# POLS 101: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Bellevue College Winter 2016

**Instructor: Nicholas Price Office Hours:** By appointment **Email:** Please message me on Canvas

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory course that is designed for students who are new to the study of politics. The purpose of this course is to provide you with a broad introduction to the field of political science and to help you to sort through and develop informed opinions about a variety of political topics. Some of the specific topics of study include: civic ignorance, the purpose of government, the functions of government, civil disobedience and patriotism, the relationship between the government and the economy, environmental politics, the media, international politics, race and politics, and citizenship. This is not a current events course, but we will spend time each week addressing news topics related to the course content.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- 1. To develop a basic understanding of the academic field of political science.
- 2. To develop a more nuanced understanding of the role, power, and functions of government.
- 3. To become more informed and discriminating consumers of political information.
- 4. To constructively engage in the political process
- 5. To foster self-reflection about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

#### **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 on-line in a fun and interesting way, and to assess your learning fairly. I expect you to do your best to complete assignments in a timely and appropriate fashion, to log on to the course website each work day prepared for the day's work, and to actively participate in on-line discussions and activities. If you do not understand something you need to take the initiative to find out the answer—post a question on the "Ask the Professor" discussion board, email me, etc. I cannot read minds so it is up to you to try to seek clarity when it is lacking.

#### RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR CLASS DISCUSSIONS

This course involves the discussion of controversial political issues. Remember that reasonable people often 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. Please use your common sense to avoid any other conduct that might offend others in the class. Thank

#### A NOTE ABOUT IDEOLOGY

I have no intention of trying to convert you to my belief system. The issues we will be exploring are often contentious and sometimes there will be no right or wrong answers. That said, there are good and bad arguments. Good arguments will be entertained on the discussion board (i.e. those that are logically sound and supported by the available evidence); bad arguments will be discouraged.

#### 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, I will not accept any late work unless it has been approved by me BEFORE the date it is due or you can document an emergency. *All assignments turned in late will receive a grade of 0.0*. Likewise, *missed quizzes and exams will receive a grade of 0.0*. 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).

#### 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 <a href="http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc">http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc</a>. 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 (<a href="http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P\_Student\_Code\_%28Procedures%29.asp">http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P\_Student\_Code\_%28Procedures%29.asp</a>). 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 send me a message via email.

#### **COURSE MATERIALS**

The primary text for this course is Van Belle and Mash's *A Novel Approach to Politics* (3rd or 4<sup>th</sup> Edition). It is available in the campus bookstore, and the last time I checked it could be purchased on Amazon for \$67.95 and rented for \$26.92. The text will also be

made available for short-term check out (up to two hours) in the library. Supplemental texts will be made available on our course website. To access the supplemental materials click on the "Modules" button and you will find them uploaded in the order in which they have been assigned. Please note that you are responsible for downloading (and reading and/or watching) all supplemental materials 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 or if you prefer you can just read the materials on-line. Please also note that all assigned materials should be completed before the class session for which they are scheduled, so that you can participate in discussions and other activities that I have planned. Any material covered by an assigned reading/video may be included in examination questions, regardless of whether it is specifically discussed on the discussion board. If adjustments are made to the reading/viewing schedule, you will be informed via the announcement board on our class website. The assigned reading/viewing is the core of this class—if you don't keep up you are going to find it hard to succeed. The quarter's tentative reading/viewing schedule appears at the end of this syllabus. Please review it carefully and let me know if you have any questions or concerns so that we can address potential issues before they become problems.

#### KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

Please keep up with current events related to American government and politics. Our discussions on the discussion board will sometimes 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.

# TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

# WEEK 1: CIVIC IGNORANCE, NAÏVE REALISM, & POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

# Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Introduction to the Course

- Assigned Reading
  - o Syllabus (20 pgs)

### Tuesday, January 5th, 2016—Gross Ignorance

- Assigned Reading (28 pgs/2 mins)
  - o Shenkman: "Gross Ignorance" (pp. 13-36) (24 pgs)
  - o Romano: "How Dumb Are We?" (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
  - o Maher: "Maybe We Need A New Citizenship Test" (2 mins)

# Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Knowledge Gap

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (10 pgs)
  - o CNN: "Geography Greek to Many Americans" (1 pg)
  - o Miss South Carolina: "Some People Out There Don't Have Maps" (1 min)
  - o Iyengar: "Mind the Gap" (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
  - o Speth: "We're Number One" (1 pg)
  - o World Public Opinion: "U.S. Foreign Aid" (1 pg)
  - o The Guardian: "30% of GOP Voters Support Bombing Agrabah" (2 pgs)
  - o The Telegraph: "Americans Misunderstood...?" (1 pg)

# Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Cognitive Biases & Logical Fallacies

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs)
  - o McRaney: "Self Delusion" (pp. 1-15) (15 pgs), "Confirmation Bias" (pp. 27-31) (5 pgs), "The Third Person Effect" (pp. 166-169) (4 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
  - o Profile Picture Assignment Due Today by 11:59 PM! (5 pts)

# Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (15 pgs/25 mins)
  - o Haidt: "The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives" (19 mins)
  - o Colbert: "Interview with Jonathan Haidt" (6 mins)
  - o Wolf: "Americans Deliberate..." (pp. 173-187) (15 pgs)

#### **WEEK 2: WHY GOVERNMENT?**

# Monday, January 11th, 2016—The Ancient Debate

- Assigned Reading (18 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 1: Introducing the Ancient Debate" (pp. 1-21) (21 pgs)

# Tuesday, January 12th, 2016—The Scientific Method

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 1: Introducing the Ancient Debate" (pp. 21-43) (23 pgs)
  - o Image: "Every Baby Knows the Scientific Method" (1 pg)

# Wednesday, January 13th, 2016—Why Government?

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (22 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 2: Why Government?" (pp. 44-63) (20 pgs)
  - o Jefferson: "Declaration of Independence" (1 pg)
  - o Constitution: "Preamble" (1 pg)

# Thursday, January 14th, 2016—Conformity

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (35 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Why Government?" (pp. 63-73) (11 pgs)
  - McRaney: "Brand Loyalty," "The Argument from Authority," "Cult Indoctrination," "Group Think," & "Conformity" (pp. 87-92, 93-96, 124-126, 127-130, 183-189) (24 pgs)

# Friday, January 15th, 2016—The MLK You Don't See on TV

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (5 pgs/56 mins)
  - $\circ\quad$  Solomon: "The MLK You Don't See on TV" (2 pgs)
  - o West: "Dr. King Weeps in His Grave" (3 pgs)
  - o Smiley: A Call to Conscience (56 mins)

# WEEK 3: MILITARISM, CIVIL OBEDIENCE, & MONEY IN POLITICS

# Monday, January 18th, 2016—No School!

• Martin Luther King Day of Service

## Tuesday, January 19th, 2016—Why We Fight

- Assigned Viewing/Listening (106 mins)
  - o Jarecki: Why We Fight (99 mins)\_
  - o NPR: "Ike's Warning of Military Expansion, 50 Years Later" (7 mins)

## Wednesday, January 20th, 2016—Civil Obedience

- Assigned Reading (29 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 3: Governing Society" (pp. 74-100) (27 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 13: Secret Government" (pp. 383-384) (2 pgs)

### Thursday, January 21st, 2016—Edward Snowden Pt. 1

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (~100 pgs)
  - o Rall (Snowden) (approximately 100 pgs from a graphic novel)

# Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—Edward Snowden Pt. 2

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (~100 pgs)
  - o Rall (Snowden) (approximately 100 pgs from a graphic novel)

#### WEEK 4: CITIZENSHIP, GETTING INVOLVED, & ELECTIONS

## Monday, January 25th, 2016—The Paradox of Citizenship

- Assigned Reading (29 pgs)
  - o Bellamy: "What Is Citizenship And Why Does It Matter?" (26 pgs)
  - o Liu: "Democracy Is for Amateurs" (3 pgs)

### Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Take Back Your Government

- Assigned Reading (34 pgs)
  - Carroll: "You Can Do This," "You Need to Do This," Registering Your Support or Opposition," "Calling Your Legislators," "Emailing Your Legislators," "Writing Your Legislators," "Using Petitions," "Advocacy for Busy People," "Advocacy for Youth Under Eighteen," "Other Ways to Be Involved" & "Putting It in Perspective" (pp. 3-4, 5-11, 29-31, 53-54, 55-57, 59-60, 61-63, 77-78, 79-83, 133-136, 143) (34 pgs)

## Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Democratic Ideal (Part 1)

- Assigned Reading (17 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 10: "The Democratic Ideal: Part 1" (pp. 275-294) (20 pgs)

# Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Democratic Ideal (Part 2)

- Assigned Reading (15 pgs/16 mins)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 10: "The Democratic Ideal: Part 2" (pp. 294-308) (15 pgs)
  - o Grey: "Primary Elections Explained" (5 mins)
  - o Grey: "The Problem with First Past the Post Voting Explained" (7 mins)
  - o Grey: "The Alternative Vote Explained" (4 mins)

# Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Electoral College

- Assigned Reading (17 pgs/21 mins)
  - o Dahl: "Electing the President" (pp. 73-89) (17 pgs)
  - o Grey: "How the Electoral College Works" (5 mins)
  - o Grey: "The Trouble with the Electoral College" (7 mins)
  - o Grey: "What If the Electoral College Is Tied?" (4 mins)
  - o Ted-Ed: "Does Your Vote Count?" (5 mins)

#### WEEK 5: POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

#### Monday, February 1st, 2016—Government's Role in the Economy

- Assigned Reading (35 pgs/5 mins)
  - Van Belle: "Ch. 4: "Government's Role in the Economy" (pp. 102-136)
    (35 pgs)
  - o Good Morning America: "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" (5 mins)

### Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—The Public Good

- Assigned Reading (17 pgs)
  - o Colomer: "The Public Good" (13 pgs)
  - o McRaney: "The Public Goods Game" (pp. 112-115) (4 pgs)

# Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016—Economic Inequality

- Assigned Reading (18 pgs/37 mins)
  - o Reich: "Introduction: The Paradox" (pp. 3-14) (12 pgs)
  - o Stiglitz: "Of the 1%, By the 1%, For the 1%" (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
  - o YES Magazine: "Wealth Inequality in America" (6 mins)
  - o Mother Jones: "It's the Inequality, Stupid" (2 pgs)
  - o Oliver: "Wealth Gap" (14 mins)
  - o Wilkinson: "How economic inequality harms societies" (17 mins)

# Thursday, February 4th, 2016—On A Road to Disaster

- Assigned Reading (34 pg/1 min)
  - o Daly: "On A Road to Disaster" (1 pg)
  - o Speth: "Looking into the Abyss" (pp. 17-19, 39-45) (10 pgs)
  - o Speth: "Consumption" (pp. 147-164) (18 pgs)
  - o Speth: "The Bridge at the Edge of the World" (pp. 233-237) (5 pgs)
  - o NASA: "Time Lapse of Global Temperatures" (30 secs)

## Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Story of Change

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (35 mins)
  - o Leonard: "The Story of Stuff" (20 mins)
  - o Leonard: "The Story of Solutions" (9 mins)
  - o Leonard: "The Story of Change" (6 mins)

#### WEEK 6: THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS

# Monday, February 8th, 2016—Structures and Institutions

- Assigned Reading (27 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 5: Structures and Institutions" (pp. 137-163) (27 pgs)

# Tuesday, February 9th, 2016—The Primary Election

- Assigned Reading/Viewing
  - o To Be Determined!

### Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Executive Function

- Assigned Reading (26 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 6: The Executive" (pp. 164-189) (26 pgs)

# Thursday, February 11th, 2016—No School!

• College Issues Day for Faculty and Staff

# Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Legislative Function

- Assigned Reading (33 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 7: The Legislative Function" (pp. 190-222) (33 pgs)

# WEEK 7: THE BUREAUCRATIC FUNCTION, MONEY IN POLITICS, AND THE JUDICIAL FUNCTION

# Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016—No School!

• Professional Development Day for Classified Staff

# Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Bureaucratic Function

- Assigned Reading (21 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 8: Brazilian Bureaucracy" (pp. 223-241) (19 pgs)
  - o Danziger: "Five Styles of Administration" (pp. 158-159) (2 pgs)

# Wednesday, February 17th, 2016—Money in Politics

- Assigned Viewing (18 mins)
  - o Lessig: "We the People, And the Republic We Must Reclaim" (18 mins)

# Thursday, February 18th, 2016—The Judicial Function

- Assigned Reading (32 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 9: Courts and Law" (pp. 242-273) (32 pgs)

# Friday, February 19th, 2016—The War on Drugs

- Assigned Viewing (109 mins)
  - o The House I Live In (109 mins)

#### **WEEK 8: THE MEDIA**

### Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—Mediated Politics

- Assigned Reading (34 pgs)
  - Van Belle: "Ch. 11: Media, Politics, and Government" (pp. 309-342) (34 pgs)

# Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016—The Influencing Machine (Part 1)

- Assigned Reading (44 pgs)
  - o Gladstone: "Introduction," "In the Beginning," "The American Exception," "Existential Angst" (pp. xi-xxii, pp. 3-34) (44 pgs)

# Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Influencing Machine (Part 2)

- Assigned Reading (36 pgs/ 6 mins)
  - o Gladstone: "Bias" & "War" (pp. 60-70, 71-95) (36 pgs)
  - o CNN: "Kalle Lasn on Buy Nothing Day Ad" (5 mins)
  - o Be A Witness to Genocide Darfur Ad (1 min)

# Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Freedom vs. Security

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (119 mins)
  - o PBS: The Most Dangerous Man in America (94 mins)
  - o Wikileaks: "Collateral Murder" (18 mins)
  - o Colbert: "Interview with Julian Assuange" (7 mins)

# Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Filter Bubble

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (6 pgs/34 mins)
  - o Postman: "Amusing Ourselves to Death" (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
  - o Waters: "Electronic Isolation Gives Cold Comfort" (pp. 1-2) (2 pgs)
  - o Pariser: "The Online Filter Bubble" (9 mins)
  - o Oliver: "Native Advertising" (11 mins)

#### **WEEK 9: RACE AND POLITICS**

### Monday, February 29th, 2016—Patriotism

- Assigned Reading (20 pgs)
  - o Beinart: "The War Over Patriotism" (pp. 1-7) (7 pgs)
  - o Goldman: "Patriotism: A Menace to Liberty" (pp. 270-272) (3 pgs)
  - o Zinn: "Patriotism" (pp. 111-120) (10 pgs)

# Tuesday, March 1st, 2016—Civil Disobedience

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (19 pgs)
  - o Thoreau: "Civil Disobedience" (pp. 286-289) (4 pgs)
  - o Canon, Lincoln, & King: "Civil Disobedience" (pp. 127-141) (15 pgs)

# Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—Nashville Nonviolence Movement (27 mins)

- Assigned Viewing
  - o A Force More Powerful: "Nashville Nonviolence Movement" (27 mins)

### Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016—The Freedom Riders

- Assigned Viewing (112 mins)
  - o American Experience: Freedom Riders (112 mins)

# Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Case for Reparations

- Assigned Reading (18 pgs)
  - o Coates: "The Case for Reparations" (pp. 54-71) (18 pgs)

#### WEEK 10: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS & POLITICAL CULTURE

# Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016—International Politics (Part 1)

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (27 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "International Politics" (pp. 343-369) (27 pgs)

## Tuesday, March 8th, 2016—No School!

• Faculty Professional Development Day

# Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016—International Politics (Part 2)

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (14 pgs/4 mins)
  - o Van Belle: "International Politics" (pp. 370-382) (13 pgs)
  - o YouTube: "Global Wealth Inequality" (4 mins)
  - Forbes: "The 67 People As Wealthy As the World's Poorest 3.5 Billion" (1 pg)

# Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Creative Activism

- Assigned Viewing (118 mins)
  - The Yes Men Fix the World (96 mins)
  - o Al Jazeera: "It Happened in Bhopal" (22 mins)

### Friday, March 11th, 2016—Political Culture

- Assigned Reading (36 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 14: Political Culture" (pp. 385-408) (24 pgs)
  - o Van Belle: "Ch. 15: The Study of Politics" (pp. 409-420) (12 pgs)

#### WEEK 11: RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

# Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Learned Helplessness and the Bystander Effect

- Assigned Reading (29 pgs)
  - o Loeb: "Introduction" (pp. 1-19) (19 pgs)
  - o McCraney: "Learned Helplessness" (pp. 205-209) (5 pgs)
  - o McCraney: "The Bystander Effect" (pp. 73-77) (5 pgs)

# Tuesday, March 15th, 2016—Good Enough Activism

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs)
  - o Loeb: "We Don't Have to Be Saints" (pp. 34-57) (24 pgs)

# Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Great Citizenship

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (33 pgs)
  - o Liu: "Great Citizenship" (pp. 41-73) (33 pgs)

# Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Optimism of Uncertainty

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (12 pgs)
  - o Loeb: "The Ten Suggestions" (2 pgs)
  - o Zinn: "The Optimism of Uncertainty" (pp. 63-72) (10 pgs)

# Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Final Reflection