

Heidelberg University

Spring 2010

POL 360

The United Nations & MUNFW

T, Th 12:30-1:45 PM

Aigler, Room 204

Instructor: Dr. Marc O'Reilly

Office Hours: M-W-F 1-2 PM, T-Th 4-5 PM, and on Appointment

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Course Content

This course examines the United Nations (UN), the world's premier forum for conflict resolution, as well as the role of France and India within that international organization. The United Nations seeks to foster cooperation between countries, set a moral example, rectify global injustice, provide aid to the needy, and resolve a host of economic, social, health, and environmental matters. While the United Nations often falls short of its objectives due to bureaucratic inertia, inter-state bickering, corruption, incompetence, and other problems, it nevertheless tries to stop wars, feed the starving, cope with refugees, improve the status of women, uphold human rights, and tackle HIV/AIDS -- transnational issues that no state can remedy on its own.

France is a well known, prosperous western European republic, now in its fifth incarnation and led by President Nicolas Sarkozy. France is reputed for its rich intellectual history, *dirigisme* (i.e., state planning), and independent voice internationally. As an original member of the European Union, it has promoted continental economic and political unity. Simultaneously, it has pursued a post-imperial foreign policy that seeks to perpetuate *la gloire française* (i.e., French glory) that Louis XIV and Napoléon Bonaparte achieved in earlier centuries. Given its permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council and nuclear weapons capability, France remains a relevant power globally, albeit much diminished from its former Great Power status.

India is a South Asian country and former British colony known for its Hinduism, bulging population (over 1 billion), and wrenching poverty, but also for its recently acquired status as a surging BRIC nation. The world's largest democracy, India has struggled to knit a social fabric satisfactory to the myriad ethnicities that practice countless faiths and traditions and speak dozens of languages and dialects. Although still class bound and parochial, India has achieved global repute for its technological innovation and business savoir-faire. At the same time, it carries on a fierce rivalry with its Muslim neighbor, Pakistan. The countries have fought several

wars since their independence in 1947, and the Indian territory of Kashmir remains contested in an era when both sides possess nuclear weapons.

As Heidelberg students learn about French and Indian politics and foreign policy, as well as the United Nations, they will prepare to participate in the April 16-20, 2010, Model United Nations of the Far West (MUNFW) conference in San Francisco, CA, the birthplace of the United Nations. The 60th MUNFW session is titled “Humanity: Conquering the Great Divide.” Heidelberg will represent France and India at this event; each student will serve as a delegate for one or the other country. Model UN conferences initiate students to the complexities of international negotiation and to the obstacles that hinder or prevent agreement on serious global issues. For more information on the MUNFW, see <http://www.munfw.org>.

* Please note that students must pay a lab fee to take part in the MUNFW conference. That fee will be charged to a student’s Heidelberg account.

Required Reading (Available at the Heidelberg Bookstore)

- Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, Third Edition (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2007).
- Additional photocopied readings will be provided throughout the semester.

Course Requirements

Exam: Students will write an in-class Mid-Term on February 25. This exam will be of the essay kind. We will review material before the exam. **OBJECTIVES:** The exam tests your knowledge and understanding of class material. It also sharpens your analytical skills. **MID-TERM EXAM: FEBRUARY 25.**

Model UN Assignments: Students will prepare country profiles, policy statements (based on committee assignment), and draft resolutions (again, based on committee assignment) for the Model UN Conference. These assignments, due on March 18, should present French or Indian policy on whatever issues a student’s committee is tackling. The country profile should include essential political, economic, military, social, and cultural information about France or India. The policy statements should explain the French or Indian point of view on whatever issues have been assigned to your Model UN committee. Draft resolutions indicate French or Indian preferences for this or that solution to this or that global problem. To ensure the best possible preparation for the conference, students shall keep all relevant information (articles and documents on the United Nations and French/Indian foreign policy, position papers, draft resolutions, etc.) in a three-ring binder. Students shall take the binder with them to the MUNFW conference. **OBJECTIVES:** The assignments should enable you to represent the French or Indian viewpoint as accurately as possible at MUNFW. Well-done assignments should allow you to preserve, advance, or secure French or Indian interests throughout the conference. **ASSIGNMENTS DUE: MARCH 18.**

Committee Assignments for France & India:

- **General Assembly (GA):** Issues: (1) Women in Power and Decision-making, (2) Sustainable Development in Africa, & (3) High Level Event.
- **Fifth Committee – Budget:** Issues: (1) Increasing the Financial Sustainability of the United Nations, (2) Improving the Administrative Efficiency of the United Nations, & (3) Addressing the Allocation of Funding Toward United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.
- **UN Environment Programme (UNEP):** Issues: (1) The Issue of the Overexploitation of Natural Resources and the Depletion of the Global Commons in the 21st Century, (2) Addressing the Global Carbon Market, & (3) The Environmental Impact of Conflict.
- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** Issues: (1) Integrating Safe Uranium Energy into National Domestic Infrastructures, Encouraging Equal Nuclear Energy Capability into All Nations, in a Safe and Diplomatic Manner, (2) Reviewing the Principles of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as New Elements and Divisions Appear in the Current International Community, & (3) The Effects of Routine Use of Nuclear Energy on the Environment and Agriculture.
- **The Group of 20 (G-20):** Issues: (1) Microlending in the International Economic Community, (2) International Free Trade Policies and their effect on the Global Economy, & (3) International Debt Forgiveness.

Additional Assignment for India:

- **The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime: The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice:** Issues: (1) Combating and Preventing Transnational Maritime Piracy, (2) Countering the Financing of International Terrorism, & (3) Transnational Organized Crime: Addressing the Effectiveness of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Additional Assignment for France:

- **Security Council.**

For detailed information and bibliography on UN committee issues, see the **Issues Book** at: <http://www.munfw.org>.

Please note that a few students will serve on World Press.

For information on France and India, see their respective government pages on the World Wide Web and consult sources such as *The Economist*, the British Broadcasting Corporation's web site, and Wikipedia. Also read French and Indian newspapers written

in or translated into English. For information on the UN, access <http://www.un.org> or <http://www.unwire.org>.

Report: Students will write a 5-page report on their participation at the MUNFW conference. The report will be due on May 4. **OBJECTIVES:** The report summarizes your Model UN experience and asks you to reflect on the effectiveness of the United Nations and the state of French and Indian foreign policy in the 21st century. **REPORT DUE: MAY 4.**

Participation: Students must attend class regularly (I will keep track of your attendance), provide input (in the form of questions and answers) during lectures and class/group discussion, come prepared for Mock Model UN sessions, respect classmates and the instructor, and conduct themselves in a mature and responsible way. Students must attend all sessions (save one) at the MUNFW conference and contribute as much as they can to the proceedings. **OBJECTIVES:** Improve your oratorical, interpersonal, persuasion, and listening skills and recognize the importance of proper comportment and etiquette in the classroom and at a conference.

Distribution of Grades

Mid-Term Exam	30%
Model UN Assignments	20%
Report	20%
Participation	30%

A make-up exam will be authorized only if the student can offer a compelling reason as to why he or she could not take the test. Late assignments will be docked one grade (A to A-, for example) for every day past the deadline. Also note that any student guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive an F (i.e., 0) for the assignment and can be dismissed from Heidelberg University.

Class Outline and Reading Assignments

WEEK 1: Introduction to the United Nations & MUNFW.

Readings: Gwynne Dyer, "Failure of Copenhagen Tops List of 2009's Main Events" *Toledo Blade* (Xerox); <http://www.munfw.org> (familiarize yourself with the conference, delegate preparation, resources for research, etc); and <http://www.wikipedia.org> (read up on France and India).

WEEK 2:

(Tues.) **The United Nations in World Politics.**

Readings: Mingst & Karns, chs. 1 & 2 (pp 17-22); Ban Ki-moon, “The Secretary General’s September 23, 2009, Report to the General Assembly” (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/sgspeeches/>); “What a Way to Run the World,” *The Economist* (Xerox); and “Wrestling for Influence,” *The Economist* (Xerox).

(Thurs.) **France: Country Profile.**

Readings: “France,” *Wikipedia* (see website); and “France: Country Profile,” *BBC* (see website: www.bbc.co.uk); “Sarkozy Addresses Parliament: The State of the State,” *The Economist* (Xerox); and “Reforming France: Pointing the Way,” *The Economist* (Xerox).

WEEK 3:

(Tues.) **The Institutional Make-Up of the United Nations.**

Readings: M & K, chs. 2 (pp. 22-52) & 3.

(Thurs.) **India: Country Profile.**

Readings: “India,” *Wikipedia* (see website); “India’s Election: Singh When You’re Winning,” *The Economist* (Xerox); and “Special Report on India” *The Economist* (Xerox).

WEEK 4:

(Tues.) **International Peace & Security.**

Readings: M & K, ch. 4; “Why Wars Happen,” *The Economist* (Xerox); and “Call the Blue Helmets,” *The Economist* (Xerox).

(Thurs.) **French Foreign Policy.**

Readings: “France,” *Wikipedia* (see website); “France, Germany and the European Union: Future Dreaming,” *The Economist* (Xerox); and “France and Africa: They Came to Bury Him, Not to Praise Him,” *The Economist* (Xerox).

WEEK 5:

(Tues.) **Economic Development & Sustainability.**

Reading: M & K, ch. 5.

(Thurs.) **Indian Foreign Policy.**

Readings: Fareed Zakaria, “The Ally,” in *The Post-American World* (Xerox); “Indian Foreign Policy: Does the Elephant Dance?” *The Economist* (Xerox); and “India,” *Wikipedia* (see website).

WEEK 6:

(Tues.) **Human Rights & Human Security.**

Reading: M & K, chs. 6 & 7.

(Thurs.) **The Future of the United Nations.**

Reading: M & K, ch. 8.

WEEK 7:

(Tues.) No Class. Attend Heidelberg’s *Mindscape: Student Research Conference*.

(Thurs.) No Class (Dr. O’Reilly will be out of town).

WEEK 8: **Mid-Term Exam.**

(Tues.) Review for Mid-Term.

MID-TERM EXAM: FEBRUARY 25

February 26 is the last day to withdraw from the course.

SPRING BREAK: FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 14

WEEK 9: Pre-conference Materials.

(Tues.) Resolution Writing Workshop & Delegations work on pre-conference materials.

(Thurs.) Delegations work on pre-conference materials.

PRECONFERENCE MATERIALS DUE: MARCH 18

WEEK 10: International Negotiation.

Reading: Brigid Starkey, Mark A. Boyer, and Jonathan Wilkenfeld, *Negotiating a Complex World* (Xerox).

WEEK 11:

(Tues.) **How a Model UN Conference Works** (attire, protocol, rules, etc.).

Reading: “Main Committee Rules” (munfw.org). On the conference site, click on Students, then Delegates, then Committee Rules, finally on Main Committee Rules.

EASTER BREAK: APRIL 1-5

WEEK 12: Mock Model UN.

• Students will come prepared to discuss their committee issues. *Practice sessions may also occur outside of class.*

WEEK 13: Mock Model UN.

MUNFW CONFERENCE: APRIL 16-20

WEEK 14: Review of Conference.

WEEK 15: Review of Conference.

FINAL REPORT DUE: MAY 4 @ 12:30 PM