Dr. Lynn M. Kuzma  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
6th Floor Hill Hall  
Office Hours: M, R 2:30-4:00

“Issues Before the United Nations” is designed to provide an orientation to the activities of the United Nations. This course will include exposure to current events, exploration of pressing international issues, the understanding of the basics of international law and mastery of the protocol and procedures of international diplomacy. All of this will assist students in their preparation for their role as a distinguished diplomat at the National Model United Nations Conference.

Course Objectives and Student Responsibilities

This course has a heavy emphasis on practical experience and specific tasks. Students are expected to attend each class session, which should be viewed as training workshops that cannot be made up. While in attendance, students must participate actively in class discussion and in various simulations and activities. Students will also be expected to meet outside regularly scheduled class times to prepare for their conference experience. Additionally, each student will write a country profile and a "position paper" for submission to the organizers of the Model UN Conference, complete a digital binder with background materials and documents, and write a debriefing/thought paper. There will be no final exams, and because each student will be researching different topics, specific readings will be assigned in the first week of class (after committee assignments are made). Ultimately, the goal of this course is to prepare each student to be comfortable in his or her role as a student-diplomat and allow each person to distinguish him or herself at the Model UN conference.

Evaluation

The grade for each student will be based on the following

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Country Profile (due Feb. 13th)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Performance (April 5th-9th)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUN Position Paper (draft Mar. 26, final Apr.2)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Binder</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debriefing / Thought Paper (May 1st)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Required Books and Materials

Students will access background materials on their individual topics found at the conference website: [https://www.nmun.org/conferences/new-york.html](https://www.nmun.org/conferences/new-york.html).


Some readings may also be required from the United Nations Homepage ([http://www.un.org](http://www.un.org)) and various web sites dealing with the assigned Member State(s).

Students are expected to monitor the news through one or more outlets, including:


*British Broadcasting Corporation*: [www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.shtml)

General Course Guidelines

1. Late papers will lose half a grade level for each day that they are overdue.
2. Students are expected to read, understand, and comply with University standards for academic integrity and the policy on plagiarism. These issues are fully articulated in the Code of Academic Integrity and form an essential part of the contract between the student and the University. Violations of the Code in course work may lead to grade penalties including failure of the course.

**Accommodations**: Your success in this class is important to me. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together to develop strategies for adapting assignments to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. There are official forms you need to file with the university and share with me for the arrangement of certain accommodations. Please feel free to email me and arrange a private meeting to discuss this further.

**Electronics**: You are welcome to use electronic devices for class-related purposes. Please turn off your cell phone and refrain from texting and emailing during class.

**Disability Services**: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must complete and submit the Registration Form, schedule and complete an intake meeting, and submit appropriate documentation. If your request for reasonable accommodations is approved, you will receive a Letter of Accommodations (LOA), which you should present privately to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations are not retroactive and are effective only upon submission of the LOA to the instructor. Please begin the process by completing and submitting the Registration Form, Applying for Services, which is available at the website below. • **Applying for Services**: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services)