
POL S 121/221: THE UNITED NATIONS

Bellevue College, Fall 2015

Monday/Wednesday 2:30 to 3:20 in L221

Instructor: Dr. Tim Jones. (Please call me “Tim”)

Office: A200B

Office Hours: M/W 9:30-10:20 & 1:30-2:20 and by appointment

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“More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations.”

~Former UN Secretary General Kofi Anan

“Everything will be all right—you know when? When people stop thinking of the United Nations as a weird Picasso abstraction and see it as a drawing they made themselves.”

~Former UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld

“Humor has a way of bringing people together. It unites people. In fact, I’m rather serious when I suggest that someone should plant a few whoopee cushions in the United Nations.”

~Comedian Ron Dentinger

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the first in a ten-credit sequence of three courses designed for students participating in Bellevue College's (BC) Model United Nations (MUN) program. POLS 121/221 is a two credit course and it is offered in Fall, POLS 122/222 is a three credit course and it is offered in Winter, and POLS 123/223 is a five credit course and it is offered in Spring. The sequence is designed to prepare students to participate in local, national, and international MUN conferences—the most prestigious of which is the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York, NY, March 27-31, 2015. At this conference 5,000 student “delegates” from around the world come together to simulate UN committee proceedings as representatives of a country other than their own. Delegates write position papers, draft resolutions, negotiate with supporters and adversaries, speak publicly about their proposals, and navigate the UN's rules of procedure in an attempt to mobilize international cooperation to resolve real international problems. This is an amazing opportunity to travel to New York City, to meet with real foreign diplomats, and to visit the United Nations Headquarters. It is also a unique learning opportunity that will help you foster skills related to research, writing, public speaking, problem solving, consensus building and conflict resolution.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an understanding of and appreciation for the United Nations.
2. To examine issues of global importance from the perspective of different countries.
3. To develop informed opinions about issues of global importance.
4. To prepare you for participation in local, national, and international MUN conferences.
5. To practice diplomatic skills such as research, writing, public speaking, problem solving, consensus building, conflict resolution, compromise and cooperation.

COURSE POLICIES

This is a college-level course, which means *you are responsible for your own learning*. I will do my best to facilitate our interactions in a fun and interesting way, and to assess your learning fairly. I expect you to do your best to actively participate in all facets of the course. ***If you do not understand something you need to take the initiative to find out the answer.*** I cannot read minds so it is up to you to try to seek clarity when it is lacking.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS

All major due dates are indicated in the syllabus as well as on the calendar on our course website. Because I believe that one of the major lessons that students learn in college is the importance of meeting deadlines, I will not accept any late work unless it has been approved by me BEFORE the due date or you can document an emergency. ***All assignments turned in late will receive a grade of 0.0.*** Likewise, ***missed quizzes and exams will receive a grade of 0.0.*** Make-up quizzes/exams will not be administered unless you receive prior permission from me or you can document a catastrophe (such as being medically unable to take the exam).

DISABILITY RESOURCES

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or a learning challenge

for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC staff as soon as possible. The DRC office is located in B132 and the reception desk phone number is 425-564-2498. For application information and other helpful links the DRC website is <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc>. Deaf students can reach the DRC by videophone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Finally, if you have either an apparent or non-apparent disability and require assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please let me know early in the quarter so that we can develop an appropriate safety plan for you. Thank you.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating and plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College (http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P_Student_Code_%28Procedures%29.asp).

Such behavior will result in a grade of 0.0 for the assignment/exam in question. Please note that these are serious offences, which can result in possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College and go on your permanent record. If you have questions about academic integrity, please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct and/or come talk to me during my office hours.

COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials will be made available on our course website for free. You are responsible for downloading (and reading and/or watching) all materials as they are assigned. For those of you who do not have a printer at home you can print in the student computer lab in the N-Building or you can just read the materials on-line. It is important that *each reading/viewing assignment be completed before the class session for which it is scheduled*, so that you can participate in discussions and other activities that I have planned. Any material covered by an assigned reading/viewing may be included in examination questions, regardless of whether it is specifically discussed in class. If adjustments are made to the reading/viewing schedule, you will be informed in class and on our class website. The assigned reading/viewing is an important part of this class—if you don't keep up you are going to find it hard to succeed.

READING/VIEWING PROMPTS

To help you get the most out of the course materials, you will be provided with a prompt for most assigned materials. These prompts are available on our course website and they include a handful of reflection questions as well as a comprehensive list of key concepts. You are expected to engage with these prompts before, during, and after doing the reading/viewing. My primary purpose in creating these prompts is to help you focus on what is important in the assigned materials, to help you get ready for our discussions, and to help you prepare for assignments, quizzes, and exams. You are encouraged to print the prompts and write answers to the reflection questions that I have provided on the prompts themselves as well as to define the key concepts that I have listed. These prompts will be your best resource in preparing for the final exam.

KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

Please keep up with current events related to international relations, in general, and the United Nations, in particular. Our discussions in class will often touch on current events and it is important that you keep up-to-date on the major political goings-on. Please find a few news sources that work for you (representing different mediums and viewpoints) and make a habit of reading, listening, and/or watching them throughout the quarter. If you have questions about the appropriateness of a particular news source for this class, please ask me sooner rather than later. I suggest that at least one of your sources be a national newspaper such as: the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com), the *Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), or the *Wall Street Journal* (www.wsj.com). I also encourage international sources such as the *BBC* (www.bbc.co.uk) and *Al Jazeera* (<http://english.aljazeera.net>). If you speak another language, I encourage you to follow the news in that language and bring that perspective to class. Finally, I recommend that you sign up for the UN News Wire (https://www.smartbrief.com/un_wire/index.jsp).

GRADED WORK

Attendance	(40 pts)	8%
In-Class Participation	(100 pts)	20%
World Geography	(120 pts)	24%
NWMUN Conference Participation	(150 pts)	30%
Comprehensive Exam	(90 pts)	18%
	(500 pts)	100%

GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

Grade	Points	Percentage	Grade	Points	Percentage
A	470-500	94-100%	C	370-384	74-76%
A-	450-469	90-93%	C-	350-369	70-73%
B+	435-449	87-89%	D+	335-349	67-69%
B	420-434	84-86%	D	300-334	60-66%
B-	400-419	80-83%	F	0-299	59% & Below
C+	385-399	77-79%			

ATTENDANCE (40 PTS ~ 8%)

Your presence in class is important. As such, one or more unexcused absences will lower your grade, and continue to do so as you miss more classes. We are scheduled to meet twenty-one times this quarter. You will receive two points for every class that you arrive to on-time (and stay for the entirety of the class). If you arrive late or leave early you will be penalized one point—we only meet for an hour and forty minutes a week and we have a lot to cover. To excuse an absence or late arrival, you must discuss it with me beforehand, unless it is the result of a documented emergency. Excused absences include documented doctor's visits, documented family emergencies, and sometimes school or work-related conflicts. If you miss class, you are expected to connect with one or more of your classmates to find out what you missed. I am happy to clarify what you missed during my office hours, but I will only do so after you have checked with at least one of your classmates first.

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION (90 PTS ~ 18%)

This class would be extremely dull if I did all the talking so please do your part to participate. It is impossible for you to participate if you are not in class, but participation is about more than just attendance. You are expected to come to every class having done ALL the assigned reading/viewing, and you are expected to regularly contribute to our in-class discussions—even if you are shy. Please come to every class with a pen or pencil, some paper, a copy of the assigned reading, and a copy of that day's reading prompt. It is worth pointing out that *the BC guideline for homework is two hours outside of class for each hour spent in class!*

***Success Tip:** Don't be shy. Try to participate every day. If you are confused, ask me questions in class, during my office hours, or via email.

GEOGRAPHY (120 pts ~ 24%)

An important part of understanding international relations in general and the United Nations in particular is being familiar with how the world is divided up politically—in other words, knowing where countries are on a map. As motivation to expand your knowledge of world geography, nine times this quarter you will be handed a blank map and asked to identify the countries on that map. Specifically, there will be eight region-specific geography quizzes, which range in value from five points to 15 points, and one comprehensive world geography exam, which is worth 50 points. The dates and topics of each quiz are listed below.

Quiz #1: Monday, September 28th (North/Central America) (5 pts)

Quiz #2: Monday, October 5th (Caribbean) (5 pts)

Quiz #3: Monday, October 12th (South America) (5 pts)

Quiz #4: Monday, October 19th (Europe) (15 pts)

Quiz #5: Monday, October 26th (Middle East) (10 pts)

Quiz #6: Monday, November 2nd (Asia) (10 pts)

Quiz #7: Monday, November 9th (Africa) (15 pts)

Quiz #8: Monday, November 16th (Oceania) (5 pts)

Comprehensive Geography Exam: Wednesday, November 30th (World) (50 pts)

NWMUN CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (150 pts ~ 30%)

In preparation for NMUN-NY (March 27-31, 2015), our delegation will be participating in the Northwest Model United Nations (NWMUN) Conference in Seattle, Washington (November 20-22, 2015). Participation at this conference is required. Before the conference you will need to write a two-page position paper from the perspective of the country you are assigned about the topics addressed in the committee to which you are assigned (40 pts). You will also need to write a one-page strategy paper before the conference (15 pts) and a one-page reflection paper after the conference (15 pts). The remainder of your grade relates to your participation at the conference (80 pts).

FINAL EXAM (100 pts ~ 20%)

Your *final will be administered in class on Wednesday, December 9th, 2015*. This exam will be cumulative. The exam itself will consist of a mix of question types, including:

true-false, multiple-choice, identifications, short answer, and essay. A study-guide will be made available to you at least a week before the exam.

***Success Tip:** Keep up with the assigned material and do not leave your exam preparation until the night before the exam. I will provide you with a review sheet a week before the final exam: take advantage of the reading/viewing prompts and the review sheet and let me know if you have questions.

Tentative Schedule

WEEK ONE

Monday, September 21st, 2015—Introduction to the Course

- Syllabus (10 pgs)

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2015—Introduction to Model United Nations (27 pgs)

- NYT: “The Dog Eat Dog World of MUN” (2 pgs)
- Turunç: “What is *Model* United Nations?” (pp. 22-25) (4 pgs)
- Hodgins: “Model UN at a Glance” (pp. 1-2) (2 pgs)
- Turunç: “How to Prepare” (pp. 27-45) (19 pgs)

WEEK TWO

Monday, September 28th, 2015—Introduction to the Actual United Nations (38 pgs)

- Fasulo: “Introducing the UN” (pp. 1-13) (13 pgs)
- Hanhimäki: “We the Peoples: The Promise of the United Nations” (pp. 1-7) (7 pgs)
- Hanhimäki: “The best hope of mankind? A brief history of the UN” (pp. 8-25) (18 pgs)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (North America) (10 questions) (5 pts)

Wednesday, September 30th, 2015—The Structure of the United Nations (24 pgs)

- Hanhimäki: “An impossible hybrid: the structure of the United Nations” (26-49) (24 pgs)
- Basic Facts: “UN Structure” (pp. 5-27) (REFERENCE/OPTIONAL)
- International Day of Older Persons (October 1st)
- International Day of Non-Violence (October 2nd)
- World Teachers’ Day (October 5th)

WEEK THREE

Monday, October 5th, 2015—The Security Council (25 pgs)

- Hanhimäki: “Facing wars, confronting threats: the UN Security Council in action” (pp. 50-70) (21 pgs)
- Fasulo: “Reforming the Security Council” (pp. 56-59) (4 pgs)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Caribbean) (12 questions) (5 pts)
- World Habitat Day (October 6th)

Wednesday, October 7th, 2015—Founding Documents (34 pgs)

- Fasulo: “Founding Documents” (pp. 14-19) (6 pgs)
- Hodgins: “United Nations Charter” (pp. 57-79) (23 pgs)
 - <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

- Hodgin: “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (pp. 94-98) (5 pgs)
 - <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

WEEK FOUR

Monday, October 12th, 2015—ICCPR/ICESCR (22 pgs)

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (14 pgs)
 - <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (8 pgs)
 - <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (South America) (12 questions) (5 pts)

Wednesday, October 14th, 2015—Millennium Development Goals

- The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015 (pp. 3-68) (66 pgs)
- MDGs: 2015 Progress Chart (1 pg)
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17th)

WEEK FIVE

Monday, October 19th, 2015—Position Papers (28 pgs)

- NWMUN: Delegate Preparation Guide” (18 pgs)
- Hodgin: “Research” (pp. 55-56) (2 pgs)
- Hodgin: “Position Papers” (pp. 19-23) (5 pgs)
- NMUN: “Position Papers” (p. 9) & “Sample Position Paper” (pp. 49-50) (3 pgs)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Europe) (48 questions) (15 pts)

Wednesday, October 21st, 2015—Rules of Procedure (38 pgs)

- Hodgin: “Rules of Procedure” (pp. 25-31) (7 pgs)
- Turunç: “Rules of Procedure” (pp. 47-76) (30 pgs)
- NWMUN: 2015 Rules Short Form And Explanation” (p. 17) (1 pg)
- United Nations Day (October 24th)

WEEK SIX

Monday, October, 26th, 2015—Committee (44 pgs)

- Turunç: “The Committee” (pp. 91-120) (30 pgs)
- Hodgin: “How to Run a Committee” (pp. 33-37) (5 pgs)
- Hodgin: “Public Speaking” (pp. 39-43) (5 pgs)
- Hodgin: “Voting Procedure” (pp. 51-54) (4 pgs)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Middle East) (20 questions) (10 pts)

Wednesday, October 28th, 2015—Resolutions (31 pgs)

- Turunç: “Resolutions” (pp. 121-139) (19 pgs)
- Hodgins: “Resolutions” (pp. 45-50) (6 pgs)
- Model UN in a Box: "Resolutions and Reports" (pp. 13-14) (2 pgs)
- Model UN Preparation Guide: “Sample Resolution” (1 pg)
- Model UN Preparation Guide: “Perambulatory Clauses and Operative Clauses” (1 pg)
- General Assembly Resolution: “Admission of the Republic of South Sudan to membership in the United Nations” (1 pg)

WEEK SEVEN

Monday, November 2nd, 2015—Caucusing

- Model UN Preparation Guide: “Caucusing” (1 pg)
- Model UN in a Box: “Caucusing and Consensus Building” (p. 21) (1 pg)
- Additional assigned materials to be determined!
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Asia) (47 questions) (10 pts)

Wednesday, November 4th, 2015—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!

WEEK EIGHT

Monday, November 9th, 2015—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Africa) (54 questions) (15 pts)

Wednesday, November 11th, 2015—Veteran’s Day

- No School!

WEEK NINE

Monday, November 16th, 2015—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!
- In-Class Preparation for NWMUN 2015
- International Day for Tolerance (November 16th)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Oceania) (14 questions) (5 pts)

Wednesday, November 18th, 2015—Northwest Model United Nations

- In-Class Preparation for NWMUN 2015
- World Toilet Day (November 19th)
- Universal Children’s Day (November 20th)

Friday, November 20th, 2015—NWMUN in Seattle (Day One)

- Northwest Model United Nations 2015 Conference

- Participation is mandatory!

Saturday, November 21st, 2015—NWMUN in Seattle (Day Two)

- Northwest Model United Nations 2015 Conference
 - Participation is mandatory!

Sunday, November 22nd, 2015—NWMUN in Seattle (Day Three)

- Northwest Model United Nations 2015 Conference
 - Participation is mandatory!

WEEK TEN

Monday, November 23rd, 2015—No Class

- Enjoy the day off!

Wednesday, November 25th, 2015—TBD

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25th)
- International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People! (November 29th)

WEEK ELEVEN

Monday, November 30th, 2015—Final Geography Exam

- In-Class Geography Exam: (World) (50 questions) (50 pts)

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015—Prep for Final Exam

- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (December 2nd)
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd)

WEEK TWELVE

Monday, December 7th, 2015—Faculty Professional Development Day

- No school (for You)—Enjoy the Day Off!

Wednesday, December 9th, 2015—Final Exam

- Assigned Activity
 - In-Class Final Exam from 1:30 to 3:20 pm!
 - Human Rights Day (December 10th)