



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

POLS 4920: United Nations Conference

SPRING 2021

Professor: Dr. Stephanie Wolfe

Class Meetings: Flex

Office: Lindquist Hall, Office 141

Office Hours: Via appointment (Zoom)

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Course Description

Students will examine the inter-networking of global governance and processes, policy generation, and implementation for sustainable change and gain direct experiences on the international grounds of the United Nations. Through their attendance at predetermined and spontaneous panel events, students will gain insider perspectives and have direct contact with policy makers and global professionals. Students will unpack global issues addressed by the UN and the Commission on the Status of Women.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the central global intergovernmental organization devoted to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. CSW is central in fostering conversations on women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

By attending the 65th session we will have the opportunity to personally experience and interact with international leaders focusing on work for women and girls on a global platform. We also have also partnered with Mother's Legacy Project, an NGO out of Portland, which graciously is sponsoring our attendance at CSW.

Course Outcomes

- Become fluent in academic discourse and versed in analysis related to social protection systems, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- Develop a skill set necessary to pursue a career in political sciences, specifically by providing scholarly and practitioner training. Students become fluent in academic discourse and versed in analysis and learn practice-oriented speaking and writing.
- Interact and have built relationships with organizations and individuals engaged in initiatives for the betterment of women and girls across the globe.

Course Objectives

- Learn about the United Nations, UN Women and the Commission on the Status of Women - how it works, and how it is grappling with the major issues that affect our world, especially in relation to women and girls.
- Analyze and discuss current issues in the areas of peace and security, development, and human rights and how the UN Women system addresses these topics.
 - Explore global problems with UN experts– peace and security, human rights, climate change, international aid, and development.
 - Visit the UN to get an inside look at how policy is developed and how and why member states and NGOs differ in their perspectives on global issues.
 - Prepare students to understand and engage with contemporary issues, policies, and debates in international affairs.
 - Enable students to gain hands-on experience in consultancy work with the UN system.
 - Experience the dynamism of studying onsite in New York City.

Methods of instruction

“Learn by Doing”, experience-based, each other, required text and readings, shared writings and discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions as needed, and offer relevant comments.

Attendance and Participation Expectations

This course requires your active involvement in all activities. Therefore, students are expected to attend all structured activities. Excused absences will be considered to be an illness or family crisis.

Documentation may be requested.

A vital, ongoing intellectual conversation—which actively questions the meaning of gender in society—is at the heart of the study abroad experience. Many issues that we address on the trip are controversial and students may have or voice very different viewpoints and perspectives. It is critical that we acknowledge and respect one another's experiences and perspectives so that our classroom space is a safe and supportive space to converse productively across our thoughts and opinions.

At any time, you have a disagreement, concerns, or questions with the instructor, classmates, or class material; please bring it to my attention immediately. The goal is to create a community of learners where all students are valued and contributing members, resulting in a positive learning experience for everyone.

ADA Disclosure

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room #181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

University Ethics Disclosure

Failure to maintain academic ethics/academic honesty including the avoidance of cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and falsification will result in a F in the course and may result in charges being issued, hearing being held, and/or sanctions being imposed. Any violation of the WSU student code of conduct may result in a failing grade in the course and/or withdrawal of the student's admission to the Teacher Education Program. The policy of the Weber State University Student Code found at <http://weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm> will be enforced.

Harassment/Discrimination

Weber State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of discrimination based upon race, color, ethnic background, national origin, religion, creed, age, lack of American citizenship, disability, status of veteran of the Vietnam era, sexual orientation or preference or gender, including sexual/gender harassment.

If you have questions regarding the university's policy against discrimination and harassment you may contact the university's AA/EO office (626-6239) or visit its website: <http://departments.weber.edu/aaceo/>

General Instructions for Written Work

These instructions apply to all written work including critiques, reviews, reports, research papers, reaction essays, or other papers. Papers must be typed. When using direct quotes and citing references, use the rules of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Edition). Attention

should be given to correct grammar usage and spelling. If you have questions about APA 6th, please refer to: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

Grading and Assessment

POLS 4920 follows the University grading system: A, A-, B+, etc. Incomplete grades will only be given for legitimate reasons such as severe illness or family crisis with 80% of course work completed.

The instructor reserves the right to lower any grade based on lack of professional behaviors or lack of adherence to professional ethics.

Course Assignments: (credit option)

1. **[60% of your grade] Attendance and Participation.** See notes above. This also includes a variety of small assignments that could be issued based on needs that develop over the course of the semester. Regular and thoughtful contributions to discussions and reflection sessions are essential to the success of the experience.
2. **[30% of your grade] Reflective Journal.** (2 pages) Daily journal highlights and observations should be noted and reflected upon a final reflection based on the following questions will be due one week from the return of the experience:
 - a. Discuss the one event/experience that deeply resonated with you from the Commission.
 - b. Discuss the one event/experience that deeply resonated with you from traveling through New York City.
 - c. Discuss the implications of your learning. How will this experience shape you and your future professional/personal life?
3. **[10% of your grade] Discussion and briefing with fellow students**