

Fall Showcase 2019

Model United Nations Survey Research

Dr. Elizabeth Wheat

Public and Environmental Affairs

Overview of the project:

In this research, I present survey results from three semesters of an introductory 100-level course on global politics in which students participate in two Model UN simulations, assessing their perceptions of learning and skills. Students report statistically significant differences in perceived improvement of their abilities/skills. A qualitative analysis of open-ended survey responses included students also expressing progress in public speaking, research, time management, personal confidence, writing, teamwork, communication, and problem solving. Overall, this research shows Model UN simulations, as a form of experiential learning, can be a meaningful teaching tool for both content and skill acquisition, particularly in an introductory-level political science course.

Understand student perceptions of their improvement in skills through experiential teaching activities such as Model UN

Context

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) fellowship projects (2014-present)

- UW-Green Bay Teaching Scholar
- Wisconsin Teaching Fellow through UW System's Office of Professional and Instructional Development (OPID)

Survey distribution: Global Politics

- 100-level course with a cap of 125 students
 - T1: Start of semester
 - T2: End of the semester following the last simulation
- Likert scale (T1) and open-ended questions (T1, T2)

Timeframe

- Fall 2015, 2016, 2017

Survey Questions

Using a Likert scale of **1 (strongly agree)**, **2 (agree)**, **3 (neither agree nor disagree)**, **4 (disagree)** to **5 (strongly disagree)**, students in Global Politics answered the following questions at the start of the semester and again at the end.

1. I can effectively conduct global policy research. _____
2. I can critique global policies. _____
3. I am able to interpret international policies. _____
4. I know how to access public information from a variety of institutional sources. _____
5. I am able to write clear and grammatically correct policy analyses. _____
6. I can write a logical and organized policy analysis. _____
7. I can orally communicate in an articulate and concise manner. _____
8. I understand how to engage in diplomacy. _____

