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# POL S 122/222: THE UNITED NATIONS

## Bellevue College, Winter 2020

**T/TH 2:30 to 3:20 in T110**

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**Professor:** Tim Jones, Ph.D. (Please call me “Tim” or “Dr. J”)

**Office:** A200B

**Office Hours:** T/TH 8:00am-9:15am and 2:00pm-2:15pm, and by appointment.

**Phone:** 425-564-2010

**Email:** [tim.jones@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:tim.jones@bellevuecollege.edu)

**Course Website:** <https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1863790>

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This three-credit course is the second 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 specifically designed to prepare students to participate in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York, NY, April 5-9, 2020. At the New York 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 will be representing Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. As student delegates at this conference you write position papers, 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. 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. Last quarter in POLS 121 we focused on world geography and the United Nations in general. This quarter I expect all of you to become experts (to the greatest extent possible) on (a) the *committee* to which you are assigned for the New York conference, (b) the *topics* before your committee, (c) *Saint Vincent and the Grenadines's position* on each of those topics, and (d) the *rules of procedure* for the conference in New York.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

If you do not want to attend the 2020 NMUN-NY conference, you may want to reconsider taking this class since most of the work is dedicated to preparing for the New York conference. That said, students can still take this class without participating in the New York conference if they support the team by doing research, contributing to a pre-conference position paper, and participating in in-class simulations. ***Please note that your registration in this class does NOT guarantee you a spot on the team that travels to New York—in order to be part of the group that represents BC in New York you will need to earn a spot on the traveling team this quarter. For those who attend the New York conference it is required that you sign up for POLS 123/223 (5 credits) in Spring 2020 since the conference will take place after this quarter ends and you will need to budget approximately \$300-\$600 to the cover the costs of the conference. Finally, all those who travel to New York will receive an Incomplete this quarter until after the conference is over and it can be confirmed that you are registered for POLS 123/223.*** Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a critical understanding of and appreciation for the United Nations.
2. To examine issues of global importance from the perspective of different countries—specifically, in 2020, from the perspective of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
3. To develop informed opinions about issues of global importance.
4. To prepare you for the 2020 National Model United Nations Conference in New York City.

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 stimulating way, and to assess your learning fairly. I expect you to do your best to complete assignments in a timely and appropriate fashion, to come to class prepared for the day's work, and to actively participate in classroom discussions and activities. You are responsible for any material missed due to absence or lateness so I encourage you to get acquainted with those around you, trade e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers, and make one or more study buddies. *If you do not understand something please take the initiative to find out the answer*—ask me before or after class, come to my office hours, email me, etc. I cannot read minds so I ask that you be proactive about seeking clarity when it is lacking.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS**

All major due dates are indicated in the syllabus and on Canvas. 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 or you can document a personal hardship that I approve. 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.

### **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the course to the office of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (see Bellevue College Policy 2950 (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id2950/>)). In the event you feel you are being discriminated against based on faith or conscience, you may refer to the procedures

outlined in the college's Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy 1440P (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-1440p/>).

## **CONFIDENTIALITY AND MANDATORY REPORTING**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share with the Title IX Coordinator any and all information regarding sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct (e.g. relationship violence, stalking) that may have occurred on campus or that impacts someone on campus. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the BC Counseling Center at (425) 564-2212. The Title IX Office can be contacted at 425-564-2641 and more information can be found at Title IX (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/>). If you have any concerns, please visit: <https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/reportconcerns>.

Reports of gender and sex-based discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation by a student should be raised with the Title IX office (see 1440P2 for contact information). In cases where the impacted party is a student and the responding party is a college employee, the Title IX coordinator will direct the matter to the Office of Human Resources (HR). All other reports, including all reports where the impacted party is an employee, should be raised with the HR. If a report is against personnel in the Title IX office or HR, it should be submitted to the president's office for referral to an alternate designee.

## **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)).

Please be careful you do not plagiarize yourself. In other words, please do not turn in assignments for my class that you have turned in for other classes—unless what you turn in for my class is substantially revised. Similarly, please do not turn in the same thing for two different assignments. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing it will result in a grade of 0.0 for the assignment/exam in question. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing more than once this quarter you will fail the course. 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 send me a message via email.

## **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 books below:

- *Engaging the United Nations: A Brief Introduction to the UN* (\$49.95)

- *Model UN Handbook: A Preparation for MUN Conferences* (\$30.99).
- *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)* (\$11.95)
- *Basic Facts about the United Nations* (\$15.00)
- *An Insider's Guide to the UN: Third Edition* (\$20.00)
- *The Winning Delegate: An Insider's Guide to Model United Nations* (\$16.95)

The most important readings that you will do all quarter are the *2020 Delegate Preparation Guide*, the *Committee Background Guide* for the committee to which you will be assigned, as well as the various other resources available on the NMUN website: [http://www.nmun.org/ny\\_preparations.html](http://www.nmun.org/ny_preparations.html). All other required readings/videos will be made available in class or on our course website.

### KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

It is important that you keep up with current events related to international relations and the United Nations, in general, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in particular. I would recommend following iWitness News, which describes itself as “the leading source of daily and breaking news and current affairs information from and about St. Vincent and the Grenadines” (<https://www.iwnsvg.com>). Please also follow news about the United Nations via a site like <https://news.un.org/en/> or [www.smartbrief.com](http://www.smartbrief.com)—the latter allows you to sign up for a daily email sends you the top daily headlines related to the United Nations. Finally, I would recommend checking in regularly with a global news site like BBC World News (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world>).

### GRADED WORK

Syllabus Quiz	(5 pts)	1%
Office Visit x 2	(10 pts)	2%
Delegate Preparation Guide Assignment	(10 pts)	2%
Position Paper Guide Assignment	(10 pts)	2%
Background Guide Assignment	(20 pts)	3%
Draft Resolution/Report	(20 pts)	3%
Research Binder	(40 pts)	7%
Attendance	(40 pts)	7%
Geography Exam	(50 pts)	8%
Comprehensive Final Exam	(50 pts)	8%
Participation	(75 pts)	13%
Weekly Progress Report	(100 pts)	17%
Position Paper(s)	(170 pts)	28%
	<b>(600 pts)</b>	<b>100%</b>

### GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

Grade	Points	Percentage	Grade	Points	Percentage
A	558-600	93-100%	C	438-461	73-76%
A-	540-557	90-92%	C-	420-437	70-72%
B+	522-539	87-89%	D+	402-419	67-69%
B	498-521	83-86%	D	360-401	60-66%

B-	480-497	80-82%	F	0-359	59% & Below
C+	462-479	77-79%			

### **SYLLABUS QUIZ (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>)**

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 11:59 pm on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*** 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.

### **DELEGATE PREP GUIDE ASSIGNMENT (10 PTS ~ 2%) (DUE JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>)**

For this assignment, you need to engage with the Delegate Prep Guide for the 2020 NMUN New York conference. In order to get full credit for this assignment, you need to print the delegate guide, bring it to class, and show that it has been read thoroughly (e.g., with highlights, notes in the margins, etc.). The purpose of this assignment is to make sure that you thoroughly read the delegate prep guide early in the quarter. Make sure you keep your delegate prep guide for the research binder assignment, which is due later in the quarter.

### **POSITION PAPER GUIDE ASSIGNMENT (10 PTS ~ 2%) (DUE JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>)**

For this assignment, you need to engage with the Position Paper Guide for the 2020 NMUN New York conference. In order to get full credit for this assignment, you need to print the Position Paper Guide, bring it to class, and show that it has been read thoroughly (e.g., with highlights, notes in the margins, etc.). The purpose of this assignment is to make sure that you thoroughly read the delegate prep guide early in the quarter. Make sure you keep your delegate prep guide for the research binder assignment, which is due later in the quarter.

### **BACKGROUND GUIDE ASSIGNMENT (20 PTS ~ 3%) (DUE JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>)**

For this assignment, you need to engage with the Background Guide for the committee to which you have been assigned for the 2020 NMUN New York conference. In order to get full credit for this assignment, you need to print your background guide, bring it to class, and show that it has been read thoroughly (e.g., with highlights, notes in the margins, etc.). The purpose of this assignment is to make sure that you thoroughly read the background guide early in the quarter. Make sure you keep your background guide for the research binder assignment, which is due later in the quarter.

### **OFFICE VISIT (10 PTS ~ 2%) (DUE JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>/FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>)**

To fulfill the requirements for this assignment, you need to visit me during my office hours prior to 2:30 pm on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 and again prior to Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 week of the quarter to arrange an alternative appointment time—otherwise I expect you to visit me

during my office hours. The purpose of these office visits 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 your preparation for the conference is going. See you soon!

### **RESEARCH BINDER (40 pts ~ 7%) (DUE MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>)**

All students must keep a research binder this quarter. This binder will help you organize your research and it will be an important reference for you at the New York conference. Binders will be evaluated on the degree to which they are well organized, thorough, and represent a sound collection of quality resources. You may organize your binders however you see fit, but I expect you to have separate sections addressing the following topics: (1) general country information, (2) general committee information, (3) specific research on issue one, (4) specific research on issue two, (5) specific research on issue three, (6) information on the rules of procedure, (7) information on resolution/report/treaty writing, and (8) general information on the conference. A detailed table of contents should introduce the material in the binder, and the binder needs to look like it has been used (e.g., highlights, underlining, notes in the margins, etc.). Your research binder is worth 50 pts and it is *due in class on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020*.

### **GEOGRAPHY EXAM (50 pts ~ 8%) (DUE MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>)**

An important part of understanding the United Nations--and international relations more generally—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 before the upcoming NMUN-NY conference, you will be tested on the 195 countries officially recognized by the United Nations. This *comprehensive geography test is scheduled for Thursday, March 12th, 2020* and it will be administered in class.

### **DRAFT RESOLUTION/REPORT (20 pts ~ 3%) (DUE MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>)**

This assignment requires you to write a draft resolution or report depending on what committee you are on for the NMUN conference in New York. You will not be able to submit this resolution at the conference—as the Delegate Preparation Guide states that, “the NMUN will not accept any pre-written resolutions or reports”—but it will give you important resolution/report writing experience. It will also indicate to me your preparedness for the conference and your level of diplomatic strategic thinking. If another person has been assigned to your committee, you will need to work with that person on this assignment. Working individually or as a team you need to submit an innovative resolution or report that you think would pass at NMUN on one of the topics being considered by your committee. Before drafting your resolution, please read the following two sections of the 2020 Delegate Preparation Guide: “Resolutions” (pp. 29-34) and “Sample Working Paper” (pp. 35-36). All draft resolutions need to include exactly eight preambular clauses and eight operative clauses; All draft reports need to address the three parts of a report: (1) Introduction, (2) Mandate, and (3) Conclusions and Recommendations. All draft resolutions and reports should be co-sponsored by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the four Member States you think would be most likely to support the ideas in your resolution or report at the conference. This assignment *is due*

*by 2:30 pm on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020.* Please upload a draft to Canvas and bring a copy to class.

**FINAL EXAM (50 pts ~ 8%) (IN CLASS MARCH 19TH)**

There will be an in-class final exam on *Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:20 pm*. 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. The exam will be comprehensive and will focus on Ecuador, the rules of procedure, your committee, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines's position on the topics before your committee, and major current events.

**ATTENDANCE (40 PTS ~ 7%)**

I intend to start class on time every day and I expect you to be there when I do. Occasionally, you may find it necessary to be late, in which case I would certainly prefer that you come rather than miss the entire class. We are scheduled to meet 21 times this quarter and attendance is worth 40 points. For each class that you arrive on time you will receive two points. For each class that you arrive late or leave early you will receive one point. You will not receive any points when you miss class unless I excuse your absence. Excused absences include documented doctor's visits, family emergencies, and school or work-related issues that are cleared with me in advance. 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 miss during my office hours, but I will only do so after you have checked with at least one of your classmates first.

**PARTICIPATION (75 PTS ~ 13%)**

This is not a traditional class in which I as the professor do all of the talking—in fact, I will do very little talking this quarter to the entire class. This is a student-driven course that requires student initiative and participation. 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 engaged with the day's assigned materials. You are also expected to regularly contribute to our in-class discussions and activities even if you are shy. Please come to every class with a pen or pencil, some paper, and a copy of the materials assigned for that day. Please also make sure you participate fully in the in-class simulations as these are important preparation for the conference.

**WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT (100 pts ~ 17%) (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 New York conference. 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 10 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 11<sup>th</sup>. Your progress reports must be submitted by 11:59 pm each Sunday. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**POSITION PAPER (150 pts ~ 17%) (SEE DUE DATES BELOW)**



A position paper is a succinct policy statement about a particular country's views regarding the topics being addressed in committee. For this assignment you need to write a position paper from the perspective of Ecuador for the New York conference. These papers will focus on the topics addressed in the committee you have been assigned—regardless of whether you are actually attending the conference. If you have a partner on your committee, you will need to work with that person to write your position paper. To begin, I would recommend reading the sections of the Delegate Preparation Guide entitled “Preparing for the Conference” (pp. 5-15) as well as the Position Paper Guide. I would also recommend reading sample position papers from past conferences—please contact a returning student for one or more of these. I would then recommend reading and re-reading the *Committee Background Guide* for the committee to which you are assigned. Keep in mind that you will need to conduct substantial independent research—to learn about your committee topics you're your country's perspective. MUN, at its best, is student-driven, and this assignment is going to require you to be proactive, creative, and diligent. By the end of February, I expect each of you to be an expert—to the greatest extent possible—on (a) the *committee* to which you are assigned, (b) the *topics* that will be covered on your committee in New York, and (c) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines's *position* on each of those topics. That means you will only have about seven or eight weeks to become knowledgeable in these areas. Prior to starting your position paper(s) make sure you follow the submission guidelines exactly as they are outlined in the Delegate Preparation Guide/Position Paper Guide/Your Committee's Background Guide. Please note:

**New York Conference Due Dates (170 pts):**

Draft of Introductory Paragraph And First Topic (20 pts)	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Draft of Second Topic And Revised First Topic (20 pts)	January 30 <sup>th</sup>
Draft of Third Topic And Revised Second Topic (20 pts)	February 6 <sup>th</sup>
Full Rough Draft (40 pts)	February 13 <sup>th</sup>
Final Draft (70 pts)	February 20 <sup>th</sup>