

## **International Studies 261 International Simulation**

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Spring Semester 2020  
TuTh 9:40-11:10  
Smullin, Room B-17  
Office Hours:  
MWF: 10:15-11:15, TuTh 8:30-9:40,  
and by appointment

### Course Description

This course involves active student participation in a semester-long simulation that reproduces a specific aspect of global politics. The theme of the simulation this semester is parliamentary politics. Over the course of the semester students will formulate political party platforms, design a public face and campaign agenda for political parties, and negotiate the creation of a governing coalition following parliamentary elections for a fictional country located somewhere in Europe. Students will be evaluated on the basis of how well they make positive contributions to the simulation. The course emphasizes aspects of equity, diversity, and inclusion, highlighting mutual understanding, equity, and inclusion under conditions of diversity along culturally-significant dimensions.

### Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to:

1. Participate effectively in simulation exercises that reproduce conflict and cooperation in global political contexts.
2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of competing positions for the formulation, implementation, and outcomes of global politics in the specified simulation scenario.
3. Speak effectively and persuasively in advancing policy positions.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of diversity, and inclusion, with an emphasis on mutual understanding, equity, and inclusion under conditions of diversity along culturally-significant dimensions.

### The Place of this Course in the General Education Curriculum

The course fulfills the Practicum aspect of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) element in the College of Liberal Arts' General Education requirement, currently framed as Power, Difference, and Equity. Emphasis will be placed on how diverse societies confront processes of elections and cabinet formation given demands for equity and the challenges of differential distributions of power in society.

### Time Commitment for This Course

Willamette's Credit Hour Policy holds that for every hour of class time there is an expectation of 2-3 hours work outside of class. Thus, for a class meeting three hours a week such as this one you should anticipate spending 6-9 hours outside of class engaged in course-related activities. For this course you should allocate your time among the following three activities: Reading course materials distributed by the instructor; preparing materials for the simulation exercise; reading newspapers and/or online news resources on topics relevant to the class.

### Class Participation

Evaluation of student achievement in the course is based entirely on the positive participation made by students. Students who are repeatedly absent from class, are disruptive to the learning process, or who refrain from actively participating in class will have their final course grade reduced accordingly.

### Electronic Devices in the Classroom

Laptop computers can assist in note taking and wireless Internet access on campus can aid in organized classroom exercises. However, laptop computers can also be a classroom distraction. Laptop computers are permitted in class for note taking purposes. Additionally, there may be occasions when the class as a whole may want to use the campus wireless network to look things up online. However, please refrain from checking e-mail, online chatting, websurfing, game playing, etc. during class. If you are observed doing so during class time, you will be asked to no longer bring your laptop to class. Additionally, cell phones should be turned off prior to class.

### Accommodations

Students requiring accommodation should contact the Office of Accessible Education Services (Student Success Hub in Matthews Hall, Phone: 503-370-6737) for consultation and to make the necessary arrangements.

### Commitment to Positive Sexual Ethics

Willamette is a community committed to fostering safe, productive learning environments which values ethical sexual behaviors and standards. Title IX and school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which regards sexual misconduct—including discrimination, harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. University community members understand that sexual violence can undermine students' academic success. Students affected by sexual misconduct are encouraged to talk to someone about their experiences and get the support they need. Please be aware that all faculty members are mandatory reporters and therefore are required to report any instances disclosed to them by students to Willamette's Title IX Coordinator. If you would rather share information with a confidential employee who does not have this responsibility, please contact the university's confidential advocate at [confidential-advocate@willamette.edu](mailto:confidential-advocate@willamette.edu). Confidential support also can be found with SARAs and at the GRAC (503-851-4245); and at WUTalk, a 24-hour telephone crisis counseling support line (503-375-5353). If you are in immediate danger, please call campus safety at 503-370-6911.

### Readings

Students should purchase the following book:

Markus M.L. Crepaz, *European Democracies*, (Ninth Edition), (New York: Routledge, 2017).

### Grading and Evaluation Criteria

Given the format for the class, each student's grade for this course will be based on the quality of their class participation. By quality of participation this does not mean the frequency of contributions or how much a student says in class. Rather, the quality of class participation is measured by students' active involvement in group exercises in ways that enhance other students' learning as well as their own. This means coming to class well-prepared to discuss course themes and be part of the

simulation exercise that is at the core of the course. Students are expected to make contributions to the simulation and work with other students on simulation activities as specified in each week's assignments. In addition, each team in the simulation will at various junctures in the semester prepare written and visual materials that will be shared with the rest of the class. Some of the work on these projects will be undertaken outside of classroom sessions. Students who come to class without having prepared sufficient work to contribute to their team projects will not be able to earn the highest grades assigned in the class. The instructor (Prof. Marks) will monitor students' contributions and make frequent notes regarding the quality of student participation. Students who frequently miss class or arrive late will also have their grades reduced. If students want to receive updates from Prof. Marks regarding their participation and expected grade they are free to inquire with prof. Marks over the course of the semester regarding their performance.

### Plagiarism and Cheating Policy

Although there will be no written assignments submitted for evaluation, students will be preparing written materials that will be used as part of the simulation exercise. All writing assignments that are prepared must be your own written work. You may not copy, borrow, or appropriate other authors' work, unless you are doing so in the form of a cited quotation. All references to other authors' work must be fully documented in the form of citations and/or footnotes, and direct quotes must be indicated as such with quotation marks. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be pursued vigorously and appropriate penalties (including an "F" for the course) will be applied.

### Attendance Policy

As noted above, students' grades will be determined on the basis of the quality of their class participation which includes the frequency of class attendance. According to CLA policy, students participating in approved university activities (e.g., varsity athletics, Debate Team, theater and other performing arts, Model UN, etc.) are excused from class provided proper notification has been made by the relevant office supervising the event. Additionally, the CLA faculty have adopted a policy whereby students are permitted to be absent from class to observe religious holidays that do not fall on days in which classes are otherwise not in session.

Beyond the above, students in this course will be permitted to be absent if extraordinary circumstances arise such as severe illness or injury or other documented emergencies e.g., death of a family member, flooded dorm room or apartment, hostile roommate interaction, etc. Notice of a missed class due to illness, injury, or emergency must be made by 5:00 pm on the day that class is missed. Additional absences for students with a contagious disease as documented by a medical professional will be permitted. Students with a prolonged illness should consider petitioning the university for a Medical Incomplete or Medical Withdrawal for some or all of their courses.

### Course Schedule and Weekly Reading Assignments

#### January 21–23: Introduction

No Readings

#### January 27–31: Overview of Parliamentary Politics

Students should read Crepaz, Chapters 2–4

February 3–7: Overview of Identity Politics in Europe

Students should read Crepaz, Chapters 8–9, 13–14

February 10–14: Nordica

Overview of the history, society, and politics of Nordica

February 17–21: Setting Political Party Platforms I

Each political party will create its party platform in anticipation of upcoming elections.

February 24–28: Setting Political Party Platforms II

See previous week.

March 2–6: Designing Election Campaigns I

Each political party will design campaign materials in anticipation of upcoming elections.

March 9–13: Designing Election Campaigns II

See previous week.

March 16–20: Campaign Debates

Parties will debate on the issues.

March 23–27: Spring Break

Spring Break

March 30–April 3: The Election and Cabinet Formation I

Political parties will negotiate to create a government cabinet.

April 6–10: Cabinet Formation II

See previous week.

April 13–17: Cabinet Formation III

See previous two weeks.

April 20–24: Policy Agendas

The new government cabinet will set a policy agenda.

April 27–May 1: Conclusion

Summing up.

May 4: Concluding Thoughts

Reflections