
POL S 121: THE UNITED NATIONS

Bellevue College, Fall 2013

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 to 3:20 in L221

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

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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 two-credit 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. This course 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 30-April 3, 2014. 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	(20 pts)	5%
In-Class Participation	(80 pts)	20%
World Geography	(100 pts)	25%
NWMUN Conference	(100 pts)	25%
Comprehensive Exam	(100 pts)	25%
	(400 pts)	100%

GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

Grade	Points	Percentage	Grade	Points	Percentage
A	372-400	93-100%	C	292-311	73-77%
A-	360-371	90-92%	C-	280-291	70-72%
B+	352-359	88-89%	D+	272-279	68-69%
B	332-351	83-87%	D	240-271	60-67%
B-	320-331	80-82%	F	0-239	59% & Below
C+	312-319	78-79%			

ATTENDANCE (20 PTS ~ 5%)

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 times this quarter. You will receive one point for every class that you arrive to on-time (and stay for the entirety of the class). If you arrive late or leave early it will be treated as an absence—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 (80 PTS ~ 20%)

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 (100 pts ~ 25%)

An important part of understanding international relations 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, ten times this quarter you will be handed a blank map and asked to identify the countries on that map. Specifically, there will be nine region-specific geography quizzes, which are each worth five points, and one comprehensive world geography exam, which is worth 55 points. The dates and topics of each quiz are listed below.

Quiz #1: Tuesday, October 1st (North/Central America) (5 pts)

Quiz #2: Tuesday, October 8th (Caribbean) (5 pts)

Quiz #3: Tuesday, October 15th (South America) (5 pts)

Quiz #4: Tuesday, October 22nd (Europe) (15 pts)

Quiz #5: Tuesday, October 29th (Middle East) (10 pts)

Quiz #6: Tuesday, November 5th (Asia) (10 pts)

Quiz #7: Tuesday, November 12th (Africa) (15 pts)

Quiz #8: Tuesday, November 19th (Oceania) (5 pts)

Comprehensive Geography Exam: Tuesday, December 3rd (World) (30 pts)

NWMUN CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (100 pts ~ 25%)

In preparation for NMUN-Portland (February 14-16, 2014) and NMUN-NY (March 30-April 3, 2013), our delegation will be participating in the Northwest Model United Nations (NWMUN) Conference in Seattle, Washington (November 22-24, 2013). 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 (20 pts). You will also need to write a one-page strategy paper before the conference (10 pts) and a one-page reflection paper after the conference (10 pts). The remainder of your grade relates to your participation at the conference (60 pts).

FINAL EXAM (100 pts ~ 25%)

Your *final will be administered in class on Tuesday, December 4th, 2012*. 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 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

Tuesday, September 24th, 2013—Introduction to the Course

- Syllabus (10 pgs)

Thursday, September 26th, 2013—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

Tuesday, October 1st, 2013—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)

Thursday, October 3rd, 2013—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)

WEEK THREE

Tuesday, October 8th, 2013—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)
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- Happy International Day of Non-Violence!

Thursday, October 10th, 2013—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/>
- Hodgins: “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (pp. 94-98) (5 pgs)
 - <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

WEEK FOUR

Tuesday, October 15th, 2013—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)

Thursday, October 17th, 2013—Millennium Development Goals

- The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013 (pp. 3-68) (66 pgs)
- MDGs: 2013 Progress Chart (1 pg)

WEEK FIVE

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2013—Position Papers (28 pgs)

- NWMUN: Delegate Preparation Guide” (18 pgs)
- Hodgins: “Research” (pp. 55-56) (2 pgs)
- Hodgins: “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)

Thursday, October 24th, 2013—Rules of Procedure (38 pgs)

- Hodgins: “Rules of Procedure” (pp. 25-31) (7 pgs)
- Turunç: “Rules of Procedure” (pp. 47-76) (30 pgs)
- NWMUN: 2013 Rules Short Form And Explanation” (p. 17) (1 pg)
- Happy United Nations Day!

WEEK SIX

Tuesday, October, 29th, 2013—Committee (44 pgs)

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

Thursday, October 31st, 2013—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

Tuesday, November 5th, 2013—Caucusing

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

Thursday, November 7th, 2013—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!

WEEK EIGHT

Tuesday, November 12th, 2013—TBD

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

Thursday, November 14th, 2013

- Assigned materials to be determined!

WEEK NINE

Tuesday, November 19th, 2013—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Oceania) (14 questions) (5 pts)

Thursday, November 21st, 2013—Northwest Model United Nations

- Assigned materials to be determined!
- In-Class Preparation for NWMUN 2013

Friday, November 22nd, 2013—NWMUN in Seattle (Day One)

- Northwest Model United Nations 2013 Conference
 - Participation is mandatory!

Saturday, November 23rd, 2013—NWMUN in Seattle (Day Two)

- Northwest Model United Nations 2013 Conference
 - Participation is mandatory!

Sunday, November 24th, 2013—NWMUN in Seattle (Day Three)

- Northwest Model United Nations 2013 Conference
 - Participation is mandatory!

WEEK TEN

Tuesday, November 26th, 2013—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!

Thursday, November 28th, 2013—Thanksgiving Holiday

WEEK ELEVEN

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2013—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!
- In-Class Geography Exam: (World) (55 questions) (55 pts)

Thursday, December 5th, 2012—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!

WEEK TWELVE

Tuesday, December 10th, 2013

- In-Class Final Exam!