Diplomatic Communication
Students Attend
United Nations Seminar

This past November, some students taking the Communication Department’s Comm395: Diplomatic Communication class joined student’s from the Political Science Department’s United Nations Seminar and Model United Nations I courses at the United Nations in New York for a series of lecture sponsored by the ODU Model United Nations Society and the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI).

On the first day of our United Nations Seminar we are always fortunate to receive a tour of the United Nations and the gifts that the UN has received from various member nations. The Seminar consisted of a four day Lecture Series of speakers from various United Nations divisions and agencies.

Dr. Jean Gazarian, Senior Fellow, with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), began our lecture series, he informed students about the General Assembly establishment of its annual Agenda. Later during the same day, we received a lecture on Post-War Iraq by Mr. Hamid Abdeljaber from UN Radio, followed by a briefing on Counter Terrorism from Mr. Axel Wennmann.

Students in Coimm395 learn what it means to be a member of the diplomatic corps from the standpoint of learning diplomatic protocol, how to write issues briefs and press releases, as well as navigate the art of diplomatic language during various stages of diplomatic negotiations. Students also have an opportunity to meet with various international civil servants working for both governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO).

As is the case each year we try to get representatives from a variety of UN divisions and agencies to talk on a diverse selection of topics that are current and important issues facing the diplomats of the today’s United Nations.