ensure that you understand what constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty, please read the complete description of the UNCP policy on academic dishonesty, which is available in the student handbook and online at <http://www.uncp.edu/studentconduct/honor/>.

Disclaimer: We all know how boring long, droning lectures can be. Teachers can learn a few things from class discussion, too. But above all, I want this class to be both FUN and INTERESTING for all of us!

Schedule

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
<i>Friday</i>		
4:45 pm	Registration	Montgomery Building
5:30 pm	Opening Ceremony & Plenary Session	Montgomery Building, Barnet Room
6:30 - 9:30 pm	Council Sessions I	Kuhn Hall (rooms TBD)
<i>Saturday</i>		
9:00 am	Council Sessions II	Kuhn Hall (rooms TBD)
12:15 - 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 pm	Council Sessions III	Kuhn Hall (rooms TBD)
3:30 pm	Break	
3:30 pm	Faculty Advisors Meeting	
4:00 - 6:30 pm	Council Sessions IV	Kuhn Hall (rooms TBD)
6:45 pm	Hafla Banquet	
<i>Sunday</i>		
9:00 am	Council Sessions V	Kuhn Hall (rooms TBD)
11:45 - 1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Summit Session	Montgomery Building, Barnet Room
2:30 pm	Awards Ceremony	Montgomery Building, Barnet Room
3:00 pm	Adjournment	

Date	Topic
Jan 9	Preliminaries, logistics, and committee assignments
Jan 23	History and Politics of Saudi Arabia
Jan 30	Writing Position Papers
Feb 6	Rules of Procedure
Feb 13	Rules of Procedure
Feb 20	Writing Draft Resolutions and Amendments
Feb 27	Session Simulations
Mar 12	Session Simulations
Mar 16-18	Travel to and participation in Southeastern Regional Model United Nations in Atlanta.

2011 - 2012 Model Arab League Agenda

Joint Defense Council

1. Assessing concerns of member states experiencing internal unrest and exploring options to avoid compromising collective Arab security
2. Establishing standards for Arab League authorization of multilateral international action, such as protecting civilians, in order to facilitate more deliberated decisions
3. Exchanging best practices amongst militaries in order to reduce collateral damage and increase efficiency through improvements in such areas as hardware, infrastructure, weapons development, training, and technology
4. Examining the impact of foreign military influence in the region in order to assure compliance with the principles of international law and the Arab League Charter

Council on Palestinian Affairs

1. Examining the ongoing situation in the Gaza Strip with regard to economic stagnation, border controls, security, and education
2. Addressing the changing role of Palestine within the United Nations and other international organizations
3. Fulfilling Arab League member state commitments to the development of Palestinian infrastructure and economy in light of the economic crisis
4. Developing alternatives to bilateral negotiations with Israel to advance the goal of Palestinian statehood

Council of Social Affairs Ministers

1. Advancing the progress of member states in reaching the Millennium Development Goal to Achieve Universal Primary Education
2. Reviewing and promoting the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols (2000), with special reference to the prevention of trafficking in persons and firearms, and involvement in organized crime
3. Analyzing policies and determining 'best practices' for providing services to widows, orphans, and the elderly who lack the support of traditional family structures
4. Evaluating the status of persons with physical, hearing, vision, and ambulatory impairments, and promoting ease of physical accessibility to public places and facilities as well as economic and educational opportunities

Council on Political Affairs

1. Addressing the effects of foreign political interference on civil institutions and considering an official Arab League policy on foreign involvement in, monetary or seconded personnel contributions to, and/or other engagement with Arab civil society
2. Redefining the role and capacity of the institution of the Arab League in light of changing geopolitical landscapes

3. Developing stronger diplomatic and political ties with non-member African nations in order to facilitate cooperation on transnational issues of mutual concern and interest
4. Considering youth participation in civic and political processes in member states

Council of Environmental Affairs Ministers

1. Considering methods to increase conservation of wildlife, habitat, and biodiversity structures and systems across the Arab world with special reference to the protection of endangered species
2. Exploring ways to minimize the effects of regional water scarcity through improved storage facilities, systematic contingency planning, and more effective dissemination of knowledge and understanding of water's ultimate opportunity cost
3. Addressing the environmental impacts of waste, including but not limited to biological, industrial, medical, and e-waste, and formulating a comprehensive strategy with specific consideration given to improved collection, transportation and storage efforts
4. Combating the environmental impacts of eutrophication, as well as its relation to an increase in fertilizers, river run-off and sewage discharges in marine environments across the Arab world

Council of Economic Affairs Ministers

1. Encouraging strategic planning of League-wide telecommunication infrastructure standards in order to facilitate economic development
2. Re-examining the effectiveness of the 1981 Agreement on Facilitating and Developing Intra-Arab Trade with a view to accommodating the signatories' significantly altered economic situations and needs since the Agreement's adoption
3. Determining the economic practices that led to increased regional exposure to market volatility in agricultural commodity prices and developing an appropriate action plan to better prepare the Arab League members for prevailing as well as fluctuating global economic conditions
4. Promoting economic strategies to combat illicit trade, particularly regarding the illegal trafficking of drugs, human beings and weapons

Special Summit of Arab Heads of State

1. Protecting critical trade routes and expanding trade capacity by improving land, sea, and air links between member states
2. Preserving Arab cultural traditions while promoting economic diversification, industrialization, and social development
3. Determining the viability of increased participation of non-member states in Arab League activities, and revisiting Arab participation in multilateral organizations as a means of improving diplomatic, economic, and security relations
4. Addressing cross-border population shifts resulting from political, economic or social hardship
5. Discussing the present and future prospects of the member states' youth in light of ongoing shifts in demographics and geopolitical dynamics