

MODEL ARAB LEAGUE
PSCI 497
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: T-R 11 am – 1 pm
W 4 pm – 6 pm
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the workings of the Arab League and its subsidiary organs through active engagement in the learning process. Through the Model Arab League program students learn about the politics and history of the Arab world, and the arts of diplomacy and public speech. The MAL class helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs leaders. Part of this course involves representing our assigned states (United Arab Emirates and Sudan) through participation in the Southwest Regional Model Arab League Conference at Texas A&M University-Commerce on April 4-7, 2018.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will become familiar with politics of the Arab world and workings of the Arab League and develop critical and analytical skills in discussing how international organizations function and how they confront international problems.
- **Social Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate an awareness of societal and/or civic issues in the international arena. Specifically, students will acquire in depth understanding of the nature of the conflicts that shape and define the region of the Middle East.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Students will form their own research agendas regarding the states they are representing and their policies on the committee topics within the Arab League.
- **Communication:** Students will enhance their oral skills and learn the art of negotiation, and communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with evident message and organizational structure.
- **Empathy skills:** Students will develop empathy skills and be encouraged to see the world from multiple perspectives.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Mark Gasiorowski and Sean L. Yom (ed.). 2017. The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa. 8th Edition. ISBN: 978-0813349947. Westview Press.

Additional readings will be provided by the Professor. Please refer to the link <https://ncusar.org/modelarableague/> to start familiarizing yourself with the workings of the Model Arab League Program.

FORMAT OF THE COURSE

This is an upper level, seminar course. The class is entirely based on student-led simulations on 2018-2019 MAL agenda topics. An outline of the simulation activities is provided in this syllabus. Students are required to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned topics in a simulation format.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance & Participation: Attendance is mandatory in this class. If you miss more than 2 classes without an excuse before the MAL Conference begins, I reserve the right to drop you from this class. Acceptable excuses include documented health and family emergencies. Participation points are earned through your performance during the simulation activities.

Country Portfolio: Each student is required to prepare a one paragraph country portfolio on the information and policy positions of their assigned mock country. These portfolios will be presented in class on the second week of classes.

Country Profile and Background Binder: Each student is required to prepare a binder that can be used during the conference. This binder should include at least three printed articles for each position paper, the position papers themselves, and basic information over the assigned country and council. Be sure to include current events/or issues, political and demographic characteristics (religion, population, geography, political structure, languages, education, rural/urban profile, ethnicities, economic structure, etc.). These will be checked periodically through the semester. Binder check dates can be found on the course schedule.

Position Paper: Each student is required to prepare four policy papers on their assigned country's position on the agenda items discussed at the model. Instructions for this assignment will be given in class. Due dates for each position paper can be found on the course schedule.

Draft Resolution: Students are required to prepare a draft resolution that articulates solutions to the problems on the MAL agenda. Instructions for this assignment will be given in class.

Debriefing Paper: At the conclusion of the model, each student is required to write a debriefing summary of our participation in the model. Debriefing papers are due **April 15**. The debriefing paper must address the following questions:

1. What was your nation's biggest diplomatic failure? What was your biggest diplomatic success? What sort of disputes were the easiest or hardest to resolve in the writing of the resolutions?
2. What were your personal goals as a delegate in this simulation and what were the goals of your country team?

3. Was the experience marked more by cooperation? Conflict? How did the other delegates act? To what extent did the Model mirror the reality of international life?
4. What were some of the advantages/disadvantages of representing your particular state in the model? 5. What did you learn from the experience?

Format Requirements: All assignments must be double-spaced, typed and written with Times New Roman, 12-point font. Sources for each assignment must include books, academic articles and news pieces. All sources must be cited properly and listed in a bibliography or in footnotes/endnotes format. Regarding citations, you may use any academically accepted format.

GRADING

| Course Requirements | Weight |
|---|--------|
| Attendance & Participation in Simulations | 15% |
| Position Papers | 10% |
| Draft Resolution | 10% |
| Debriefing Paper | 10% |
| Country Profile Binder | 5% |
| MAL Conference Participation | 50% |
| Total | 100% |

GRADE SCALE

| |
|-------------|
| 90-100 = A |
| 80-89 = B |
| 70-79 = C |
| 60-69 = D |
| Below 60 =F |

MAKE-UP POLICY

Late submission of assignments is allowed only under special circumstances such as medical or family emergencies. However, you must request them prior to the deadline and present documentary proof. Post-deadline late submission requests will not be granted under any circumstances. If you submit any of your assignments late without an excuse, I will cut off 5 points for each day after the deadline.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY DURING CLASS

Unless we assign a day to use technology as part of the learning process, use of cell phones, computers or any other electronic devices in the classroom is strictly prohibited.

CIVILITY AND RESPECT

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. I expect everyone to be respectful of each other's perspectives and opinions during class discussions. Any behavior that disrupts the class or impedes other student's ability to fully engage with the course will not be tolerated.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student is required to be responsible for honestly submitting research and work that is original and is the sole work of the individual. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism occurs when a student purposefully or unintentionally takes information directly from a source without proper citation. If you are unclear about the ethics of an academic action, please consult me during my office hours.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Texas A&M University-Commerce Gee Library Room 132 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Texas Senate Bill-11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

- 1/15** Overview of the syllabus/Mock Country Assignments
- Introduction to the Middle East
- Introduction to Parliamentary Procedures
- 1st Resolution Workshop

Week 2

1/22 Introduction to the Middle East (continued)
Parliamentary Procedures Workshop (continued)
Iraq & Qatar country assignments & Election of Head Delegates
2nd Resolution Workshop
Country Portfolios due

Week 3

1/29 Joint Defense Council Simulation
First Position Paper due

Week 4

2/5 Council on Palestinian Affairs Simulation

Week 5

2/12 Council on Political Affairs Simulation
Lecture on Iraq
Position Paper Workshop
Second Position Paper due

Week 6

2/19 Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers Simulation
1st Binder Check

Week 7

2/26 Special Council on Regional Conflict and Instability
Lecture on Qatar

Week 8

3/4 Joint Defense Council Simulation (repeated)
Third Position Paper due

Week 9

3/11 **Spring Break – No Class**

Week 10

3/18 Council on Palestinian Affairs Simulation (repeated)
Fourth Position Paper due

Week 11

3/25 Conference Details
Draft Resolution due
2nd Binder Check

Week 12

4/1 Set Up/Final Preparation for Conference
4/1-4 Model Arab League Conference

Week 13

4/8 Post-Conference Debriefing

Week 14

4/15 Debriefing Paper due

Week 15

4/22 TBA

Week 16

4/29 TBA