

Bellevue College

Social Science Division

Political Science & International Studies

Introduction to Political Science

(POLS& 101, Item 5351–OAS)

Winter 2013 (Jan. 2-Mar. 20)

Credits: 5

Dr. Tate (425. 564-2169)

Note: Instructor may be expected to be online periodically each weekday, except on holidays and College closure/emergency days. You may send e-mail correspondence overnight or on weekends; however, you may not receive a response until the next business day. Use the Canvas tool for ALL communication and to submit assignments, as applicable.

Course Description

This course provides a basic, yet broad, introduction to political science. Given the complex and interdependent character of twenty-first century politics, it is fitting that an introductory political science course take a comparative approach, drawing upon evidence and examples from across our world to illustrate meaning and to craft generalizations. We begin with an overview of how political scientists study *the political* and explore the core concepts that form the language of analysis within the discipline. We then apply this knowledge to politics at the individual and group levels. Next, we look at how political institutions are organized and the dynamics of key political processes, such as public policymaking and the exercise of power, political development, and political violence. Political Science seeks to describe and explain what is known about the political world. This course poses some of the critical questions and provides the analytical tools to enable you to give informed responses.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand what is the political and the sources of political knowledge
- Understand the basic language and concepts of politics, among them power, authority, legitimacy, beliefs, interests, and political culture
- Make informed, accurate judgments about the value disagreements that occur within politics
- Understand and appreciate the modes of operation of governmental institutions, structures, and processes within in different social and cultural contexts
- Understand how to undertake basic political analysis using the concepts, methods, and approaches pertinent to the discipline of political science
- Demonstrate improved research, writing, and critical-thinking skills

HOW TO SUCCEED

This course has helpful interactive learning resources ([MyPoliSciLab](#)) to enhance learning and connect the concepts and theories of political science. Newsfeeds, newspapers, and other multimedia tools help you keep abreast of current affairs. Read the weekly chapter objectives, summaries, and PowerPoint notes at our Canvas course site or at MyPoliSciLab, attend class regularly and contribute to in-class and any online discussions, submit all assignments by the deadlines, and stay engaged throughout.

REQUIRED TEXT

Course readings, multimedia activities, and assessments are drawn from: Danziger, James. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. Eleventh Ed. New York: Pearson Longman, ISBN: 9780205854240 (Value Pack with MyPoliSciLab Pass Code).

Purchase only from the [BC Bookshop](#). [MyPoliSciLab](#) is integrated into this course's assessment, giving you access to chapter learning objectives and summaries, flashcards, post-tests and exams for each chapter, and other key assessments (comparative exercises, video quizzes, etc.) designed to facilitate understanding, enrich the learning experience, and help you succeed.

Other Resources

1. [MySearchLab](#) has start-to-finish guidance on the research/writing process and full-text access to academic journals and periodicals.
2. World-class newspapers such as these will help give real-world context to the course material and hone your critical-thinking skills: ([The Monitor Online](#), [The Guardian Weekly](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [The Economist](#), [The Independent](#) and [Financial Times](#) (London).
3. PRI's [The World](#)--a current-affairs radio magazine; [BBC](#); [Al Jazeera English](#), [France 24](#), and [RT](#).

Note: [LMC](#) has print copies and apps are available for download from respective sites.

Weighted Grade Distribution:

MyPoliSciLab Assessments	40%
MyPoliSciLab Map quizzes	15%
Discussions	20%
Comprehensive final (M-C) Exam	25%

GRADE POINTS

90-100	A	(4.0)
87-89	A-	(3.7)
84-86	B+	(3.3)
80-83	B	(3.0)
76-79	B-	(2.7)
72-75	C+	(2.3)
68-71	C	(2.0)
64-67	C-	(1.7)
60-63	D+	(1.3)
50-59	D	(1.0)
< 50	F	(0.0)

COURSE POLICIES (Read carefully!)

Note: This course may be hybrid (HYA) format, with both on-campus and online components, or wholly on-line via Canvas. The Syllabus is not a formal-legal contract, and the sequence of modules may vary depending on class progression, holidays and emergencies (such as weather), and other factors.

Academic Expectations

All provisions of the BC regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism will apply--see also [Procedures and Policies of the Social Science Division](#). These basic rules will apply to all written work: If you get an idea from someone else, you must acknowledge it by citing the source, whether or not it is a direct quotation. The Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA) style is recommended for footnotes, endnotes, and Works Cited. An excellent citation reference source is Purdue [OWL](#).

Special Needs

If you require accommodation based on a documented disability or have vital emergency medical information to share, please inform the instructor right away. To register as a special-needs student, contact the Disability Resource Center (www.bellevuecollege.edu/dss) in B-132, Tel.: 425.564-2498/TTY Line: 425. 564-4110).

Campus Support Services

(See "Top-Ten" list of student resources elsewhere in the [Getting-Started](#) folder.)

If feasible, sign up for a Library Media Center ([LMC](#)) tour to discover its valuable collection of books, journals, abstracts, A-V materials, and other rich resources. The LMC is also a handy gateway to other Washington libraries and resources. You may also be interested in BC's [Academic Success Center](#). Further information about the academic calendar, enrollment, examination schedules, etc. may be found in the Credit Class Schedule for Winter 2013, available on the BC web portal [here](#).

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT A "W" POSTED TO TRANSCRIPT IS JAN.8 (IN PERSON BY 6:00 P.M.-- ONLINE BY MIDNIGHT). *NO CLASSES JAN. 21 AND FEB. 18 (CAMPUS CLOSED)*. FINAL EXAM PERIOD IS MARCH 18-20--THIS CLASS: TUES. MARCH 19, 7:30-9:20 A.M.

SEQUENCE/READING GUIDE

PART I: ON KNOWING THE POLITICAL WORLD

Week 1 (Jan. 2): Ch. 1. Political Knowledge

Learning Objectives 1

- Define politics within a public context.
- Analyze three types of political knowledge.
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different sources of political knowledge.
- Identify techniques and approaches used to gain political knowledge and assess whether they constitute a science.
- Describe the purpose and the outline of the text.

Readings

Danziger, Ch. 1, Appendix (pp. 465-78), *plus* MyPoliSciLab
MyPoliSciLab Assessments (See Canvas)

PART II: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Week 2 (Jan. 7): Ch. 2. Political Theory and Political Beliefs

Learning Objectives

- Compare conservatism, classical liberalism and socialism.
- Distinguish cognitive, affective, and evaluative beliefs.
- Compare belief systems of the mass and the elite.
- Determine the extent to which political culture explains political behavior.

Readings

Danziger, Ch. 2, *plus* MyPoliSciLab

MyPoliSciLab Assessments (See Canvas)

Week 3 (Jan. 14): Ch. 3. Political Knowledge

Learning Objectives

- Classify the modes of conventional and less conventional individual political action.
- Distinguish between interest groups and political parties.
- Summarize interest group strategies.
- Identify the types of interest groups and the constraints under which they operate.
- Analyze the roles of political parties.

Jan. 21 (Holiday)--College Closed

Week 4 (Jan. 22): Ch.4. Influences on Beliefs and Actions

Learning Objectives 4

- Assess how the context in which individuals live impacts their political beliefs and actions.
- Characterize the different agents of political socialization.
- Illustrate how personal characteristics are linked to political beliefs and actions.
- Distinguish normative from empirical approaches to understanding political personality.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 4, *plus* MyPoliSciLab

MyPoliSciLab Assessments (See Canvas)

PART III: POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Week 5 (Jan. 28): Ch. 6. Political Institutions I-Institutional Structures

Learning Objectives

- Analyze the structure and roles of political executives.
- Summarize the roles of the legislature.
- Compare the functions and powers of political administrative systems.
- Outline the major elements within judicial systems.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 6, *plus* MyPoliSciLab

MyPoliSciLab Assessments: (*See Canvas*)

Week 6 (Feb. 4): Ch. 7. Political Institutions II-Institutional Arrangements

Learning Objectives

Assess the impact of written constitutions on regimes.
Distinguish between democratic and nondemocratic political systems.
Compare and contrast unitary, federal, and confederal systems.
Differentiate between parliamentary, presidential, and other types of executive-legislative systems.
Characterize the different types of political party systems.

Readings:

Danziger, Chapters 7 *plus* MyPoliSciLab

MyPoliSciLab Assessments: (See Canvas)

Week 7(Feb. 11): Ch. 8. Political Economy

Learning Objectives

- Explain the role of the state in a nation's economy.
- Determine the relationship among the separate elements that make up the political economy.
- Assess the different measures of economic prosperity.
- Compare the ideal-type political economies.
- Identify the challenges faced by market, command, and mixed economies.
- Contrast real world examples and ideal-type political economies. *Readings*

Danziger, Ch. 8 *plus* MyPoliSciLab

MyPoliSciLab Assessments: (See Canvas)

PART IV: POLITICAL PROCESS

Week 8 (Feb. 19): Ch. 9. Public Policy, Power, and Decision

Learning Objectives

- Differentiate among the types of public policy and outline the stages of public policy.
- Identify the common elements among the three major approaches to public-policy making.
- Characterize the elite approach.
- Characterize the class approach.
- Characterize the pluralist approach.
- Evaluate the similarities, differences, and usefulness of the three major approaches to public policy-making.

Readings

Danziger, Ch. 9 *plus* MyPoliSciLab

MyPoliSciLab Assessments: (See Canvas)

Feb. 18 (Holiday)--College Closed

Week 9 (Feb. 25): Ch. 10. Change and Development

Learning Objectives

- Compare alternative perspectives on social, political, and economic change.
- Identify the attributes of development and summarize economic development strategies.
- Outline the characteristics and stages of political development.
- Analyze how political systems respond to environmental challenges through political institutionalization and system transformation.

Readings

Danziger, Ch. 10 *plus* MyPoliSciLab

MyPoliSciLab Assessments: (See Canvas)

Week 10 (March 4): Ch. 11. Politics Across Borders

Learning Objectives

- Compare realist and idealist perspectives of the state.
- Classify the main actors in the global system and characterize the mechanisms of cooperation between states.
- Analyze the types of interactions between states and evaluate the impact of globalization.

Danziger, Ch.11 *MyPoliSciLab*

MyPoliSciLab Assessments: (See Canvas)

Week 11 (March 11): Ch. 12. Political Violence/Review and Conclusion

Learning Objectives

- Define political violence and outline its major forms.
- Assess the relationship between political violence and the social contract.
- Explain and evaluate the major causes for war and theories about the propensity for major war in the contemporary international system.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 12 *MyPoliSciLab*

MyPoliSciLab Assessments: (See Canvas)

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