
POL S 123/223: THE UNITED NATIONS

Bellevue College, Spring 2017

M-F 2:30-3:20 in L221

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Office Hours: T/TH 11:30-1:20 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

“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

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others’”?

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

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. The sequence is designed primarily to prepare students to participate in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York, NY, which takes place this year April 9-13, 2017. 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. This year we are representing the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria. As a delegate, you have already written position papers, and now you will draft resolutions, negotiate with supporters and adversaries, and navigate the U.N.’s rules of procedure in an attempt to mobilize international cooperation to resolve real international problems. You get 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. Last quarter in POLS 122/222 we focused on preparing for this conference. This quarter we will participate in the conference and then reflect on it. We will also begin preparations for next year’s conferences.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Explain the history, structure, and major operations of the United Nations.
- Identify the geographic locations of all United Nations' Member States.
- Articulate informed opinions about issues of global importance.
- Write well-researched, well-articulated position papers from the perspective of a country other than the United States.
- Sponsor well-researched, well-articulated resolutions, reports, and/or treaties for college-level Model United Nations (MUN) conferences.
- Successfully employ United Nations’ rules of procedure at college-level MUN conferences.
- Use diplomatic skills—such as public speaking, problem solving, consensus building, and conflict resolution—at college-level MUN conferences.
- Successfully represent a foreign country’s diplomatic position at college-level MUN conferences.

COURSE POLICIES

This is a unique course in that it is largely student-driven. 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.

ASSIGNMENTS

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 date it is due or you can document a real catastrophe (for example, being medically unable to complete the work). ***All assignments turned in late will receive a grade of 0.0.*** Likewise, ***missed presentations in class will receive a grade of 0.0.*** Make-up presentations will not be administered unless you receive prior permission from me or you can document some sort of catastrophe (such as being medically unable to be in class).

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.

GRADED WORK

Pre-Conference Strategy Paper	(25 pts)	2.5%
Pre-Conference Expectations Paper	(25 pts)	2.5%
Class Participation	(50 pts)	5%
Conference Reflection Paper	(150 pts)	15%
Conference Presentation	(150 pts)	10%

Final Group Project	(100 pts)	10%
Conference Participation	(500 pts)	50%
	(1000 pts)	100%

GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	60-66%
B-	80-82%	F	59% & Below
C+	77-79%		

Pre-Conference Strategy Paper (25 pts) (2.5%)

A hard copy of your pre-conference strategy paper is due at the airport when we meet to leave for New York. This paper should be formatted as follows: one-page minimum, single-spaced throughout with one-inch margins. If you have a partner for the conference, you may write this paper together. If you do not have a partner, you must write it alone. Please reflect on your strategy for your conference—e.g., who your potential allies are, what you would like the topic order to be, where you plan to sit, etc. Students who email their strategy paper rather than bringing a hard copy to the airport will be penalized 10 points if their paper is submitted on time. Students who submit their paper late (in New York) will also be penalized 10 points. Strategy papers will not be accepted once the conference has begun.

Pre-Conference Expectations Paper (25 pts) (2.5%)

Like the pre-conference strategy paper above, this paper is due at the airport when we meet to leave for New York. Likewise, this paper should be one-page minimum, single-spaced throughout, with one-inch margins. Regardless whether you have a partner for the conference, you must write this paper alone. Please reflect on your expectations not only for the conference, but for the trip more generally—e.g., what are you most nervous about, what are you most excited about, would you like to do while in New York, etc.? Students who email their expectations paper rather than bringing a hard copy to the airport will be penalized 10 points (if their paper is submitted on-time). Students who submit their paper late (before the conference begins) will also be penalized 10 points. Expectations papers will not be accepted once committee begins.

Conference Reflection Paper (150 pts ~ 15%)

Your conference reflection paper is due at the same time as your conference presentation. It should be two-pages minimum, single-spaced throughout, with one-inch margins. Regardless whether you have a partner for the conference, you must write this paper alone. In this paper, I would like you to reflect on your experiences in New York in general and at the conference in particular. What was your topic order? How many resolutions were you a sponsor on? How many resolutions were you a signatory on? What went well? What was challenging? If you have a partner, how was your working

relationship? In retrospect, what would you have done differently both prior to the conference and at the conference itself? What lessons did you learn from the conference that you hope you will take with you in the future? What did you do while in New York? Etc.

Conference Presentation (150 pts ~ 15%)

For your conference presentation, I would like you to use a presentation software like PowerPoint or Prezi. If you had a partner at the conference, you will do this presentation with your partner. If you were alone, you will do the presentation alone. Each person is expected to speak for 10-15 minutes. During your presentation, I would like you to summarize, in an engaging fashion, how the conference went and what you did while in New York—emphasis on *engaging*. Make sure you include photos and rehearse your presentation. Also, make sure you address: which committee you were on, what your topics were, what the topic order was, how many resolutions passed, how many resolutions you were a sponsor on, how many resolutions you were a signatory on, what was satisfying about the conference, what was challenging, how you worked with your partner, what you would have done differently in retrospect, what advice you would give to future students, etc.

Class Participation (50 pts ~ 5%)

This is your participation grade after the conference and it focuses primarily on your attendance engagement in class. Most of our class time will be consumed by presentations on the conference experience, so a big portion of this grade will assess whether you are in class, whether you are on time, and whether you are a good audience member or not.

Final Project (100 pts ~ 10%)

More details will be given about this in class.

Conference Participation (500 pts ~ 50%)

The biggest portion of your grade this quarter relates to conference participation—notably, this includes the conference as well as travel to/from New York. Were you on time or were you late to the airport, to opening and closing ceremonies, to committee, to lunch, dinner, and other meetings, including team meetings? How engaged were you in committee? Were you an asset to the team or a distraction? Were you disruptive? Did I (or the Head Delegate) have to reach out to you about your engagement? If so, how did you respond? Did you respond? Etc. You will have a chance to tell me what you think your participation grade should be and why and I will use that as well as the Head Delegate's assessment to determine your final participation grade.