

Introduction to International Relations
Pol S 203, Winter 2014
Classroom A130
TTH 1130 - 120

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this course is to help you to develop the conceptual and theoretical tools necessary to critically understand world events. My primary objectives are to help you:

1. Develop a basic understanding of and appreciation for contemporary international relations,
2. Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of different international relations perspectives, and
3. Synthesize and integrate new information and ideas about international relations.

COURSE POLICIES

This is a college-level course, which means you are responsible for your own learning. I have the following expectations of you:

1. Complete your assignments in a timely, complete manner,
2. Come to class prepared for the day's work,
3. Actively participate in classroom discussions, and
4. Raise your hand, talk with me during office hours, send me an email, or speak with me before or after class if you are confused about something we are learning.

Meeting these expectations will help you engage fully with the course materials. It is important to note that some of our class work will involve discussion of controversial political issues about which reasonable people disagree. Your challenge and responsibility is to maintain civil discourse. We will achieve this by being respectful of each other and avoiding inflammatory, derogatory and insulting words, phrases and labels. If I decide that a dialogue is not following these ground rules, the conversation will be stopped. If it continues, I will ask the participating students to leave the classroom.

In addition to treating members of our class respectfully, all electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom at all times. This includes but is not limited to cell phones, blackberries, laptops, i-pods/mp3 players, and computers. If you need a laptop to take notes, I will need prearranged verification. Students caught using electronic devices will be marked absent and asked to leave class that day.

COURSE TEXTBOOK AND ASSIGNED READINGS

The core text for the course is Rourke and Boyer's International Politics on the World Stage, 8th Edition. The secondary text is Drezner's Theories of International Politics and Zombies. These books are available at the bookstore and two copies are also available for short-term check out in the library. In addition, as the course progresses, there may be additional assigned reading. The assigned reading for the week should be completed before you come to class so that you may participate fully. Any assigned reading material may be included in examination questions, regardless of whether it is specifically discussed in the classroom.

Supplemental texts will be made available on our class website, which can be accessed via Canvas. To access the supplemental readings, click on "Files." Please note that you are responsible for downloading (and printing) all supplemental readings as they are assigned. For those of you who do not have a printer at home, you can print in the student computer lab in the N-Building. If you cannot afford to print the supplemental reading, you may read it online.

You are expected to have the readings for each class completed before the class session for which they are scheduled. Many of our discussions will engage the current international situation, and it will behoove you to stay current. 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 (english.aljazeera.net).

GRADING/EVALUATION

10%	Attendance and Participation
10%	Weekly Journal
10%	Geography Quizzes
25%	Memo
20%	Midterm Exam
25%	Final Exam

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND WEEKLY JOURNAL

You will be learning difficult theories about how and why the world works. Part of learning this information involves discussion. You cannot discuss and listen if you do not attend class. To encourage attendance, I will be taking role daily and assessing the degree to which you participated. You have one “free” unexcused absence for which your participation grade will not be affected; starting with your second unexcused absence or late arrival, you will not receive points for that day. If you are shy or uninterested in speaking during class, please talk with me about alternative ways for you to earn your participation points. If you need to miss class, please let me know in advance or else you will receive no points for that day. Excused absences include documented doctor’s visits, family emergencies, and (sometimes) work-related issues. 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 further during my office hours, but I will only do so after you have checked with at least one of your classmates first.

As a supplement to in-class discussion and part of the hybrid component of this course, you will also have a weekly reflective journal. The purpose of this journal is to stimulate your thinking and serve as a starting point for our in-class discussions. You are responsible for writing approximately one outside-of-class journal entry per class. Each journal entry should be at least fifteen lines (300 words). By Thursday of each week, the journal topic for the following week will be announced in class and on our class website. These will be due on Mondays at 11:59pm (online). I will then review them for our class on Tuesday. These journals must be completed by the deadline; I will not accept late journal submissions.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZZES

An important part of understanding international relations 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, we will be doing (almost) weekly geography quizzes.

INDIVIDUAL POLICY MEMO

As a way to develop your critical thinking and problem-solving skills, you will be writing an individual policy memo to President Obama about a current event. Policy memos—sometimes called “white papers”—are concise, coherent summaries of a public policy problem with a clearly articulated logic for following a particular policy proposal (or solution). We will discuss this more fully as the class progresses.

EXAMS

The exams will cover assigned readings, movies, lectures, guest presentations, and major current events related to international relations. The exam could consist of a variety of question types, including true-false, multiple-choice, identifications, short answer, and essay.

LATE AND MISSED EVALUATIONS

All evaluations must be submitted online via our Canvas website or in-class. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. If you are going to be absent on the day that an assignment is due it is your responsibility to get a classmate to turn it in for you. I will not accept any late work unless it has been approved by me before the date it is due or you can document some sort of emergency. All assignments turned in late will receive a grade of 0.0. Likewise, missed exams will receive a grade of 0.0.

Students must take the exams on the dates they are scheduled. Make-up exams will be allowed only if the student presents documentation excusing the absence on or before the day of the exam (I will administer a different exam than that given to the rest of the class); make-up exams must be scheduled within one week of the exam date.

GRADE COMPLAINTS

If you wish to formally request a grade change, you must wait at least 24 hours and then turn in a written statement explaining why you feel your assigned grade did not reflect your work based on the grading criteria used. We will then make an appointment to discuss your grade in my office. I will only discuss your grade in my office and not in class. The statute of limitations for a grade complaint is one week.

DISABILITY PROCEDURES

If you are a student who has a disability or a learning challenge and you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. The DRC office is located in B132. The phone number is (425)564-2498, and the website is <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc>. If DRC provides you with documentation indicating that you have a disability that requires academic accommodation, please present that documentation to me at the beginning of the quarter so that we can begin working together as soon as possible to accommodate your needs in this class. The longer you wait to seek accommodation, the more difficult it will be for me to provide that accommodation.

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 evaluation in question. Please note that these are serious offenses, 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 SCHEDULE

<u>Date/Theme</u>	<u>Reading and Evaluation Plan</u>
1/7	Introductions
Levels of Analysis	
1/9	R+B Chapter 1 "Thinking and Caring about World Politics"
	D Chapter 1 "Introduction... to the Undead"
	D Chapter 2 "The Zombie Literature"
<u>1/14</u>	<u>GQ 1: North America</u>
1/14	R+B Chapter 2 "The Evolution of World Politics"
	R+B Chapter 3 "Level of Analysis and Foreign Policy"
1/16	R+B Chapter 4 "Nationalism: The Traditional Orientation"
	D Chapter 3 "Defining a Zombie"
<u>1/21</u>	<u>GQ 2: The Caribbean</u>
1/21	Beinart "The War Over Patriotism" (pp. 1-7)
	Zinn "Patriotism" (pp. 111-120)
Realism & Liberalism	
1/23	D Chapter 4 "Distracting Debates about Flesh-eating Ghouls"
	D Chapter 5 "The Realpolitik of the Living Dead"
<u>1/28</u>	<u>GQ 3: South America</u>
1/28	R+B Chapter 6 "Power, Statecraft, and the National State: The Traditional Structure"
	Mearsheimer "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power (pp. 60-74)
1/30	R+B Chapter 5 "Globalization: The Alternative Orientation"
	D Chapter 6 "Regulating the Undead in a Liberal World Order"
<u>2/4</u>	<u>GQ 4: Europe</u>
2/4	Doyle "Liberalism and World Politics" (pp. 80-89)
	Sachs "Common Challenges, Common Wealth" (pp. 3-15)
2/6	NO CLASS 2/6
<u>2/11</u>	<u>GQ 5: Middle East</u>

	2/11	R+B Chapter 9 “Pursuing Security”
		D Chapter 7 “Neoconservatism and the Axis of the Evil Dead”
Midterm		
	2/13	Midterm Review
	<u>2/18</u>	<u>Midterm</u>
Memo & Drezner		
	2/20	Memo Handout
		Nau “The Identity Perspective” (pp. 44-51)
		Nau “Prisoner’s Dilemma” (pp. 22-28)
	<u>2/25</u>	<u>GQ 6: Asia</u>
	2/25	D Chapter 8 “The Social Construction of Zombies”
		D Chapter 9 “Domestic Politics: Are All Zombie Politics Local?”
		D Chapter 10 “The ‘Pulling and Hauling’ of Zombies”
Constructivism		
	2/27	R+B Chapter 8 “International Law and Human Rights”
		Keck & Sikkink “Transnational Advocacy Networks” (pp. 279-288)
	3/4	NO CLASS 3/4
	<u>3/6</u>	<u>Memo Due</u>
	<u>3/6</u>	<u>GQ 7: Africa</u>
	3/11	Power “Bystanders to Genocide” (pp. 290-310)
	<u>3/13</u>	<u>GQ 8: Oceania</u>
	3/13	Luttwak “Give War a Chance” (pp. 36-44)
		D Chapter 11 “We’re Only Human: Psychological Responses to the Undead”
Conclusion		
	<u>3/18</u>	<u>GQ 9: World Geography</u>
	3/18	R + B Epilogue “An Epilogue to the Text/A Prologue to the Future”
		Loeb “Introduction” from Soul of a Citizen (pp. 1-13)
		Loeb “We Don’t Have to Be Saints” from Soul of a Citizen (34-57)
		D Chapter 12 “Conclusion... Or So You Think”
Final		
	3/20	Final Review
	<u>3/25</u>	<u>Final Exam 11:30 - 1:20</u>