

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



PSCI 3440: Russian and Central Asian Politics Diplomatic Forum

April 10, 15 and 17, 2019

Some of the questions that will be addressed at the forum:

1. What are the grievances of your side? Who is to blame for the conflict to begin with and who is to blame for prolonging it?
2. What is your position on negotiations that have already taken place (if any) to end the conflict (or at least the fighting)?
3. What is your proposal for ending the conflict?
4. What would compel you to launch a military action (or, in the case of the EU, Russia and US, to supply one side with arms)?

Note: there will likely be other questions introduced during the forum.

Conduct Rules

1. The forum will run for the full class period on Wednesday, April 10 and Monday, April 15; and for the first half of the class on Wednesday, April 17.
2. The seasoned and respected diplomat, the Honorable Quynh Mai, will serve as moderator and conduct the forum.
3. We will debate one question at a time.
4. At the beginning of the forum, each delegation will be given two minutes to make opening statements. Opening statements are not addressed to any specific question above, but are intended to set out the general position and direction of each delegation.
5. The moderator will then announce the first question. Each delegation will be given one minute to make its opening statement responding to the question.
6. Follow-up responses after opening statements are limited to one minute each.
7. This will be repeated for each question over the three days of the forum.
8. The moderator will enforce time limits.
9. To be recognized during discussion time, raise your name card. The moderator will recognize the delegation by name when it is their turn to talk.
10. A delegation may not speak twice in a row.
11. Only one delegation member may speak each time a delegation is recognized.
12. All delegation members should participate multiple times.
13. The moderator will have the discretion to make sure one or two delegations and/or people do not dominate the forum (that is, she may decline to recognize someone or some delegation in sequence).
14. The moderator has the final say on who may speak when, as well as on when time has expired for each contribution. She will also ensure respect for decorum.
15. Engage in genuine role playing: represent actual positions (i.e., don't make stuff up).

16. Engage in diplomacy: no joking (<--NOTE THIS) and no interrupting. Wait to be recognized. Diplomats conduct themselves with a professional demeanor – even when they are frustrated, offended or angry.
17. Don't repeat points. Responses should add information or argumentation, not repeat what your delegation has already said.
18. Other delegations may not respond to your points. That's their right and may indicate that the point is an awkward one for them, that they don't have a response, or that they are not prepared.
19. Take time to think through your responses and contributions. Don't blurt out the first thing that crosses your mind.
20. Feel free to conduct sidebar discussions with members of your delegation or with representatives of other delegations in a back corner of the room – but do so quietly and quickly.

Grading Criteria

- Grades will be group grades only; there will be no individual grades distinct from group grades.
- Criteria:
 - Points are made effectively with substance and evidence (i.e., facts, dates, etc. – you don't need to verbally cite sources).
 - Delegations are true to their roles as best they understand them.
 - Everyone on each delegation participates multiple times.
 - The forum conduct rules (above) are respected.

Suggestion:

- Prepare your two-minute forum opening statement and your one-minute opening statements to each question in advance. Determine who will be responsible for delivering each opening statement. If you read your opening statements, **DO SO SLOWLY AND LOUDLY SO THAT DELEGATES CAN FOLLOW AND UNDERSTAND YOU.**
- Bring copies of your papers and any other notes you wish to have on hand to consult.
- You may also have devices on hand in order to look up something during the forum. Have volumes turned off. NOTE: this is not an invitation to check your social media accounts. If I think you are doing that, you will lose your device privileges.

Note: There is no "successful" outcome to the forum and no winners or losers. The forum is an exercise in representing roles as accurately and effectively as possible and in exploring the complexity of events surrounding these conflicts.