OAS/PLS 304 International Relations Simulation

Professor Jurek

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Winter Session I: 2015-2016

3 credit hours.

Instructor: Steven Bennett

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This is a closed course; permission to register must be given by the instructor. Students will register by June 1st with nonrefundable deposit of $350 to hold their spot (so we can book group flights).

**Course Description:**

This course facilitates student preparation for and participa­tion in a simulation of the largest transnational re­gional experiment in European and world history- the European Union. The bulk of the work for this class is research oriented and emphasizes research and writing skills to prepare student for active participation in the four day international simulation of European Union politics. Students will have taken PLS 305 European Integration prior to entrance in this class.

**Course Objectives:**

* Gain in-depth knowledge of the functioning of European Union institutions- specifically the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission.
* Analyze how cultural, economic, political, and regional characteristics are intricately woven through the European Union’s governance.
* Formulate strategies for alliance building in the European Union with regard to a specific alter-egos and member states.
* Expand writing and analytical skills through two research papers.
* Hone oral persuasive skills particularly around bargaining, compromise, and horse-trading: the art of politics.

**Course Required Readings:**

Students must read all material posted on the Antwerp Blackboard website under: “Background Material about the simulation theme” and as much as they can of the other materials from the Blackboard site.

*Policy-Making in the European Union*. 2015. Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack, and Alasdair R. Young. 7th edition. Oxford University Press. 9780199689675

Updates will be sent additional material via email throughout the fall semester to keep students current with the simulation topic.

Students are responsible for current headlines with regard to their alter-egos. These sites are good starts.

<http://www.presseurop.eu/en>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/europe/>

<http://www.euronews.com/>

<https://euobserver.com/>

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/>

**Required Assignments and Grades:**

* **Grading Policy**: “A” quality work exhibits mastery of the subject material- based on consistent performance on exams and quizzes, and active and thought-provoking classroom discussion. This is the 89 and above range. “B” work demonstrates very good understanding of the course material, but lacks critical interpretation of the material or does not offer independent insight into the subject matter. This is the 80s range. “C” work is earned when students demonstrate a working knowledge of the material with a minimum of interpretation; this is average work and should not be considered a “bad” grade. The numerical correspondence is the 70s range. “D” work reflects sub-par performance and minimal-to-no effort in completion of the course objectives. This is the 60s range. A failing grade of “E” is reserved for those who put forth no effort in the completion of assignments or course objectives and consistently perform poorly (anything below a 60).
* **Paper 1: 40% of grade.** Twelve page research paper: each paper must be typed, double-spaced in font-size 12 with a complete works cited page using academically acceptable sources. These are due before our trip to Europe, by December 24. These can be emailed. The topic is about your alter-ego. What is your viewpoint on the topic? Why does your alter ego feel this way? What kind of proposal is the Commission giving? Who influences this process? How does that influence your strategy to influence others? How will you build support for your position? What is your strategy? How will you negotiate? What concessions are you willing to make? Who are your allies? Who will be your biggest challengers? More importantly, if applicable, how will you “sell” or generate support from your constituents (at the EU level or member-state, or local)? Lastly, how will you, personally, as your alter-ego, impact EuroSim 2016?

Students should incorporate as much material as possible from the EuroSim BlackBoard website. The links posted on the Background Material on the EU are great resources as well. Students should get additional material off the Twitter and Facebook sites as well. There is a wealth of material made available to you on these sites. Use them.

* **Reflection Paper: 10% of grade.** Students must write three pages on their experience with the EuroSim conference. This includes all interaction with students from the conference from other schools. Students can also write half of their paper on the cultural excursions. This paper will serve as the basis for your Scholar’s Day presentation. These are due Jan 25th.
* **Participation #1: 10% of grade**. All students must participate in the practice mini-sim that we host annually to prepare for the international conference. Students should have their roles researched and actively contribute to the sessions of which they are a part of. Date to be announced.
* **Participation #2: 20% of grade**. This grade will be based on student performance at EuroSim 2016. This includes being punctual for all events and prepared to actively participate in the EuroSim conference.
* **Participation #3**: **10% of grade**. Students are responsible for their conduct on the cultural side-trip after the event as well. This means acting as stewards of SUNY Brockport and the United States while abroad and respecting local culture and customs of the places we visit.
* **Participation #4: 10% of grade:** All students must send at least 3 pictures of the EuroSim trip. One will be of the conference itself, one of Amsterdam, and one of France. Students must label the pic with date, location, and names of people in them (if applicable). Officers are responsible for at least one group photo. Photos are due to me one week after we land in the U.S. and must copy the PLS work study students. (to be announced). Officers will have a slide presentation of photos to display at Scholar’s day presentation as well.