



POLS 203: International Relations

Fall 2012

Class: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-2:40 PM in L221
Office Hours: 10:25 AM -12:25 PM or by appointment in A100a
Instructor: Jackie Feldman
E-mail: jackie.feldman@bellevuecollege.edu
MyBC: <http://mybcc.net/>



"Everything looks fuzzy through these"

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the theory and practice of international relations. We will survey various theoretical perspectives as well as contemporary and historical issues to help understand the chief problems, actors, and structures of international politics. This course will incorporate debates and presentations on controversial global issues to assist students in developing analytical and critical thinking skills to help understand the world around them. Students will explore a range of contemporary phenomena, including globalization, security threats, international organizations, international political economy, human rights and humanitarian intervention.

Course Objectives

1. To develop a basic understanding of how state and non-state actors affect international relations.
2. To develop critical thinking skills to aid in evaluating and understanding the subjective nature of international politics.
3. To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature and the ability to present complex arguments orally.
4. To enable students to make informed judgements about the global political world around them.
5. To understand the relevance of the study of international relations to policy-making and the wider society.

Course Policies

Absences

Although you may be required to miss classes throughout the quarter, you will still be responsible for assigned readings and acquiring the information missed in class. All supplemental readings and PowerPoints will be available on MyBC.

Late Assignments and Missed Exams

Assignments will be penalized by 10% *each weekday and weekend day* they are late unless you can provide documentation of a medical emergency or catastrophe. If you need to turn in your assignment on a day when we do not meet for class, you must e-mail the assignment as an attachment to jackie.feldman@bellevuecollege.edu. You have one week to turn in your assignment before you receive no credit. Similarly, you can only make up an exam if you have received prior permission or have a documented medical emergency or catastrophe.

Problems and Assistance

If you have any issues with the material or general concerns about grades or your performance, you must see me before the problem becomes severe enough to impact your grade. I will be available before class each day to answer any questions, or by e-mail at any time. If I am not informed of any problems or issues, I will assume you do not have any outstanding questions or concerns.

Class Discussions and Debates

Throughout the quarter, we will be covering controversial political issues that might be challenging and provoke in-class discussions. The ability to discuss this material is what will make this course interesting. During such discourse and during the scheduled debates, I expect everyone to remain respectful and cordial while speaking. Rude or derogatory comments will not be tolerated. If you have any comments or discussions that cannot be shared with the whole class, they should be held until class is over.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is any action by which a student seeks to claim credit for the intellectual or artistic work of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic exercise.

Academic dishonesty includes receiving or giving assistance in tests and examinations; intentionally impeding or damaging the academic work of others; submitting another person's work as your own, or providing work for this purpose; submitting work of your own that has been substantially edited and revised by another person, or providing an editing service for others; submitting material from a source (books, articles, internet sites) without proper citation and bibliographic reference; paraphrasing material from a source without appropriate reference and citation; submitting substantially the same piece of work in more than one course without the explicit consent of all of the instructors concerned; assisting other students in any of the above acts.

Students who are academically dishonest will receive a failing grade on the work in question or a failing grade for the course as a whole, depending on the importance of the work to the overall course grade and the judgment of the instructor.

Resources on how to avoid plagiarism can be found at the Writing Lab:

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/essays-guides/documents/plagiarism.pdf>

Bellevue College Policies

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Student Code

"Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services." The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Course Requirements

Assigned Readings

The core text used for the course is *The Globalization of World Politics: an Introduction to International Relations* by Patricia Owens, Steve Smith and John Baylis, 5th ed. All other texts will be available online at MyBC or e-mailed via your BC account.

News

You will be expected to follow developments in world affairs. International relations are ongoing and dynamic and successful students will be expected to continually update their

knowledge of current events. You will be expected to follow world events in one US news source *and* one foreign news source *at least* biweekly. Be prepared to come to class each day to talk about current world affairs and there might be news articles sent via e-mail that are required reading unless specified. If you speak a language other than English, you might consider following the news in that language. If you have a question about the suitability of a news source, please see me at the beginning of the course.

Example US News Sources:

- New York Times – www.nytimes.com
- Washington Post – www.washingtonpost.com
- Wall Street Journal – www.wsj.com
- CNN - <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/>

Example Foreign News Sources:

- The Guardian – www.guardian.co.uk
- The BBC – www.bbc.co.uk
- Al Jazeera (Arabic News) – <http://english.aljazeera.net>
- China Daily - <http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/>
- China.org - <http://www.china.org.cn/>
- Australia World News - <http://australiaworldnews.com/>
- New Zealand Herald - http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/headlines.cfm?c_id=2
- Canada National Post - <http://www.nationalpost.com/news/world/index.html>
- Spiegel Online (German News) - <http://www.spiegel.de/international/>
- Haaretz.com (Israeli News) - <http://www.haaretz.com/news/international>
- Buenos Aires Herald - <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/world>
- The Mail & Guardian (South African News) - <http://mg.co.za/section/world/>
- Pravda.net (Russian News) - <http://english.pravda.ru/world/>
- RT (Russian News) - <http://rt.com/>

Graded Work

Attendance	(20 pts)	5%
Country Quizzes	(40 pts)	10%
Journal	(40 pts)	10%
Participation	(40 pts)	10%
Policy Brief	(80 pts)	20%
Midterm Exam	(80 pts)	20%
Final Exam	(100 pts)	25%
Total	(400 pts)	100%

Grade Point 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 (5% - 20 PTS)

Attendance is essential because much of the information covered in class will not be found in the readings. You will be counted as absent if you are *more than 10 minutes late to class or for excessive tardiness*. You may only be absent to two classes without it adversely affecting your grade. More than two unexcused absences will lower your grade by two points. For example, if you are marked as absent for three classes, you will receive 18 out of 20 points, if you are marked as absent for four classes, you will receive 16 out of 20 points, if you are marked as absent for five classes, you will receive 14 out of 20 points, etc. If you have more than ten unexcused absences, you will not be eligible to receive credit for the class. To excuse a missed class or a late arrival, you must discuss it with me beforehand unless it is the result of an emergency. Emergencies include documented doctor's visits or family emergencies.

Country Quizzes (10% - 40 PTS)

Geography is one of the basic factors that determines events on the international scene. Geography can also have an important role in influencing the political activities of a country. For this reason, you will be expected to familiarize yourself with the location and names of the most influential, powerful and/or notable countries in the world. There will be six quizzes held throughout the quarter. For each quiz, a blank map will be distributed with between ten to twenty countries highlighted for you to label. Each quiz will be worth two points. Of the six quizzes, only the best five will be counted towards your final grade. If you obtained full marks for the first five quizzes, you technically will not need to take the last quiz, however; there is an extra credit option that may make it worth studying for.

Quiz Topics:

Quiz #1: East and Southeast Asia

Quiz #2: Eastern Europe

Quiz #3: Western Europe

Quiz #4: Africa

Quiz #5: The Americas

Quiz #6: Middle East and South Asia

Country Quiz Extra Credit (up to 2.5%)

At the end of the quarter, you will be given the opportunity to earn up to 1% extra credit by testing your knowledge of all 193 UN Member States. For this quiz, you will not be required to label a map; rather, you will be asked to list as many Member States as you can by appropriate region, i.e., East and Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Oceania, North America, Central America and the Middle East. Practice here: <http://www.sporcle.com/games/g/world>

Extra Credit:

120-129 countries listed correctly = an extra 1%

130-139 countries listed correctly = an extra 1.5%

140-149 countries listed correctly = an extra 2%

150+ countries listed correctly = an extra 2.5%

Participation (10% - 40 PTS)

Participation means coming to class prepared to ask questions, raise topics for discussion or to add relevant commentary. You are expected to have done all the assigned reading and homework before you attend class each day. I will be documenting your participation throughout the quarter. Participation grades will be based on the amount of times you participate as well as the quality of your contributions.

Journal (10% - 40 PTS)

For two separate weeks, you will keep a journal about 1) your carbon footprint, and 2) where your personal belongings are made and where the food you consume is grown. The first week will be related to our discussion on climate change. You will be keeping track of how much water and fuel you use, and how much waste you produce in your everyday activities. In your journal you will reflect on how your carbon footprint is different than an individual living in a country other than the US and what you can do to be more efficient. The second week will be during our discussion on trade. You will document where your food, clothes and appliances are made and/or grown. In your journal, you will reflect on how this relates to our discussion about trade, free trade and development and how you could become a more educated and ethical consumer. For each week, you should have at least five journal entries of at least 150 words long, with a reflection of at least 400 words long.

Policy Brief (20% - 80 PTS)

A plethora of issues will be covered in class and time constraints do not allow an in-depth analysis of each topic. Designing a policy brief will provide you with a chance to choose a topic you find interesting while developing your critical thinking and analytical skills. The policy brief will be designed to be presented to a world leader from the viewpoint of a relevant non-governmental organization (NGO). The issue addressed can be contemporary or historical. For example, you could create a policy brief addressed to President Clinton from a human rights organization which outlines what he should do about the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Alternatively, you could address a policy brief to Prime Minister Wen Jiabo from a climate change organization suggesting what should be done about contemporary environmental issues in China. Be creative, but within reason! Topics must be submitted for approval before the briefs are written. You will be presenting your policy briefs to the class after they are due. The presentation will be worth 5% of your grade. I will be handing out example policy briefs and requirements during class.

Mid-Term Exam (20% - 80 PTS)

The mid-term will be a mix of short answer and essay questions and will cover assigned readings, debates, presentations, movies and major current events discussed in class.

Final Exam (25% - 100 PTS)

The final exam will be a mix of short answer and essay questions and will cover assigned readings, debates, presentations, movies and major current events related to international relations covered in the second half of the quarter and the various theoretical perspectives covered throughout the course.

Final Exam Schedule

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/classes/exams>

Important Links**Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC**

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>.

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services](#)

[website.](#)

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or 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 us as soon as possible. If you are a person who 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.

The DRC office is located in B 132 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

Public Safety

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

POLS 203: International Relations Tentative Class Schedule Fall 2012

(Readings and schedule will be subject to change)

*"The ability to learn how to learn will be the only security you have."
-Thomas L. Friedman, political journalist*

Week 1 – INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Wednesday, September 19th- Introduction to International Relations

- Syllabus

Week 2 – LEVELS OF ANALYSIS/IR THEORY

Monday, September 24th-Interpreting World Politics

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Introduction (11 Pages)
- [The Ivory Tower Survey: How IR Scholars See the World](#)
- Kegley: "Interpreting World Politics" (18 pages)

Wednesday, September 26th-Realism 1st Country Quiz – East and SE Asia

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 5: "Realism" (13 Pages)
- Mearsheimer and Walt: [Keeping Saddam Hussein in a Box](#) (3 Pages)
- Mearsheimer: "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" (19 Pages)

In-class film clip: "The Fog of War" (30 minutes)

Week 3 – IR THEORY

Monday, October 1-Liberalism

Required Readings:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 6-7 (28 Pages)
- Oneal & Russett: "The Kantian Peace in the Twenty-First Century" (11 Pages)

Supplemental Reading:

- Wolf: "The Magic" of the Market" (13 Pages)

In-class media clip: [Obama's Nobel Peace Prize Speech](#) (35 minutes)

Wednesday, October 3- Constructivism/Critical Theory

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 8: "Marxist Theories of International Relations" (14 Pages)
- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 9: "Social Constructivism" (16 Pages)
- Wendt: "Anarchy is What States Make of It: the Social Construction of Power Politics" (13 pages)

Supplemental Reading:

- Kurki: "Karl Marx" (5 pages)

In-class movie: The End of Poverty?

Week 4 – INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Monday, October 8 – International Law 2nd Country Quiz – Eastern Europe

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 17: “International Law” (13 Pages)
- Caron: “Does International Law Matter?” (11 Pages)
- Byers: “Agreeing to Disagree: Security Council Resolution 1441 and Intentional Ambiguity” (10 Pages)

Wednesday, October 10 – International Organizations

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 20: “Transnational Actors and International Organizations in Global Politics” (11 Pages)
- Baylis, Smith & Owens: “The United Nations” (14 Pages)
- Karns & Mingst: “The Challenges of Global Governance” (16 Pages)

Supplemental Reading:

- Covenant of the League of Nations (8 Pages)
- Charter of the United Nations (18 Pages)

Week 5 – MID-TERM/CHANGING CHARACTER OF WAR

Monday, October 15th – Mid-Term

Wednesday, October 17th- Changing Character of War/Global Security 3rd Country Quiz – Western Europe

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 13 “The Changing Character of War” (13 Pages)
- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 14: “International and Global Security” (12 Pages)
- Arbour: [Unmanned and Dangerous](#) (1 page)
- NPR: [John Brennan Delivers Speech on Drone Ethics](#) (2 page transcript or listen to the 16 minute talk on NPR)
- Stratfor: [Cyberwarfare 101: Case Study of a Textbook Attack](#) (2 Pages)

Supplemental Reading:

- [Cyberwarfare: a Glossary of Useful Terms](#)

Movie clip from 60 Minutes on drones - 10 minutes

Week 6 – WAR, CONFLICT, GLOBAL SECURITY

Monday, October 22nd – Terrorism

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 22: “Terrorism and Globalization” (14 Pages)
- Kydd & Walter: “The Strategies of Terrorism” (19 Pages)
- Campos: [Undressing the Terror Threat](#) (2 Pages)

Supplemental Reading

- Ganor: “Defining Terrorism: is One Man’s Terrorist Another Man’s Freedom Fighter?” (16 Pages)

Wednesday, October 24th – Nuclear Proliferation

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 23: “Nuclear Proliferation (12 Pages)

- Posen: "A Nuclear-Armed Iran: a Difficult but Not Impossible Policy Problem" (14 Pages)
- Hymans "Why Nuclear Weapons Programs Often Fail on Their Own – and Why Iran's Might, Too" (6 Pages)
- Stratfor: "Debunking Myths About Nuclear Weapons and Terrorism" (2 Pages)
- Waltz: "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb" (4 Pages)
- Kahl in response to Waltz: "One Step Too Far (4 Pages)
- Lind: "Why North Korea Gets Away With It: Pyongyang's Skillful Deterrence" (2 Pages)

Week 7 – HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

Monday, October 29th – Humanitarian Intervention *4th Country Quiz- Africa*

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: "Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics" (13 Pages)
- Fortna: "Does Peacekeeping Work?" (8 Pages)
- Goldstein and Western: "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age" (5 Pages)
- Valentino: "The True Cost of Humanitarian Intervention" (6 Pages)

Supplemental Reading:

- Cook: [It's Time to Seriously Think About Intervening in Syria](#) (2 Pages)
- Husain: [We Must Not Intervene Militarily in Syria](#) (1 Page)
- Weiss: "What it will take to intervene in Syria" (3 Pages)

Wednesday, October 31st – Humanitarian Intervention – Rwanda

Required Reading:

- Power: "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwanda Tragedy Happen" (20 Pages)
- Barnett: "Bureaucratizing the Duty to Aid: the United Nations and Rwandan Genocide" (13 Pages)

In-class film Watch [The Ghosts of Rwanda](#) (1:52)

Week 8 – CLIMATE CHANGE

Monday, November 5th – Environmental Issues

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 21: "Environmental Issues" (14 Pages)
- Watch: Gore [An Inconvenient Truth](#) (90 minutes)

Useful link:

- [Carbon Calculator](#)

Please start a journal documenting your carbon footprint!

Wednesday, November 7th – Climate Change *5th Country Quiz – the Americas*

Required Reading:

- Hardin: "The Tragedy of the Commons" (11 Pages)
- Singer & Avery: "Is Humanity Losing the Global Warming Debate?" (15 Pages)
- Beinecke, Meadows, Harte: "Is Growth Good?" (6 Pages)

In-class movie: The End of the Line

Week 9 – INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Monday, November 12th – Holiday, No School

Wednesday, November 14th- IPE, POLICY BRIEFS & JOURNAL DUE TODAY!

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 18: “International Political Economy in the Age of Globalization” (12 Pages)
- Kindleberger: “Dominance and Leadership in the International Economy: Exploitation, Public Goods, and Free Rides (8 Pages)
- Friedman: [The World is Flat After All](#) (7 Pages)

Week 10 – INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Monday, November 19th- Global Trade and Finance

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 27: “Global Trade and Finance” (12 Pages)
- Krugman: “The Economics of Qwerty” (13 Pages)
- Media Matters: [Free Trade Rules: Leading Opinion Pages Provide Scant Space to Critics](#) (2 Pages)
- Economist: [Trade Wars and Morals](#) (1 Page)

Please start your trade journal!

Wednesday, November 21st- Free Trade, Development and Migration *6th Country Quiz- the Middle East and South Asia*

Required Reading:

- Rio & Thorwarth: “Tomatoes or Tomato Pickers? Free Trade and Migration in the Case of the NAFTA Case” (21 Pages)
- Bacon: [How US Policies Fuelled Mexico's Great Migration](#) (5 Pages)

Week 11 – GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Monday, November 26th- Poverty, Development and Hunger – Trade Journal Due!

Required reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 28: “Poverty, Development & Hunger” (16 pages)
- Arbache, Go & Page: “Is Africa’s Economy at a Turning Point?” (16 Pages)
- Stiglitz: “From Miracle to Crisis to Recovery: Lessons from Four Decades of East Asian Experience” (12 Pages)

Wednesday, November 28th- Global Poverty –*Extra Credit Country Quiz*

Required:

- Watch: Watch Pilger: [The New Rulers of the World](#)

In-class: The Yes Men Fix the World (90 minutes)

Week 12 – THE FUTURE OF IR/FINAL EXAM

Monday, December 3rd- Future of IR

Required Reading:

- Baylis, Smith & Owens: Chapter 32: “Globalization and the Transformation of Political Community” (15 Pages)

- Nye: "The Future of American Power: Dominance and Decline in Perspective" (6 Pages)
- Keohane: "Hegemony and After: Knowns and Unknowns in the Debate Over Decline (5 Pages)
- Nathan & Scobell: "How China Sees America" (16 Pages)

Supplemental Reading:

- Friedberg: "Bucking Beijing" (7 Pages)

Wednesday, December 5th- Final Exam

*"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death."
- Albert Einstein*