

POLS& 203 – International Relations

Item# 5361 Spring 2016

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Office: B-building, B232-O

Office Hours: By appointment, but available from 7:30-4:30

Class Times and Location: Daily from 11:30-12:20 L221

Course Structure: In class lectures, discussion, and activities with required reading and out of class research. All readings, assignment guides, and other information will be posted on the **Canvas site** for the class. This site will be active so please be sure to check it frequently.

Course Description: Examines the struggle for power and peace and the methods by which affairs are conducted between modern nations.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Apply core concepts in international relations, such as power, anarchy, conflict, cooperation, globalization, interdependence, and sustainability
- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of major international relations perspectives such as Liberalism and Realism as well as secondary perspectives such as Constructivism, Feminism, and Marxism
- Differentiate major global actors, including states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, individuals, and transnational advocacy networks
- Express informed opinions about issues of global importance, such as global warming, interstate and intrastate conflict, global inequality, and international human rights
- Articulate the paradox and dilemma of global citizenship and demonstrate basic competencies in the realm of advocacy

Grade Requirements:

Participation and Attendance	10 x 10 points	→	100 points
Weekly Responses	10 x 20 points	→	200 points
Research Presentation			150 points
Final Exam			150 points
	Total:		600 points

Course Assignments:

Attendance and Participation - This course is designed to be an experiential learning course meaning we will be using class time to actively learn the material. Attendance and participation are an important part of learning the material and building important skills. Activities include: short writing assignments, short group presentations, group discussions, video recordings, simulations, debates. Attendance and participation are worth 2 points per day. Students are permitted to miss up to 5 days of class for excused reasons – school travel, athletics, etc.

Weekly Responses – Students will learn how to analyze current events and provide informed, evidence based commentary in a variety of mediums to include blogs, vines, videos, and essays. All assignments categorized as “weekly responses” must be submitted online by 11 p.m. on Mondays. Students will receive specific guidance each week on the assignment.

Research Presentation – Students will work in groups to conduct research and analysis on a topic of their choice. Students will receive a rubric and clear guidelines and information on the topic choices, expectations, and formats.

Final Exam – Students will complete an in-class final exam based on the material covered in the class.

Required Text:

Mingst, Karen A. and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. 2014. *Essentials of International Relations*, 6th ed. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

Additional readings will be assigned and made available on the Canvas course site.

Course Rules:

1. **Attendance – students are expected to attend all classes.** I will take class on a daily basis and you will receive points for attending and participating in the in-class activities.
2. **Cell phones and computers are not permitted during class** unless you have accommodations from the DRC.
3. I reserve the right to assign additional readings that are not initially listed in the syllabus. I will give students at least notice of at least 1 week.
4. Late assignments are not appreciated. They can be turned in 1 day late for half credit.
5. **Grade Appeals** – If you receive a grade on an assignment that you think is incorrect, please submit a grade appeal, in writing via email requesting a re-grade. Please describe why you think the assignment should be regraded. The appeal must be submitted to me no later than 1 week after you receive your grade.
6. Students will participate in group work and discussion. There will be class discussions, projects, and peer reviews which will take place in smaller groups. Students are expected to participate in group activities, contribute to group production, and maintain a civil and open learning environment. ****Offensive** language, comments or actions will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from the class and possible disciplinary action.
7. We will be discussing violence in its various forms which will include sensitive topics. Please contact me if you are concerned about any of the topics covered in the class.
8. 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.
9. 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.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact asn@bellevuecollege.edu or 425.564.2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125. Autism Spectrum Navigators (Links to an external site.)

The DRC office is located in B132 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 Disability Resource Center (Links to an external site.)

10. 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.

Class Schedule and Assignments

(You will receive specific information regarding page assignments and due dates in class each day)

Week 1 – Introduction

Topics to be covered: approaches to IR, historical context and foundations of IR, tools for analyzing events in international relations

Readings: Ch. 1 & 2

Week 2 – International System

Topics to be covered: thinking theoretically, levels of analysis, theoretical paradigms, game theory

Readings: Ch. 3 & 4

Week 3 – Actors in the System: State, Individuals, and Non-State Actors

Topics to be covered: state structures, power sources, foreign policy, revolution, non-violence, individuals, elites, non-state actors

Readings: Ch. 5 & 6

Week 4 – Conflict and the International System

Topics to be covered: defining war, causes of interstate conflict, institutions and war, alliances, collective security, commitment problems, credibility, incomplete information, costs of war, bargaining, data sources

Readings: Ch. 8

Week 5 – Conflict below the System Level

Topics to be covered: domestic politics, democratic peace theory, civil conflict, terrorism, data sources, peacebuilding

Readings: readings posted on Canvas

Week 6 – Organizations

Topics to be covered: intergovernmental organizations, international law, non-governmental organizations

Readings: Ch. 7

Week 7 – International Political Economy – System and Monetary Relations

Topics to be covered: monetary relations, Breton-Woods, monetary systems, currency, free-trade, liberalization, organizations regulating trade, bilateral trade, regional agreements, borrowing and lending between countries, debt crises, multinational corporations

Readings: Ch. 9

Week 8 – Development and Globalization

Topics to be covered: foreign aid, approaches to development, globalization, colonialism, industrialization, liberalization, global inequality, women's rights

Readings: readings posted on Canvas

Week 9 – Human Rights and Transnational Advocacy

Topics to be covered: regimes, norms and organizations, human rights law, agreements, rights of women and children, migration

Readings: Ch. 10

Week 10 – Transnational Politics

Topics to be covered: environmental degradation, climate change, global health, international crime networks, militarized transnational networks

Readings: Ch. 11

Week 11 – Presentations and Final Exam