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## **POL S 123: THE UNITED NATIONS**

### **Bellevue College, Spring 2012**

**TH 1:30 to 3:20 in B204**

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**Professor:** Tim Jones (Please call me “Tim”)

**Office:** A200B

**Office Hours:** Thursdays (10:00 am to 1:00 pm, or 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 five-credit course is the third 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 the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York, NY, April 3-7, 2012. 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 a thorough understanding of, and appreciation, for the United Nations.
2. To develop informed opinions about issues of global importance.
3. To prepare you for the 2012 National Model United Nations Conference in New York City.
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.

## **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 whether you are a student or a faculty member. 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 our reception desk at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at: [www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc) <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc>. Remember 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 your individual instructors 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](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.

### 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](http://www.nytimes.com)), the *Washington Post* ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)), or the *Wall Street Journal* ([www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)). I also encourage international sources such as the *BBC* ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://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.

### GRADED WORK

Conference Journal	(50 pts)	(12.5%)
Committee Presentation	(50 pts)	(12.5%)
Final Reflection Paper	(100 pts)	(25%)
Participation	(200 pts)	(50%)
	<b>(400 pts)</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 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%			