



Course Syllabus

American National Government POS 2041

ISS 2930 / CRN: 85570 / Fall 2026

A Session (8/17/26 – 12/10/26)

Credit Hours: 3

Pre-requisites: None

Contact Information

Instructor

David Fistein, PhD.
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Office Hours:

Monday 11-2
Wednesday 11-2
Tuesday 9-9:30 and 12:30 – 1:30
Thursday 9- 9:30 and 2:30 -4:30
Response Time: 24-48 hours

Division Chair

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Course Information

Important Note

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Catalog Description:

ISS 2930 Model United Nations – The course will prepare students to participate in a 3-day United Nations simulation that takes place in Atlanta. At the simulation, Gulf Coast's delegation will represent diplomats from TBA. Students will learn about the history, organization, and procedures of the UN. They will also learn about UN agenda issues, countries represented, and the policies of UN member nations. Through role-playing, students should acquire a better understanding of how the United Nations really works.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- to learn to think like a diplomat from a foreign country
- to learn about the background, structure, and functions of the United Nations
- to learn about parliamentary procedures and other processes of the United Nations
- to represent TBA at UN committee meetings and learn rules and procedures
- to write formal resolutions (as part of the simulation) in an effort to address global problems
- to learn how to work together with other countries, build consensus, resolve conflicts, and communicate clearly and effectively

Course Materials & Resources:

Use of UN website (www.un.org [Links to an external site.](#)) and the Southern Regional Model UN website (www.srmun.org [Links to an external site.](#)) will be required as well. We will also read the **MUN-E book**.

Delivery Method: This course requires travel November 19 - 22

This course meets face to face. Course material, assignments, and announcements may be offered via Canvas as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the instructor. Please make sure that you have access to a computer with a webcam and internet service in the event a change in course delivery is needed.

Attendance and Make-Up Policies for this Course

Attendance Policy:

Regular class attendance is highly encouraged, since it is a significant factor that helps to promote success in college.

Other Course Requirements: Students will be required to attend class regularly and to complete the assigned readings on time. Class participation is equally important. It will contribute to the learning process, it will make you a more confident representative of our countries in Atlanta, and it will be part of your grade.

Make-Up Work Policy:

Any missing work has to be made up in a timely manner to enable a learner to participate in the conference.

AI Policy for this Course

Generative AI Use with Permission and Disclosure

Learners may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus). Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) may also be used for individual assignments where Fistein, the instructor of record, has given explicit permission. Learners must clearly disclose and properly cite any AI-generated content used in their work, following course guidelines. Students are permitted to use AI only in the manner and means described by the instructor. Unacknowledged or unauthorized AI use will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

Generative AI use exception: Learners are permitted to use AI only in the manner and means described by the instructor. Specific assignments assigned by the instructor may contain very specific instructions on how to properly use Generative AI to complete the assignment. Unacknowledged or unauthorized AI use will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy. >If I did not specifically ask for you to use AI to complete an assignment, then it is prohibited to use AI period.

Student Expectations

Communication and feedback within the course will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and/or instructor office hours.

Additionally, as a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the instructions within the course syllabus along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. Be certain you understand the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in the course and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a deeper learning experience.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours (excluding weekends) unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** Announcements will be posted to keep you updated and help you manage your time. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

Course Requirements:

Model United Nations – The course will prepare students to participate in a 3-day United Nations simulation that takes place in Atlanta. At the simulation, Gulf Coast's delegation will represent diplomats from TBA. Students will learn about the history, organization, and procedures of the UN. They will also learn about UN agenda issues, countries represented, and the policies of UN member nations. Through role-playing, students should acquire a better understanding of how the United Nations really works.

Other Course Requirements: Students will be required to attend class regularly and to complete the assigned readings on time. Class participation is equally important. It will contribute to the learning process, it will make you a more confident representative of our country in Atlanta, and it will be part of your grade.

Disruptive behavior during class **will be dealt with immediately** and fairly, with the **rules applying equally to all:** I will ask you to stop disrupting class the first time, and the second time I will ask you to leave. I have noticed that people whispering to each other in the back of the room don't realize that others around them are trying to concentrate on the lecture, which is hard enough to follow without the constant noise behind them. There are other examples of disruptive behavior, mostly it is common sense, and it is me -Dr. Fistein- who decides what constitutes disruptive behavior or **when the policy has been violated.**

Assignments/Assessment Instruments

I. Ambassadorial speeches and Article Summary or Country Report

Students have to complete two short speeches, pretending they are at the conference. 200 points
Students have to complete a short report about the country we will be representing or an article summary of current events in that country in accordance with the teacher's directions

II. Position Paper

Students will have to complete and submit a position paper in order to participate in the conference. This will outline the positions of our country on the topics at hand. Students will work in groups of two as “delegates” representing our country on a certain committee, which will assign our topics as we start.

III. Class participation and Final exam paper (folder)

Class participation and socializing with your fellow “delegates” are important. It will contribute to the learning process, it will make you a more confident representative of our country in Atlanta, and it will be part of your grade.

You will have the choice between writing a 4-page paper or turning in your conference folder, where you collected all your research information. You have this stuff on the computer, too, but you have to attend the last class after the conference to let me look at it at that time.

Course Schedule

Dates	Week	Module Assignments
17-23 August	1	Week 1 (Aug 19): Discussion of the Model UN/ class requirements; Handout Country Report assignments
Aug 24- Aug 30	2	Week 2 (Aug 26): How to write a position paper; the sovereignty of states; placement into groups for committees; History, structure, and purposes of the UN MUN-E Ch. 1
Aug 31 – Sept 6	3	Week 3 (Sept 2): Country reports; / MUN-E Ch. Who are we?
Sept 7-Sept 13	4	Week 4 (Sept 9): Parliamentary Procedure/ <u>getting organized</u> ; MUN-E Ch. 3, 8, Appendix A
Sept 14 - 20	5	Week 5 (Sept 16): Committee Reports including at least one thing your committee in the real UN has done in regards to one of your assigned topics (article summary); Our country’s foreign policy/ our overall strategy MUN-E Ch. 4, 5, Appendix B
Sept 21 -Sept 27	6	Week 6 (Sept 23): Ambassadorial Speeches; Caucusing
Sept 28 – Oct 4	7	Week 7 (Sept 30): Parliamentary Procedure; MUN-E Ch. 6, 7; First Draft of Pos. Paper Due Simulation # 1 Assignment: caucusing Ch. 9, 10
Oct 5 – Oct 11	8	Week 8 (Oct 7): Simulation # 1 continued; Resolution writing
Oct 12- Oct 18	9	Week 9 (Oct 15): Assignment: Resolution on committee topic; In class: Simulation # 2 with focus on caucusing Position Paper Due: Final revisions on Position Paper –watch for SRMUN due date; turn paper in early
Oct 19 – Oct 25	10	Week 10: (Oct 21): Ambassadorial Speeches; Smith Ch. 11
Oct 26 Nov 1	11	Week 11 (Oct 28): Simulations; simulation # 2 continued
Nov 2 - 8	12	Week 12 (Nov 7): Simulations; what you need for the conference; clothes, etc. (all in the book anyway): Simulation – “Decorum delegates!”

Nov 9 -15	13	Week 13 (Nov 11): The Feast- we make and consume native food from our chosen country
Nov 16 - 22	14	Nov. 19 Depart for conference 6 a.m. (meet at 5:45 a.m.!!) Return Nov. 22 around 6 p.m.
Nov 22- 29	15	Thanksgiving: Thanksgiving Break November 25- 29 No class
Nov 30 – Dec 6	16	Debriefing & Debate; Discuss possible participation in the Club version of Model UN next semester
Dec 4 - 10		Finals: turn in paper or folder at last class meeting

Grading

Grading Scale

There are a total of **900** points. **Grade Determination:**

Article Sum. / Country Rep.	–5.555%	(50 points)
Position Paper-	22.22%	(200 points)
Final Paper/ Folder –	11.11%	(100 points)
Ambassadorial speeches –	22.22%	(200 points)
Class participation –	16.66%	(150 points)
Conference -	22.22%	(200 points)

Calculation of Grades

Grading Scale: Points	Percent
(810-900)	90 -100 = A
(720-809)	80 - 89 = B
(630-719)	70 - 79 = C
(520- 629)	60 - 69 = D
(below 520)	= F

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete in any course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than sixty percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if all remaining work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F.”

General GCSC Course Policies

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

GCSC Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor can withdraw you from the course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course, and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.). There are two kinds of withdrawals: student and administrative.

- **Student Withdrawal (W1)** - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

- **Administrative Withdrawal (W2)** – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of “W.” The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college’s mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student’s records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating" includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines on AI material.

"Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion that they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)" is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

Sanctions for incidents of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incident and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member.

Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies, or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- Computer: Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- Internet Speed: Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- Office 365 software: Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).
- If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.