POLS 3348: Model Organization of American States

Course Description
This course is not your typical course offered in the Department of Political Science and Philosophy. Students will choose between the option to participate in the annual conference of Eugene Scassa Model Organization of American States (ESMOAS) Conference sponsored by Texas State University or completing a 10 page research paper. All students will prepare for a class mock ESMOAS. Students who successfully participate in the competition will be eligible for 3% extra credit on their final grade.

Learning Goals and Outcomes
- to gain an understanding of historical and political development of the Latin America and selected countries of the region.
- to gain a comprehensive understanding of the OAS, its organizational structure, its purpose, and committee system.
- to acquaint students with parliamentary procedure.
- to give students an experience in diplomacy – develop oral and written communication skills for defending and refuting policy and resolutions presented at the ESMOAS.
- to introduce students to the study of the international relations of the Western Hemisphere.

Grading System
Your final grade will be based on the total number of grade points accumulated for each course requirement:
- Class attendance and participation .......................................................... 5%
- Oral Presentation ..................................................................................... 5%
- Committee Topic Briefing Paper .......................................................... 15%
- Committee Resolution ...........................................................................15%
- Participation in Mock Sessions ............................................................. 10%
- Participation at ESMOAS-Texas State/Research Paper................................. 30%
- ESMOAS Binder .................................................................................... 10%
- Final Reflection Essays on ESMOAS and U.S.-Latin American Relations-10%

Grading Scale
A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=59 and below

Special Needs
In accordance with OP 10.15 of ASU’s Operating Policies and Procedures, persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Academic Honesty
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the ASU Student
Handbook. See the Current Student page on the ASU homepage (URL address: http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/) and click on Academic Honor Code. Acts of academic dishonesty and misconduct as referenced in Angelo State University's Student Handbook will be referred to the Dean of Students.

**Unprofessional Behavior**
A certain classroom decorum based upon mutual respect toward others contributes towards a productive environment. Please note that arriving late without a good reason or making distracting noise in the classroom, i.e., whispering or eating, is unprofessional and a sign of disrespect. Please be sure to turn off cell phones, pagers or other electronic devices with audible signals, and also refrain from bringing food and beverages. In addition, please note that as a student delegation representing Angelo State University at an institutional sponsored event, appropriate behavior and decorum is expected of all students. Student behavior that does not conform to the standards of this university will not be deemed acceptable, subject to negative sanctions, and will be used to compute your participation grade at ESMOAS-Texas State University.

**Readings:** Readings as necessary will be posted on the Blackboard course site.

**The last day to drop the course is November 1, 2018**

**Course Schedule**

[The schedule is tentative and may vary depending upon class progress.]

August 27: *Introduction*
August 29 – *Committee and Country Discussion*
You must notify the instructor if you will attend ESMOAS or complete a research paper on this day.
September 5 – *Committee Agenda Topic Selection*
September 10: *Brief introduction to the study of Latin America*

**Readings:** Weeks Chapter 1-4 posted on Blackboard

September 12 – September 17: *Countries*

**Readings:** BBC and Freedom House Profiles posted on Blackboard

September 19: *Discussion of ESMOAS Binder Requirements*
September 24: *Organization of the American States*

**Readings:** Congressional Research Service, OAS Information

**September 29: Committee Agenda Topic Briefing Paper Due**
September 26- October 1: *Oral Presentations*

D. **Suggested Reading:** Students will research current events in their particular countries

October 3: Preparing the Country Position Paper

**October 11: Final Version of Country Position Paper Due**

October 8-10: *Preparing Resolution*

**Readings:** ESMOAS, “Resolution Formatting Instructions”

October 15-October 17 – October 22-October 24: *Parliamentary Procedure Rules*

**Readings:**
ESMOAS, “Rules of Procedure”
Handout on Mock Parliamentary Session

**October 22 – Final Resolution Due**

**October 29 – Binder Due**

November 1 – November 3: *ESMOAS at Texas State University*

November 5, 7- *The United States and Canada*
Readings Posted on Blackboard
November 12, 14 *Immigration, the United States and Latin America*
Readings Posted on Blackboard

November 19, November 26, November 28: *Foreign Policy of U.S. towards Latin America*
Readings Posted on Blackboard
December 3, 5 Work on Research Papers, Reflection Essay

**Research Paper Due December 7 at 11:59pm**

December 12 – Final Exam Day (Reflection essay due through Blackboard at 1:00pm)