

WINTER 2017

LAS 320-01

Model Organization of American States (MOAS)

Professor Andrew Schlewitz

Tue/Thu 2:30-3:45pm, LHH 101

Every year, around 300 students from 30 universities from across the Western Hemisphere gather in Washington DC to participate in a simulation of the Organization of American States—an international organization established in 1948 to serve as forum for resolving interstate disputes and addressing collective problems. Every other year, GVSU sends a delegation of ten students to participate in this international event. To prepare, students take the LAS 320 course in which they study the OAS and its member states, with a focus on the country they will represent. They also prepare resolutions to present at the MOAS and practice the language and form of diplomatic protocol.



The 2012 GVSU Delegation in Washington DC, about to meet with the Chief OAS Diplomat for Grenada.

In the Winter 2017 semester, the GVSU student delegation will represent a South American country and spend a week in Washington DC participating in the OAS simulation (typically the week before Easter). The trip includes a meeting with the embassy staff of the country GVSU students are representing, a formal gala, and time for sightseeing. Students who have taken this course and participated in the simulation have overwhelmingly reported that this experiential learning was of great value. For student testimonials about the Washington MOAS experience, visit <http://las320moas.blogspot.com/> (2012 Delegation) and <http://las320moas.blogspot.com> (2014 Delegation). Please also visit the Washington MOAS site at <http://wmoas.org>.

If you are interested in a course where you will experience international diplomacy rather than just read about it, please consider signing up. There are pre-requisites—LAS 210, and either PLS 211 or PLS 284—but I have routinely waived them for students who have other relevant coursework or experience (such as Model UN, Model EU, or Model Arab League, etc.).

The Latin American Studies program will cover the costs of registration, travel, lodging at a fine Georgetown hotel (the Fairmount), and a celebratory dinner at the end of the week. MOAS students are asked to pay \$50 (by the add/drop date) to defray costs, but also to demonstrate commitment to the course and the simulation. Students will also cover their own dining expenses.

This course counts towards the Latin American and Latino/a Studies minor and the International Relations major or minor.

For more information or if you require special accommodations, please contact Professor Schlewitz at schlewia@gvsu.edu or the Area Studies office at areastudies@gvsu.edu or 331-8110.

