

Nicholas J. Coburn-Palo

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Education

Brown University – Providence, RI

- Earned Ph. D. in Political Science (2014)
- Awarded Terrence Hopmann Teaching Prize (2011)
- Earned Masters in Political Science (2010)

Weber State University – Ogden, UT

- B.S. Major in Political Science with a Minor in History (1995)

Cornell University – Ithaca, NY

- Significant undergraduate coursework undertaken at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the College of Arts and Sciences (1986-1989)

Employment

Teacher

The York School, Humanities Department, Monterey, CA, August 2018-Present

I currently work as a History teacher at the York School, a highly regarded independent upper school located on the central California coast. Teaching responsibilities include courses in Modern World History (Lead Instructor), Asian History, and U.S. Government. In addition, I created an internship program in Diplomacy and Simulation Learning for almost a dozen students, in conjunction with a graduate school course I teach for UNITAR and the Open University of Catalonia. This spring I have spearheaded York's partnership with the Critical Issues Forum, a program administered by the Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey (MIIS), dedicated to bringing together leading international experts from the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies and talented high school students, to create and present original group projects at an international conference.

Consulting Trainer and Instructor

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), New York and Geneva; 2010-Present

I maintain an ongoing consulting relationship with UNITAR, training diplomats from developing nations in numerous courses, including "Multilateral Negotiation Strategies" and "Public Speaking for Diplomats." This year, I have worked with UNITAR and the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) in the creation of their inaugural Masters program in International Affairs and Diplomacy. In that capacity, I have edited written modules, designed single and multi-party simulation exercises, and served as an instructor for the graduate course, "Overcoming Negotiation Deadlocks." As a trainer for UNITAR, I have worked with representatives from dozens of nations, including Egypt, Nigeria, Venezuela, Malaysia, South Sudan, and Palestine. Areas of specialization have included bridging cultural difference in complex negotiations, delegation management, and advanced methods of preparation for multinational conferences. In 2011, I co-designed and taught the inaugural United Nations course for officials from Security Council nations in speech writing and presentation for the incoming Republic of South Africa delegation. In 2012, I presented at an Ambassador level summit for the African Union in preparation for Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development. Since 2014 I have served on numerous occasions as an instructor for the UNITAR cutting edge on-line course "Negotiation Strategies for Diplomats," which has included designing and administering an interactive, multinational negotiation simulation design, facilitating on-line discussion in student forums, and teaching written modules of the course.

Teacher and Debate Coach

Taipei American School – Departments of History and Political Science, Taipei, Taiwan; August 2013-July 2018

I served for five years as an upper school teacher (grades 9-12) and Coach of the Debate Team at the Taipei American School (TAS), an international independent school. Teaching responsibilities have included Public Speaking and Rhetoric, IB Philosophy, IB Theory of Knowledge, AP American Government, AP Comparative Government, U.S. History, History of Asia, and Honors Seminars on both Crisis and Leadership Skills and on Constitutional Law. Teaching responsibilities have required working in numerous on-line educational platforms, including Canvas, Power Teacher and OLC/Blackboard. In 2014, students I coached at TAS won the Southeast Asian Independent Schools (IASAS) Parliamentary Debate Championships. Our squad also won the International Division in Public Forum Debate at the U.S. National Tournament of Champions (TOC) in 2017. Students I coached twice finished in Fifth Place or better at the International Public Policy Forum World Championships in Group Writing and Debate.

Program Dean and Lead Instructor

Yale University – Ivy Scholars Program – International Security Studies and the Office of International Affairs, New Haven, CT; February 2001-August 2012

For over a decade I served in a variety of instructional and leadership roles for Yale University's Ivy Scholars Program, a successful summer debate institute which evolved into a university administered leadership initiative targeted at talented and gifted high school students, providing integrated instruction in political thought, international relations, group writing, and presentation skills. Positions held with the organization initially included Lead Instructor, Dean of Faculty and Dean of Students. Later, I accepted a more demanding consulting role at Yale, taking on the responsibilities of Program Dean. During my tenure, the Ivy Scholars Program experienced tremendous growth, growing to almost three hundred students from nearly thirty nations, producing revenues in excess of one million dollars a year. Responsibilities included curriculum and simulation design, significant lecturing and seminar instruction across a broad range of topics, domestic and international student outreach and recruitment, cultivation of potential donors, budgeting, responsibility for a six-figure financial aid program, compliance with university human resources standards, as well as the training and supervision of a large teaching staff.

Teacher and Debate Coach

The College Preparatory School, Oakland, CA; September 2000 – May 2008

This position, at a highly regarded independent upper school, involved curriculum design, classroom teaching, competition coaching, student supervision, and program administration. Courses taught included Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Speech and Debate, Intermediate Debate, and Advanced Debate. Students I coached in Policy and LD Debate won or advanced to the final round of virtually every major national competition, including Harvard, UC-Berkeley, Stanford, the NFL/NSDA National Championships, and the National Tournament of Champions (TOC). Significant service work included a term as the Chairperson of National Forensic League (NFL/NSDA) Rules and Review Committee for Policy Debate in 2006, as well as serving on the National Tournament of Champions (TOC) Advisory Committee for Policy Debate for almost a decade.

Assistant Dean and Debate Coach

Hopkins High School, Minnetonka, MN; February 1999 – June 2000

This public high school administrative position involved working with students and staff on conflict resolution and mediation, as well as investigating violations of institutional rules. In addition, responsibilities included identifying and implementing consequences in accordance with school district policy, supervising a security staff of over a dozen people, and working with counselors, diversity coordinators, and special education instructors to facilitate a constructive learning environment and maintain compliance with institutional standards, including IEPs. Debaters I coached while at Hopkins won the Minnesota State Championships and the National Tournament of Champions (TOC) in Lincoln-Douglas style debate.

Foreign Manager and Teacher

Sung-Il Foreign Language Institute, Suwon, South Korea; November 1996 – June 1998

This teaching position involved instructing students in English across a wide variety of contexts, experience, and age. Work included serving as the Foreign Manager of Sung-Il Foreign Language Institute, where I worked to train new teachers and maintain relations between the Korean and foreign staffs. In addition, I designed and taught English language courses for multiple off site programs for universities and government institutions. This included numerous multi-month immersive training programs for the South Korean Ministry of Home Affairs, where diplomats were being prepared to conduct trade negotiations in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

Lecturer and Assistant Director of Forensics

Weber State University, Ogden, UT; August 1995 – May 1996

Upon completion of my undergraduate degree, my alma mater offered me a one-year full time faculty appointment as a Lecturer and Assistant Director of Forensics in the Department of Communication. Responsibilities included developing and teaching multiple sections of both Introduction to Public Speaking and Intercollegiate Forensics, as well as coaching a nationally competitive Policy and Parliamentary debate program. This involved debate instruction across a wide variety of skill levels, training students in advanced research methods and speechwriting, financial reporting in accordance with university standards, and extensive travel with the team.

Teacher and Debate Coach

The Pinewood School, Los Altos Hills, CA; August 1991 – June 1993.

This middle and upper school teaching position at a well-regarded independent school involved developing and teaching multiple sections of Introduction to Communication Theory, Intermediate Public Speaking and Advanced Public Speaking. In addition, I coached competitors in debate and individual events at local, regional, and national competitions, with students winning significant awards at major national-circuit competitions including Stanford, UC-Berkeley, Loyola-Marymount, the California State Championships, and NFL/NSDA National Championship.

Selected Presentations, Conferences, and Workshops (2010-present)

- ***Featured Lecturer – EAFIT University (Colombia) – May 2019 (upcoming)***
Will be a featured lecturer and workshop leader at an entrepreneurship conference being hosted by a major university in Medellin, Colombia. Will be presenting on negotiation and leadership, overcoming deadlocks in high-conflict negotiations, and converting cultural differences into strategic gain.
- ***Workshop Leader – Taipei American Chamber of Commerce – March 2018***
Presented an advanced workshop on “The Subtle Arts of Persuasion and Negotiation” to local business leaders in Taipei at the Taipei American Chamber of Commerce. Instruction was offered in multilateral negotiation strategies, crisis communication, and applying lessons from the world of diplomacy to the world of business.
- ***Interview Subject – Radio Taiwan International (RTI) – November/December 2017***
Was the subject of a three interview series on the issues of “Developing Leaders,” “The Art of Public Speaking,” and “Negotiation Strategies” with award winning journalist Natalie Tso. Radio Taiwan International (RTI) broadcasts worldwide and is one of the oldest stations in the world to continue to do so. Two of the interviews are available for listening on my professional website (www.nickcoburnpalo.com).
- ***Presenter – European House - Ambrosetti – May 2017***
Featured presenter at an “Ambrosetti Live!” event for leading business management experts, sponsored by one of Europe’s top ranked private think tanks, in Milan, Italy, on “The Art of Negotiating: Lessons from the World of Diplomacy.” The presentation was also broadcast as a webinar to a large audience of corporate officials across Europe.

- ***Lecturer and Juror – Warsaw School of Economics – April 2016***
Served on the competition jury and lectured on “When to Walk Away from Negotiations” at the Warsaw Negotiation Round, a World Mediation Organization affiliated global negotiation competition in Warsaw, Poland, featuring some of the worlds leading law and business schools.
- ***Presenter – TEDx Taipei – December 2014***
Developed and presented a well-received TEDx talk on “Why Negotiations Fail: Lessons Learned from Training Diplomats at the United Nations” at Taipei American School in Taiwan. The talk can be located easily on YouTube or at my professional website (www.nickcoburnpalo.com).
- ***Instructor – United Nations (UNITAR)/Olaf Palme Fund – March 2013***
Developed and presented curriculum at a workshop for U.N. diplomats from developing nations entitled “Effective Negotiations in Multilateral Conferences” at the Malaysian Mission to the United Nations in New York.
- ***Instructor – African Union/United Nations (UNITAR) – March 2012***
Developed and presented curriculum at an ambassador level training workshop entitled “Consultations & Capacity Building Training for the African Union Negotiators to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)” at the African Union Mission to the United Nations in New York.
- ***Trainer/Facilitator – The Stevenson School – February 2012***
Worked as part of a consulting team conducting diversity and team-building training for the faculty, staff, and students of The Stevenson School, a residential private school in Pebble Beach, California.
- ***Facilitator – Yale University/Brady-Johnson Center for Grand Strategy – December 2011***
Assisted in the design and facilitation of a political crisis management simulation in New Haven, Connecticut for Yale’s elite “Studies in Grand Strategy” program. Collaborated with fellow facilitators including John Negroponte, John Lewis Gaddis, Paul Kennedy, and ex-Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.
- ***Instructor – United Nations (UNITAR) – November 2011***
Developed and presented curriculum at a workshop for U.N. diplomats from developing nations entitled “Effective Public Speaking and Presentation Skills” at the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations in New York.
- ***Instructor – Republic of South Africa/United Nations (UNITAR) – January 2011***
Developed and presented curriculum for the inaugural United Nations course on speech and statement writing for incoming Security Council delegations, entitled “Introduction to Statement Writing for the United Nations Security Council,” for the South African delegation at their Mission in New York.
- ***Presenting Researcher – Yale University/ International Security Studies – December 2010***
Featured presenter at the International Security Studies Colloquium hosted by Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut on “The Past, Present, and Future of America’s Relationship with the Koreas.”
- ***Instructor – United Nations (UNITAR)/Olaf Palme Fund – May 2010***
Developed and presented curriculum at a workshop for U.N. diplomats from developing nations entitled “Effective Negotiations in Multilateral Conferences” at Finland’s Mission to the United Nations in New York.