

Section 1:

Bellevue College

SYLLABUS: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLS& 203 (ITEM 5374 B)

Social Science Division

Political Science and International Studies
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484

Winter 2011 (01/03-03/22/12)

(L-221) 12:30-2:40 P.M.

Dr. T.M. Tate (D-200C)

425.564-2169 (ttate@bellevuecollege.edu)

Office Hours: M-Wed. 0930-10:30 or by apt.

No pre-requisite

Credits: 5

Gen-ed. rating: [See Online Catalog](#)

COURSE OVERVIEW

This introductory course examines the key factors and processes that are determining the direction of world politics today. Many of the concerns of international relations (IR), from sovereignty to currency fluctuation, and from global warming to terrorism, are being molded by complex forces of globalization that have grown well beyond the capacity of states and other international actors to control them. As a result, the post-Cold War international environment shows signs of both conflict and cooperation. In this course, we examine the two sides of IR through the lenses of theory and the historical experience in order to discern patterns and draw inferences. We treat the main actors, institutions, organizations, norms, and other forces that are influencing today's world politics, and we analyze the challenges and opportunities that we face as a global community at the start of a new century, chief among them being war and peace, global welfare, resource scarcity and global justice.

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

- War, global warming, torture, and hunger affect us all and we must all understand them to remedy them.
- You will become a more informed global citizen if you understand more fully humankind's most challenging issues. Many of you will be leaders and assume positions of responsibility in various fields. The more aware and knowledgeable you are about our major problems, the more likely you are to be an agent of change or the betterment of your community and the world.
- IR will help you in your career by teaching you to write, think, and speak more clearly and persuasively. Critical thinking, mounting a good argument, and writing effectively are part of any career and this course will give you many opportunities to hone those skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate mature understanding of the key concepts and approaches that form the core of the sub-field of International Relations.
- Use the core concepts and approaches of international relations to make sense of global developments and discern patterns.
- Understand how global governance occurs in the international system and the role of institutions and processes in fostering global order.
- Understand the challenges, opportunities, and constraints that states and other global actors face in the international system.
- Think critically and make informed judgments about the salient issues in the contemporary world politics.
- Demonstrate improved research, writing, conceptual, and analytical skills
- Demonstrate, through pertinent examples, the application of IR to daily life.
- Demonstrate a range of global competencies, including the contribution of other cultures and civilizations to human progress and security.

How to succeed in this course

Active participation in class and the MyBC discussions--and engagement with the MyPoliSciKit resources--is crucial. Complete the weekly text and supplemental readings and submit all written work by the due dates. Finally, attend class regularly and on time.

Required Texts

- Russell Bova. *How the World Works: A Brief Survey of International Relations*. (New York: Pearson Longman). ISBN 9780205130818
- MyPoliSciKit (www.mypoliscikit.com), which includes review tests, key concepts, and exercises designed to facilitate your understanding of the material.

Supplemental:

You are encouraged to follow current events by regularly reading:

- MyPoliSciKit. Financial Times Newsfeeds-- hourly updates of U.S. and world news.
- MyPoliSciKit. World Politics News Review blog, current events commentary using the concepts covered in this course.

Additional Resources:

- *If you need help completing writing assignments, you should be aware of the following resources that are also available through MyPoliSciKit.*
- Research Navigator provides access to online source material through the EBSCO Academic Journal and Abstract Database, New York Times Search by Subject Archive, "Best of the Web" Link Library, and Financial Times Article Archive and Company Financials.
- Writing Resources provides useful advice on research and writing in the discipline, including guides on how to write annotated bibliographies, book reviews, and analytic essays. The site also includes a citation style guide to help format your references.

Other Vital Information

COURSE POLICIES (Please read carefully!)

This course will normally include short lectures, in-class learner-centered activities/group work, and MyBC discussions. These are designed to enrich the learning experience and meet course learning outcomes.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

All provisions of the Bellevue Community College regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism apply and will be strictly enforced. See [Procedures & Policies of the Social Science Division](#) below. Please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct here:

[http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P_Student_Code_%28Procedures%29.asp]. Follow the conventions of appropriate citation: If you get an idea from any source, you *must* cite the source, even if you do not directly quote from it. On-line sources must also be properly cited. The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is recommended for this course. Consult the Library Media Center (D-126) or Academic Success Center (D-204) for assistance.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Bar grave illness or a family emergency, late work will not be accepted. It is in your best interest to discuss your personal situation beforehand with me by telephone or e-mail.

ATTENDANCE

Frequent or chronic absence/lateness will harm your final grade.

Problem/Special Needs

If you require accommodation based on a documented disability, have vital emergency medical information, or need special arrangements in the event of an emergency evacuation, please arrange to see me at once. To register as a special-needs student, contact the Disability Resource Center (www.bellevuecollege.edu/dss) in B-132, Tel. /TTY Line: (425)564-2498/425. 564-4110.

Campus Resources

Please sign up for a Library Media Center (LMC) tour to learn how to find collections, books, journals, abstracts, A-V materials, and access its other rich resources. The [LMC](#) is a handy gateway to other Washington libraries and resources. Another helpful resource is the [Academic Success Center](#). *It is highly recommended that you open a BC e-mail account for all communication with the instructor. You may sign up for one in the N-Bldg., where you'll also find a student computer lab.*

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

MyPoliSciKit Activities ¹	30%
Class Participation/Work	20%
Mid-Term	20%
Final Exam	30%

¹ Includes simulations, video comprehension, and practice tests (quizzes)

GRADE POINT CONVERSION

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A	90-100%	4.0
A-	87-89%	3.7
B+	84-86%	3.3
B	80-83%	3.0
B-	76-79%	2.7
C+	72-75%	2.3
C	68-71%	2.0
C-	64-67%	1.7
D+	60-63%	1.3
D	50-59%	1.0
F	<50%	0.5

Key Notes!

Examination Period: March 20-22

College Closed and/or No Classes: Jan. 16 and 31; Feb. 20, March 1.

Note: The last day to withdraw from a course without a "W" posted to your transcript is Jan. 17 in person, by 5:00 PM, or online by midnight.

Section 2:

COURSE CALENDAR

Unit 1: **How to Think About World Politics**

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain the conceptual importance of paradigms in the study of international relations.
- Explain why “all politics is global.”

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 1

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for the following:
 - Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Pakistan.
- *Mapping Exercises:* Review your knowledge of the world’s geography in this online quiz.
- *Practice Test:* Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 1. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.
- *Current Events Quiz:* Complete this week’s current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 2: **Realism and Its Critics**

Learning Outcomes:

- Outline the tenants of the realist paradigm.
- Define and explain the prisoner’s dilemma and the security dilemma.
- Explain and assess the major theoretical critiques of realism (liberalism, constructivism, feminism and neo-Marxism).

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 1

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Simulation:* Complete and submit answers to the review questions for:
 - Why Study International Relations.
- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - Nuclear Disarmament Under the INF Treaty **or**
 - Chamberlain’s Appeasement.
- *Practice Test:* Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 1. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.
- *Current Events Quiz:* Complete this week’s current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 3: **Historical Perspectives: Continuity and Change in World Politics**

Learning Outcomes:

- Define and differentiate between state and nation.
- Explain the historical origins and evolution of the modern state system.
- Compare and contrast collective security and balance of power approaches to foreign policy, and assess the validity of each based on historical experience.
- Explain the structure and origins of the post-World War II international system.
- Evaluate the major challenges of the post-Cold War international system.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 2

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Simulation:* Complete and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - The Prisoner's Dilemma: You are a Presidential Advisor **or**
 - Using Theory: You are the New Prime Minister.
- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - Iraq and Vietnam: An Unfair Comparison
 - "Peace with Honor" in Vietnam **or**
 - The Berlin Blockade.
- *Practice Test:* Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 2. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.
- *Current Events Quiz:* Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 4: **Levels of Analysis**

Learning Outcomes:

- Define the "levels of analysis" problem in international relations.
- Use the levels of analysis to explain a contemporary issue in international relations.
- Explain and evaluate Waltz's argument regarding the nature of the international system and its effect on state behavior.
- Assess the correlation between the grand paradigms and levels of analysis.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 3

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Simulation:* Complete and submit answers to the review questions for:
 - Foreign Policy: You are the President.
- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for the following:
 - The Cuban Missile Crisis.

- *Practice Test*: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 3. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.
- *Current Events Quiz*: Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 5: **The Making of Foreign Policy**

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain how foreign policy is a “two stage process.”
- Explain and critically evaluate the rational actor model of foreign policy decision making.
- Explain and critically evaluate the bureaucratic model of foreign policy decision making.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 3

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Videos*: Watch and submit answers to the review questions for the following:
 - Toppling Hussein.
- *Practice Test*: Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 3. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.
- *Current Events Quiz*: Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 6: **War and Violence: The Realist's World**

No class Oct. 26

Learning Outcomes:

- Compare and contrast the different types of war in the interstate system (interstate wars, extra-state wars, and intrastate wars).
- Explain the origins and historical evolution of total warfare in the modern state system.
- Compare and contrast the explanations for the outbreak of war offered by the major theoretical paradigms.
- Compare and contrast the explanations for peace offered by the major theoretical paradigms.
- Explain the concepts and identify the specific criteria of *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello*.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 4

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Simulation*: Complete and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - Conflict: You are a Strategic Analyst **or**

- Military Force: You are a Military Commander.
- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - Winning the Global War on Terror **or**
 - The Iran-Iraq War.
- *Practice Test:* Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 4. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.
- *Current Events Quiz:* Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 7: **International Law and Organization: The Promise of Liberal Institutionalism**

Learning Outcomes:

- Compare and contrast the major forms of international law.
- Define liberal institutionalism and critically assess its ability to explain the nature of interstate cooperation in the modern world system.
- Evaluate the role of custom and norms in international law.
- Explain the structure, functions, and impact of the International Court of Justice.
- Explain the structure and critically evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations system.
- Assess proposals for reform of the United Nations.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 5

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Simulation:* Complete and submit answers to the review questions for:
 - International Development: You are the Minister of Trade and Finance.
- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - Fair Trade Coffee
 - Opening the Chunnel **or**
 - International Diplomacy at the UN.
- *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.
- *Current Events Quiz:* Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 8: **The Human Rights Revolution**

Learning Outcomes:

- Assess the reasons why some states resist the idea of human rights.
- Explain and critically evaluate cultural relativism argument about human rights.
- Compare and contrast positive and negative rights.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 6

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Simulation:* Complete and submit answers to the review questions for:
 - Human Rights: You are a Refugee.
- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - Reflections on Tiananmen Square **or**
 - Western Arms Sales and the Rwandan Genocide.
- *Practice Test:* Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 6. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.
- *Current Events Quiz:* Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 9: The Construction of International Norms

Learning Outcomes:

- Assess the role of norms in the maintenance of human rights.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the International Criminal Court as a mechanism to protect human rights.
- Assess the effectiveness of efforts to monitor and enforce human rights.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 6

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for the following:
 - The Uncertain Status of Enemy Combatants.
- *Practice Test:* Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 6. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.
- *Current Events Quiz:* Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 10: Economic Globalization: The Consequences of Liberalism

Learning Outcomes:

- Compare and contrast the major theoretical paradigms of global political economy.
- Assess the explanatory power of mercantilism in the contemporary global political economy.
- Define comparative advantage, being sure to differentiate from absolute advantage, and evaluate the role of each in international trade.
- Outline the structures, roles, and functions of the major institutions of the world economy.
- Define globalization and assess its impact.

- Define interdependence.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 7

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Simulation:* Complete and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - Business: You are a Foreign Market Analyst **or**
 - International Trade: You are a Trade Expert.
- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - Preventing Stagflation in the Global Economy
 - Regulating Sushi in the European Union **or**
 - America's Oil Addiction.
- *Practice Test:* Check your comprehension of the concepts presented in the text by taking the practice test for Chapter 7. The online flashcards can also be used to test your vocabulary.
- *Current Events Quiz:* Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 11-1: Transnational Actors and Issues: The State System under Stress

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain and assess the transition from national security to human security.
- Outline the major challenges facing states in the post-Cold War environment.
- Define collective goods and explain their importance in the international system.
- Assess the impact of the internet on global politics.
- Assess the role and power of the state in the current international system.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 8

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Simulation:* Complete and submit answers to the review questions for:
 - Transnational Issues: You are an Environmental Consultant.
- *Videos:* Watch and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - Establishing Carbon Markets **or**
 - Conflict Diamonds and the Kimberley Process.
- *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.
- *Current Events Quiz:* Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.

Unit 11-2: **Global Futures**

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain and critically evaluate the seven futures outlined by Bova (end of history, one world, a world state, war becomes unthinkable, an endangered peace, clash of civilizations, and great-power wars).
- Define global governance.
- Outline the most important challenges facing the global system.
- Compare and contrast offensive and defensive realism.

Readings:

- Bova, Chapter 9

MyPoliSciKit Activities:

- *Simulation*: Complete and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - The North-South Gap: You are a Coffee Farmer **or**
 - Integration: You are a Citizen of Europe.
- *Videos*: Watch and submit answers to the review questions for one of the following:
 - The Mexican Peso Crisis
 - Carteret's Climate Refugees **or**
 - Global Food Prices and Changing Diets.
- *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.
- *Current Events Quiz*: Complete this week's current events quiz to test your knowledge of major international events.