

INTL 4207H: Advanced Political Simulations

University of Georgia – Spring 2020

MWF 2:30-3:20, Baldwin Hall 104

K. Anne Watson, ABD

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Office: Holmes-Hunter 320H

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9-11am or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

Advanced Political Simulation is a course like no other. Throughout this semester, students will assume the roles of key actors around the world. They will then be presented with a historical or current case facing these actors, compelling them to identify and assess a range of possible options in response. To do so effectively, students will be required to learn more about the history of these countries and regions, the important characteristics of various groups and states (e.g. political system, economic models, and cultural values), and the current issues affecting each area. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain key moments in history as well as current events taking place in different countries around the world.
- Identify patterns of effective and ineffective decision-making processes and negotiation strategies.
- Analyze how their choices within the simulation paralleled or diverged from their real-world counterparts.
- Create their own theories as to why political leaders in given situations choose to act the way they do.

Required Materials

There are no required books for the course. All materials will be shared with you on the eLC. Please do not distribute these readings to people beyond this class.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Services Office will be accommodated according to university policy. For more information, contact Disabilities Services at (706) 542-8719 or visit their website at <https://drc.uga.edu/>. If you have difficulty reaching the classroom, please notify me as soon as possible.

Students with Financial or Emotional Hardships

Being a student can be hard. Your lives are changing, and college can be a stressful environment. *There is no shame in struggling with this.* If you are feeling depressed or otherwise concerned

about your mental health, please reach out to UGA's Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS). Their website is <http://uhs.uga.edu/caps/welcome>.

If you are experiencing financial hardships, UGA has a number of services that may help. These include, but are not limited to, food pantries, hygiene closets, school supply closets, provision of professional clothes, and work-study arrangements. These are *free* services. A summary of services provided by UGA is here: https://financialhardship.uga.edu/content_page/food-and-necessities.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Written Reflections (6 points per simulation for 60 points)

Students will work in small groups throughout the semester. During each simulation, students will have four periods of reflection on the role they are playing, specifically the issues they wish to address and their motivations for doing so. There will also be opportunities throughout the simulations for students to play the role of a journalist that will be reflecting on these posts and replying to them accordingly. Depending on your role for each project (details will be available once groups are formed), your posts to an online discussion board will be completed before class on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

Final Project (30 points, in pieces)

The final project for the class will be to create a simulation or game on a current or historical topic. This will be completed in pairs. Points will be allocated based on thoroughness of the project, evaluations of gameplay, and the completion of peer reviews. More information will be provided in class as the project approaches.

Attendance and Participation (5 points each for 10 points)

Attendance and participation are a necessary condition for satisfactory achievement in this class. The best way for you to learn is to engage with the material and to debate and discuss it at length with your peers. Thus, excellence in participation means more than just talking a lot in class; rather, it requires that your participation be high in both quality and quantity. Each student gets one unexcused absence (for any reason). Additional unexcused absences will result in a 0 for attendance and participation for that day.

Grading Scale

Grades are constructed to reflect the university standards posted at http://bulletin.uga.edu/Bulletin_Files/acad/Grades.html and are summarized below. Grades will be based on how many points you earn according to the following distribution:

A	93-100 points
A-	90-92 points
B+	87-89 points
B	83-86 points
B-	80-82 points
C+	77-79 points
C	73-76 points
C-	70-72 points
D	60-69 points
F	Fewer than 60 points

Course Policies

Cell Phones and Other Noise-Making Devices

All cell phones and other devices that make noise should be turned off or put on silent upon entering the classroom. Repeated unnecessary disruptions of class caused by such devices will negatively affect a student's grade. Laptops should be used for class-related activities only. In the event that you need to keep your phone ready for personal reasons, please let me know before class.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is a core value of institutions of higher learning. All students, upon enrolling, must pledge: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." It is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism, cheating, and dishonesty. The university policy on academic integrity is posted at: <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>. To qualify the application of the policy in this course: exams should be entirely your own work with no assistance from anyone else; papers should also be your own work (though you may ask others for suggestions). Any material drawn from other sources should be properly cited. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Class Discussion and Debate

Political debates and discussions can become quite heated. This passion is part of what makes the study of politics fun. However, the fun ends where personal attacks and disrespect begin. All students are expected to be courteous and considerate of their classmates. Disrespectful language and personal attacks will not be tolerated.

Communicating with the Instructor

My primary method of communicating with you outside of class time/office hours will be through e-mail. You have each been assigned an email address by the university and will be held responsible for regularly checking this account. Assignment changes, important dates, and other

valuable information may be sent to this account over the course of the term. Please check it daily. I do my best to answer e-mails within 24 hours (but rarely answer e-mails at night or on weekends).

I have posted office hours on Tuesdays from 10am to 12 pm. During this time period, you should feel free to come by my office in Holmes-Hunter, Room 320H and discuss any questions you may have about the class. If this time does not work for you, I will be more than happy to set up an appointment.

Late Work

The late submission of assignments will result in a 10 percent reduction in points per day they are late, unless alternative arrangements are made with the instructor. *If you are worried about meeting deadlines or if something comes up, please come talk to me.*

Changes to the Syllabus

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations by the instructor may be necessary. As such, I reiterate the absolute necessity that you (1) come to class and (2) regularly check your e-mail.

Preliminary Course Schedule

Unless noted otherwise, assignments should be turned in by the beginning of the class period they are due.

Week 1: Introductions and Expectations		
January 10	Voting	
January 12	The International System, Anarchy, and Cooperation	

Week 2: Disease Response		
January 13	Simulation Overview	Read: Simulation Reader, Syllabus
January 15	Key Juncture	Post: Actors post Wednesday reflection threads before class
January 17	Debrief	Post: Actors post Friday reflection threads before class

Week 3: The European Union and Brexit Talks

January 20	NO CLASS (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)	
January 22	Simulation Overview	Read: Course Reader Post: Actors post Wednesday reflection threads before class
January 24	Key Juncture	Post: Actors post Friday reflection threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Wednesday reflections threads before class
January 27	Journalists Submit Final Article	Post: Journalists post article synthesizing group's motivations, achievements, and failures before class

Week 4: The Syrian Civil War

January 27	Simulation Overview	Read: Simulation Reader Post: Actors post Monday reflection threads before class
January 29	Key Juncture #1	Post: Actors post Wednesday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Monday reflections threads before class
January 31	Key Juncture #2	Post: Actors post Friday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Wednesday reflections threads before class
February 3	Journalists Submit Final Article	Post: Journalists post article thread synthesizing group's motivations, achievements, and failures before class

Week 5: Boko Haram

February 3	Simulation Overview	Read: Simulation Reader Post: Actors post Monday reflection threads before class
February 5	Key Juncture #1	Post: Actors post Wednesday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Monday reflections threads before class
February 7	Key Juncture #2	Post: Actors post Friday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Wednesday reflections threads before class

February 10	Journalists Submit Final Article	Post: Journalists post article thread synthesizing group's motivations, achievements, and failures before class
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Week 6: Environmental Regulations

February 10	Simulation Overview	Read: Simulation Reader Post: Actors post Monday reflection threads before class
February 12	Key Juncture #1	Post: Actors post Wednesday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Monday reflections threads before class
February 14	Key Juncture #2	Post: Actors post Friday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Wednesday reflections threads before class
February 17	Journalists Submit Final Article	Post: Journalists post article thread synthesizing group's motivations, achievements, and failures before class

Week 7: Hong Kong Protests

February 17	Simulation Overview	Read: Simulation Reader Post: Actors post Monday reflection threads before class
February 19	Matrix Game	Post: Actors post Wednesday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Monday reflections threads before class
February 21	Matrix Game	Post: Actors post Friday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Wednesday reflections threads before class
February 24	Journalists Submit Final Article	Post: Journalists post article thread synthesizing group's motivations, achievements, and failures before class

Week 8: DIY International Law, Part 1

February 24	Introduction to International Law	Read: Smith
February 26	Simulation Overview	Read: Simulation Reader Submit: Treaty topic, committee roles, skeleton outline

February 28	Group Work Day	
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Week 9: DIY International Law, Part 2

March 2	Group Work Day	Submit: Rough drafts of treaty dossiers
March 4	Group Work Day	Post: Final treaty dossiers (by end of class)
March 6	Treaty Convention	Read: Another team's final treaty dossier

Spring Break

March 9	NO CLASS	
March 11		
March 13		

Week 10: Torture and the Ticking Time Bomb

March 16	Torture, Part 1	Read: Walsh and Piazza, Convention Against Torture
March 18	Torture, Part 2	
March 20	Tick, Tick, Boom	Read: TTB consent documentation

Week 11: The Iranian Nuclear Deal

March 23	Simulation Overview	Read: Simulation Reader Post: Actors post Monday reflection threads before class
March 25	Matrix Game	Post: Actors post Wednesday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Monday reflections threads before class
March 27	Matrix Game	Post: Actors post Friday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Wednesday reflections threads before class
March 30	Journalists Submit Final Article	Post: Journalists post article thread synthesizing group's motivations, achievements, and failures before class

Week 12: TBD		
March 30	Simulation Overview	Read: Simulation Reader Post: Actors post Monday reflection threads before class
April 1	Key Juncture #1	Post: Actors post Wednesday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Monday reflections threads before class
April 3	Key Juncture #2	Post: Actors post Friday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Wednesday reflections threads before class
April 6	Journalists Submit Final Article	Post: Journalists post article thread synthesizing group's motivations, achievements, and failures before class

Week 13: Bioterrorism		
April 6	Simulation Overview	Read: Simulation Reader Post: Actors post Monday reflection threads before class
April 8	Key Juncture #1	Post: Actors post Wednesday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Monday reflections threads before class
April 10	Key Juncture #2	Post: Actors post Friday reflections threads before class Post: Journalists post probing, investigative replies to actors' Wednesday reflections threads before class
April 13	Journalists Submit Final Article	Post: Journalists post article thread synthesizing group's motivations, achievements, and failures before class

Week 14: Final Project Work Days		
April 13	In Class Work Day	
April 15	In Class Work Day	Post: Project Drafts
April 17	NO CLASS (MPSA Annual Conference)	

Week 15: Final Project Work Days		
April 20	Peer Reviews	Submit: Peer Review Comments NO CLASS: Office Hours by Appointment
April 22	Revisions	NO CLASS: Office Hours by Appointment
April 24	Final Projects	Submit: Final Projects NO CLASS: Office Hours by Appointment

Week 16: Final Project Testing	
April 27	FINAL PROJECT GAMEPLAY
April 28	FINAL PROJECT GAMEPLAY
April 29	NO CLASS (Reading Day)
May 6	FINAL PROJECT GAMEPLAY (3:30-6:30pm)