
POL S 121/221: THE UNITED NATIONS

Bellevue College, Fall 2017

Tuesday/Thursday 1:30 to 2:20 in L221

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

Office: A200B

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30a-12:20p 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 25-29, 2018. 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 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, all late work will be penalized unless cleared with me in advance. Specifically, *all assignments turned in late will be penalized* 10% if they are turned in within one day of the due date, 25% if turned in between one and seven days of the due date, and 50% if turned in eight or more days after the due date. *Make-up 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). Also, late work is only accepted up through the last full

week of the quarter; in other words, late work will NOT be accepted during final's week.

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

There are no required texts that you need to purchase for this course. However, I do expect you to engage with the readings, videos, and audios that I will make available on our course website. For an introduction to the United Nations in general and the Model United Nations more specifically, I would recommend the following books, most of which are available on Amazon:

- *Model UN Handbook: A Preparation for MUN Conferences* (\$19.00).
- *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction* (\$11.95)
- *Basic Facts about the United Nations* (\$15.00)
- *The Winning Delegate: An Insider's Guide to Model United Nations* (\$16.95)
- *Engaging the U.N.* (\$49.95)

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

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Office Visit | (10 pts) | 2% |
| Attendance | (40 pts) | 7% |
| Weekly Check-In | (50 pts) | 8% |
| In-Class Participation | (100 pts) | 17% |
| World Geography | (120 pts) | 20% |
| NWMUN Conference Participation | (180 pts) | 30% |
| Comprehensive Exam | (100 pts) | 17% |
| | (600 pts) | 100% |

GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

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

SYLLABUS QUIZ (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE SEPTEMBER 21ST)

For this assignment you need to read the syllabus and answer ten logistical questions about the class. The quiz will be made available on our course website. To access the quiz just click on the “Assignment” button and you should see it. ***To get credit for this assignment, you need to take the quiz before 1:30 pm on Thursday, September 21^s, 2017.*** The purpose of this quiz is to make sure (a) you read the syllabus, (b) you are familiar with the course schedule and my expectations, and (c) you can navigate your way around our course website. I would recommend printing the syllabus so that you can easily refer to it during the quiz.

OFFICE VISIT (10 PTS ~ 2%) (DUE NOVEMBER 17TH)

To fulfill the requirements for this assignment, you need to visit me during my office hours once prior to the NWMUN conference (Friday, November 17th, 2017). Research shows that making connections with faculty increases students’ academic performance and satisfaction with their college experience. My office hours are Wednesdays 9:30a-12:20p. If you are unable to make my office hours because of a time conflict, in order to receive full credit you need to send me an email during the first two weeks of the quarter to arrange an alternative appointment time. If you wait more than two weeks there is no

guarantee that I will be able to adjust my office hours for you. The purpose of the first office visit is threefold: (1) to break the ice so that you feel comfortable visiting my office, (2) for me to get to know you a bit better, and (3) to check-in to see how the course is going. See you soon!

ATTENDANCE (40 PTS ~ 7%)

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.

WEEKLY CHECK-IN (50 pts ~ 8%) (DUE SUNDAY EACH WEEK)

This assignment requires you to submit a weekly progress report summarizing what you did during the previous week and detailing what you plan to do during the next week to prepare for the upcoming conference(s). Each progress report needs to be a minimum of 300 words in length. You will have 11 opportunities to submit a progress report and each one is worth 5 points; at the end of the quarter your lowest grade on this assignment will be dropped so if you are satisfied with your grade after the first 10 you do not need to do the 11th. Your progress reports must be submitted by 11:59 pm each Sunday.

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION (100 PTS ~ 17%)

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, simulations, and exercises even if you are shy. 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 ~ 20%)

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: Tuesday, September 26th (North/Central America) (5 pts)

Quiz #2: Tuesday, October 3rd (Caribbean) (5 pts)

Quiz #3: Tuesday, October 10th (South America) (5 pts)

Quiz #4: Tuesday, October 17th (Europe) (15 pts)

Quiz #5: Tuesday, October 24th (Middle East) (10 pts)

Quiz #6: Tuesday, October 31st (Asia) (10 pts)

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

Quiz #8: Tuesday, November 14th (Oceania) (5 pts)

Comprehensive Geography Exam: Tuesday, November 28th (World) (50 pts)

NWMUN CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (180 pts ~ 30%)

In preparation for NMUN-NY (March 25-29, 2018), our delegation will be participating in the Northwest Model United Nations (NWMUN) Conference in Seattle, Washington (November 17-19, 2017). 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 (60 pts). You will also need to write a one-page, single-spaced strategy paper before the conference (20 pts) and a one-page, single-spaced reflection paper after the conference (20 pts). The remainder of your grade relates to your participation at the conference (80 pts).

FINAL EXAM (100 pts ~ 17%)

Your *final will be administered in class on Tuesday, December 5th, 2016*. 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

Tuesday, September 20th, 2016—Introduction to the Course

- Syllabus (10 pgs)

Thursday, September 22nd, 2016—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, September 27th, 2016—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, September 29th, 2016—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)

WEEK THREE

Tuesday, October 4th, 2016—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)
- World Teachers’ Day (October 5th)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Caribbean) (12 questions) (5 pts)

Thursday, October 6th, 2016—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/>
- World Habitat Day (October 6th)

WEEK FOUR

Tuesday, October 11th, 2016—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 13th, 2016—Millennium Development Goals

- The Millennium Development Goals Report 2016 (pp. 3-68) (66 pgs)
- MDGs: 2016 Progress Chart (1 pg)

WEEK FIVE

Tuesday, October 18th, 2016—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)
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17th)

Thursday, October 20th, 2016—Rules of Procedure (38 pgs)

- Hodgins: “Rules of Procedure” (pp. 25-31) (7 pgs)
- Turunç: “Rules of Procedure” (pp. 47-76) (30 pgs)
- NWMUN: 2016 Rules Short Form And Explanation” (p. 17) (1 pg)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Europe) (48 questions) (15 pts)

WEEK SIX

Tuesday, October, 25th, 2016—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)
- United Nations Day (October 24th)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Middle East) (20 questions) (10 pts)

Thursday, October 27th, 2016—Resolutions (31 pgs)

- Turunç: “Resolutions” (pp. 121-139) (19 pgs)

- Hodgin: “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)

WEEK SEVEN

Tuesday, November 1st, 2016—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)

Thursday, November 3rd, 2016—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!

WEEK EIGHT

Tuesday, November 8th, 2016—TBD

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

Thursday, November 10th, 2016—Veteran’s Day

- No School!

WEEK NINE

Tuesday, November 15th, 2016—TBD

- Assigned materials to be determined!
- In-Class Preparation for NWMUN 2016
- International Day for Tolerance (November 16th)
- In-Class Geography Quiz: (Oceania) (14 questions) (5 pts)

Thursday, November 17th, 2016—Northwest Model United Nations

- In-Class Preparation for NWMUN 2016
- World Toilet Day (November 19th)
- Universal Children’s Day (November 20th)

Friday, November 18th, 2016—NWMUN in Seattle (Day One)

- Northwest Model United Nations 2016 Conference
 - Participation is mandatory!

Saturday, November 19th, 2016—NWMUN in Seattle (Day Two)

- Northwest Model United Nations 2016 Conference
 - Participation is mandatory!

Sunday, November 20th, 2016—NWMUN in Seattle (Day Three)

- Northwest Model United Nations 2016 Conference
 - Participation is mandatory!

WEEK TEN

Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016—No Class

- Enjoy the day off!

Thursday, November 24th, 2016—TBD

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25th)

WEEK ELEVEN

Tuesday, November 29th, 2016—Final Geography Exam

- International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People! (November 29th)
- In-Class Geography Exam: (World) (50 questions) (50 pts)

Thursday, December 1st, 2016—Prep for Final Exam

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

WEEK TWELVE

Tuesday, December 6th, 2016—Final Exam

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