

BELLEVUE COLLEGE

Social Science Division

Political Science & International Studies Program

Introduction to Political Science

(POLS& 101, Item 5350 HYA)

Spring 2012 (4/02-6/15)

Credits: 5

Dr. Tate

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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

SUCCESS TIPS

This course gives you access to a helpful multimedia and interactive toolkit to enable you to understand and connect political concepts. It also has newsfeeds to enable you to keep up with current events. Read

the required chapters and PowerPoint presentations for each week, come to class regularly and contribute to the discussions, submit all assignments on time, and stay engaged with all aspects of the course.

REQUIRED

The course readings, activities, and assessments are drawn from this packaged text, which you should purchase only at the BCC Bookstore (<http://bcc.collegestoreonline.com/>)

- James Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. Tenth Ed. New York: Pearson Longman (Value Pack with Pass Code, ISBN: 9780205720934
- MyPoliSciKit (www.mypoliscikit.com), which includes review tests, key concepts, and assessments (comparative exercises, simulations, and quizzes) designed to facilitate your understanding of the material.

SUPPLEMENTAL

You are encouraged to follow current events via these resources:

- Financial Times Newsfeeds, available through MyPoliSciKit, offers hourly updates of U.S. and world news.
- The World Politics News Review blog, available through MyPoliSciKit, comments on current events using the concepts covered in this course.
- MySearchLab: If you need help completing writing assignments, you should be aware of the following resources that are also available through MyPoliSciKit. MySearchLab (www.mysearchlab.com) saves time and improves results by offering start-to-finish guidance on the research/writing process and full-text access to academic journals and periodicals.
- These world-class newspapers will aid understanding and connect the concepts and theories in the course to real-world situations: *The Monitor* (online), *The Guardian Weekly*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *The Independent* and *Financial Times* (London).
- PRI's "The World" (<http://www.theworld.org/>) -- excellent current-affairs radio magazine
- The BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>) and Al Jazeera English (<http://www.aljazeera.com/>)

GRADING

Weighted grade distribution:

Participation	15%
MyPoliSciKit Assessments	30%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam ¹	30%

¹ Both the Mid-term and Final exams are multiple choice and will be taken in a computer lab.

Grade points for this course:

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 will include online activities and quizzes, classroom lectures, discussions, a mid-term and final exam.

Academic Expectations

All provisions of the BCC regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism will apply--see also Social Science Division statement. Basic Rules for 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.

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

If feasible, sign up for a Library Media Center (LMC) tour to discover how to find collections, books, journals, abstracts, A-V materials, and to use its other rich resources. The LMC (www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/) is also a handy gateway to other Washington libraries and resources. You may also be interested in BC's Academic Success Center (<http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>). Further information about the academic calendar, enrollment, examination schedules, etc. may be found in the Credit Class Schedule for winter 2009, available on the BC web page (www.bellevuecollege.edu).

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT A "W" POSTED TO YOUR TRANSCRIPT IS APRIL 13 IN PERSON BY 4:00 P.M. OR ONLINE BY MIDNIGHT. MAY 28 CAMPUS CLOSED. EXAM PERIOD IS JUNE 13-15, AND OUR EXAM IS THURS, JUNE 14.

CALENDAR/READING GUIDE

PART I: ON KNOWING THE POLITICAL WORLD

Week 1 (4/2-6): **Political Knowledge and Theory**

Learning Outcomes:

- Define “politics” and provide an overview of the field of political science.
- Explain how knowledge is developed in the field of political science.
- Compare and contrast normative and empirical theory.
- List the three main political ideologies and describe the main principles of each

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 1, 2, Appendix (pp. 465-78)

MyPoliSciKit Activities (*Do and submit the Mapping Exercise for Ch. 1, Comparing Political Landscapes, and Chapters 1 and 2 Practice Tests*)

- Comparative Exercises: Comparing Political Landscapes **or**
- Comparing Public Opinion and Political Culture.
- Video: Anti-Globalization Protests
- China’s Tibet Policy **or**
- Reflections on Tiananmen Square.
- Mapping Exercises: Review your knowledge of world geography and explore interactive maps that discuss important events in world history and analyze the state of the world.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice tests for Chapters 1 and 2. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

PART II: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Week 2 4/9-13): **Political Actions and Beliefs**

Learning Outcomes:

- Describe the modes of political activity and outline its four broad categories.
- Outline the factors which help to explain levels of political participation across countries.
- Explain the difference between an interest group and a political party and describe the role and functions of each.
- Describe what is meant by “agents of political socialization” and compare and contrast the primary types
- Define “human nature” and explain how it differs from and overlaps with personality in explaining political behavior.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 3, 4

MyPoliSciKit Activities: (*Do and submit only Video Exercise, Media in a Free Society and Practice Test.*)

- Comparative Exercises: Comparing Voting Systems and Elections or Comparing Media and Interest Articulation.
- Simulations: The Prisoner's Dilemma: You Are a Presidential Advisor or Transnational Issues: You Are an Environmental Consultant.
- Videos: Palestinian Governance; The Problem of Party Discipline; The Media in a Free Society.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice tests for Chapters 3 and 4. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

PART III: POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Week 3 (4/16-20): **States and Nations**

Learning Outcomes:

- Define and differentiate between state and nation.
- Explain why the international community sometimes discounts and violates a state's claim to sovereignty.
- Evaluate the arguments for and against the use of the system approach of defining and studying the state as a political unit.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 5

MyPoliSciKit Activities: (*Do and submit only CE, Comparing Constitutions and Practice Test.*)

- Comparative Exercise: Comparing Constitutions.
- Videos: Artificial Borders and Tribal Conflicts in Pakistan or Gordon Brown on Managed Migration and Earned Citizenship.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 5. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

Week 4 (4/23-27): **Political Institutions**

Learning Outcomes:

- Define and outline the functions of executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
- Evaluate the structural variations in the executive over different systems and discuss their relative merits and disadvantages.
- Define and evaluate Weber's concept of bureaucracy, and discuss why the concept has negative connotations in the contemporary world.
- Define democracy and differentiate between the terms representative, electoral, and liberal democracy.
- Assess the difficulties associated with transitioning from nondemocratic to democratic political systems.

Readings:

Danziger, Chapters 6 and 7

MyPoliSciKit Activities: *(Do and submit only CE, Comparing Judiciaries and Practice Test.)*

- Comparative Exercises: Comparing Executives; Comparing Legislatures
- Comparing Bureaucracies or Comparing Judiciaries.
- Videos: Chamberlain's Appeasement or Margaret Thatcher Ousted.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice tests for Chapters 6 and 7. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

Week 5 (4/30; 5/1-4): **Political Economy**

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain the self-regulating cycle of supply and demand.
- List and explain the six general ways in which the state can powerfully affect the economy.
- Compare and contrast the two ideal-type economies.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 8

MyPoliSciKit Activities: *(Do and submit only Simulation, You are a Trade Expert and Practice Test.)*

- Comparative Exercises: You are a Trade Expert; Comparing Economic Policy.
- Simulation: International Trade: You Are a Trade Expert or
- Business: You Are a Foreign Market Analyst.
- Videos: Liberalizing Chinese-British Trade or Preventing Stagflation in the Global Economy.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 8. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

PART IV: POLITICAL PROCESS

MID-TERM EXAM: MON., MAY 7 (SEE MYBC CALENDAR FOR DETAILS)

Week 6 (5/7-11): **Public Policy**

Learning Outcomes:

- Define "public policy".
- List and define the possible objectives of a policy.
- Explain the stages of the policy process.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 9

MyPoliSciKit Activities: *(Do and submit only CE, Comparing Health Systems and Practice Test.)*

- Comparative Exercises: Comparing Welfare States or Comparing Health Systems.

- Simulation: Foreign Policy: You are the President.
- Videos: The Cuban Missile Crisis or Go Slows in Lagos.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 9. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

Week 7 (5/14-18): **Change and Development**

Learning Outcomes:

- Define “development” and explain the main ways in which it is measured.
- Compare and contrast the three competing approaches to the political economy of development.
- List and define understand the four key dimensions of political development.
- Assess the factors that contribute to system decay and state failure.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 10

MyPoliSciKit Activities: *(Do and submit Simulation, International Development: You are the Minister of Trade & Finance and Practice Test.)*

- Simulation: International Development: You Are the Minister of Trade and Finance.
- Video: Zimbabwe’s Economic Crisis.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 10. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

Week 8 (5/21-25): **International Politics**

Learning Outcomes:

- Compare and contrast the realist and idealist analysis of international relations.
- Define “international regimes” and analyze their importance in international politics.
- Outline the purpose of international organizations and evaluate their role in global politics.
- Define the balance of power and analyze its role in increasing or decreasing interstate conflict.
- Define “globalization” and evaluate its impact on states.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch.11

MyPoliSciKit Activities: *(Do and submit CE, Comparing Foreign Policies; Simulation, Human Rights: You are a Refugee; and Practice Test.)*

- Comparative Exercise: Comparing Foreign Policies.
- Simulation: Human Rights: You Are a Refugee.
- Videos: Conflict Diamonds and the Kimberley Process
- Opening the Chunnel or Regulating Sushi in the EU.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 11. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

MAY 28 (MONDAY)--NO CLASS

Week 9 (5/29-31; 6/1): **Political Violence**

Learning Outcomes:

- 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

MyPoliSciKit Activities: *(Do and submit Video, Debating Progress in Iran and Practice Test.)*

- Simulations: Conflict: You Are a Strategic Analyst or Military Force: You Are a Military Commander.
- Videos: Debating Progress in Iraq
- Germany's Anschluss of Austria or Toppling Hussein.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 12. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

PART V: ON KNOWING THE POLITICAL WORLD

Week 10 (6/4-8): **The Developing Countries**

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain the various ways by which a state can be classified as developing.
- Compare and contrast the various ways in which prosperity is measured, noting the benefits or problems of each method.
- Compare and contrast statism and neoliberalism as avenues for development.
- Explain and critically evaluate the role of the International Monetary Fund in global development.

Readings:

Danziger, Ch. 14

MyPoliSciKit Activities: *(Do and submit Simulation, The North South Gap: You are a Coffee Farmer and Practice Test.)*

- Comparative Exercises: Comparing Civil Liberties or Comparing Civil Rights.
- Simulation: The North-South Gap: You Are a Coffee Farmer.
- Videos: The Zapatista Rebellion or Carteret's Climate Refugees.
- Practice Test: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 14. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.

Week 11 (06/11-12): **Review, Summing Up/Conclusions**

No Readings

FINAL EXAM: FRI., JUNE 15 (SEE MyBC CALENDAR FOR DETAILS)