
POL S 121: THE UNITED NATIONS

Bellevue College, Fall 2012

Tuesday 1:30 to 3:20 in B204

Instructor: Tim Jones, Ph.D. (Please call me “Tim”)

Office: A200B

Office Hours: M, T, & W (10:00 am to 11:00 am) & TH (1:30 pm to 3:30 pm)

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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 first course in the sequence is designed to prepare you 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 24-28, 2013. At NMUN-NY 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 conference represents 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.

In order to be part of the BC delegation to New York you must complete POLS 121 (Fall 2012—2 credits) and POLS 122 (Winter 2013—3 credits) and be registered for POLS 123 (Spring 2013—5 credits). Twenty BC students will be selected to represent the college at NMUN-NY—the selection process will take place in Winter 2013 and it will depend on student performance in POLS 121 and 122. This quarter in preparation for NMUN-NY, all students will be expected to participate in the Northwest Model United Nations (NWMUN) conference in Seattle, Washington (November 13-15, 2012). This conference is smaller than NMUN-NY, but it is local, it is fun, and it is good practice for the more prestigious national conference. In addition, this quarter five students will be selected to represent Bellevue College at NMUN-Latin America in Galapagos Islands, Ecuador (January 11-20, 2013).

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an understanding of and appreciation for the United Nations.
2. To develop informed opinions about issues of global importance from the perspective of different countries.
3. To prepare you for participation in local, national, and international MUN conferences.
4. 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 serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. Please visit the DRC if you have any questions about classroom accommodations. 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 or you can call the reception desk at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach the DRC by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit the DRC website for application information into the program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc. If you are someone who has either an apparent or non-apparent disability and requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with me to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

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 supplemental 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

I expect you to 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 eleven times this quarter, not including the final exam. One unexcused absence or late arrival will not adversely affect your grade, but ***starting with your second unexcused absence or late arrival you will be docked five points per absence/late arrival.*** Specifically, you will be docked five points for your second unexcused absence/late arrival, ten points for your third unexcused absence/late arrival, fifteen points for your fourth unexcused absence/late arrival, and twenty points for your fifth unexcused absence/late arrival. After five absences you will receive a zero for attendance. 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, September 18th (Continents/Oceans) (5 pts)
- Quiz #2:** Tuesday, September 25th (North/Central America) (5 pts)
- Quiz #3:** Tuesday, October 9th (Caribbean) (5 pts)
- Quiz #4:** Tuesday, October 16th (South America) (5 pts)
- Quiz #5:** Tuesday, October 23rd (Europe) (5 pts)
- Quiz #6:** Tuesday, October 30th (Middle East) (5 pts)
- Quiz #7:** Tuesday, November 6th (Asia) (5 pts)
- Quiz #8:** Tuesday, November 13th (Africa) (5 pts)
- Quiz #9:** Tuesday, November 20th (Oceania) (5 pts)

Comprehensive Geography Exam: Tuesday, November 27th (World) (55 pts)

NWMUN CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (100 pts ~ 25%)

In preparation for NMUN-Latin America (January 11-20, 2013) and NMUN-NY (March 24-28, 2013), our delegation will be participating in the Northwest Model United Nations (NWMUN) Conference in Seattle, Washington (November 13-15, 2012). 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 Class Schedule

Tuesday, September 18th, 2012—Introduction to Model United Nations (35 pgs)

- Syllabus (9 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)
- Make sure you are up-to-date on major international goings-on!
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Continents & Oceans) (12 questions) (5 pts)

Tuesday, September 25th, 2012— Introducing the 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)
- Make sure you are up-to-date on major international goings-on!
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (North America) (10 questions) (5 pts)

Tuesday, October 2nd, 2012—The Structure of the United Nations (49 pgs)

- Hanhimäki: “An impossible hybrid: the structure of the United Nations” (26-49) (24 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)
- Happy International Day of Non-Violence!

Tuesday, October 9th, 2012—Important Documents

- 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/>
- 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>
- College Issues Day: NO SCHOOL. CAMPUS CLOSED

Tuesday, October 16th, 2012—Millennium Development Goals (67 pgs)

- The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012 (pp. 3-68) (66 pgs)
- MDGs: 2012 Progress Chart (1 pg)

- In-Class Geography Quiz: (South America) (12 questions) (5 pts)

Tuesday, October 23rd, 2012—NWMUN Conference/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) (5 pts)

Wednesday, October 24th, 2012

- Happy United Nations Day!

Tuesday, October 30th, 2012—Rules of Procedure (38 pgs)

- Hodgins: “Rules of Procedure” (pp. 25-31) (7 pgs)
- Turunç: “Rules of Procedure” (pp. 47-76) (30 pgs)
- NWMUN: 2012 Rules Short Form And Explanation” (p. 17) (1 pg)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Middle East) (20 questions) (5 pts)

Tuesday, November 6th, 2012—What to Do in 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: (Asia) (47 questions) (5 pts)

Tuesday, November 13th, 2012—Resolutions/Caucusing (32 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: “Preambulatory Clauses and Operative Clauses” (1 pg)
- General Assembly Resolution: “Admission of the Republic of South Sudan to membership in the United Nations” (1 pg)
- Model UN Preparation Guide: “Caucusing” (1 pg)
- Model UN in a Box: “Caucusing and Consensus Building” (p. 21) (1 pg)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Africa) (54 questions) (5 pts)

Friday, November 15th, 2012 – Sunday, November 17th, 2012

- Northwest Model United Nations 2012 Conference
 - Participation is mandatory!

Tuesday, November 20th, 2012—Group Presentations

- Assigned materials to be determined!

- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Oceania) (14 questions) (5 pts)

Tuesday, November 27th, 2012—Group Presentations

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

Tuesday, December 4th, 2012—Final Exam

- In-Class Final Exam