

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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(POLS& 203), Item 5374 A

**BELLEVUE COLLEGE**  
SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION  
Political Science  
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484

Fall 2010 (Sept. 20-Dec. 8)  
MW:<sup>1</sup> 9:30 a.m.-11:20 a.m.  
L-126

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No pre-requisite  
Credits: 5

Office Hours: Posted Online <sup>2</sup>

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

### Course Description

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

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<sup>1</sup>At least one credit hour of this class will be online via Blackboard Vista.

<sup>2</sup> Drop by during office hours for a chat or consultation or contact me to make an appointment.

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 good 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

Careful and active participation in class discussions are critical. You must keep up to date with the required readings, since it will help both in your preparation for examinations and discussions and enhance your understanding of the lectures. Submit all assignments by the due dates, attend class regularly and on time, and participate fully in all discussions, both in-class on online, and group activities. STUDENTS MUST ALSO WRITE SCHEDULED EXAMINATIONS.

**REQUIRED** (Please purchase at the [BCC Bookstore](#):

Duncan, W. Raymond, *et al.* *World Politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Student Choice Edition. (Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin, 2009), ISBN 978-0-547-05634-0.

## SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Students should stay abreast of current affairs via PRI's The World, BBC, Al Jazeera English, Global Policy Forum, and Yale Global Online. Note also that the BC Library has excellent print newspapers for this course, including the *Guardian Weekly*, *Financial Times (London)*, and *Wall Street Journal*. Each week we will pause to discuss relevant current affairs issues. Topics that concern us most are globalization, the world economic crisis, international trade and finance, the UN and EU, climate change, humanitarian issues, food and natural resource insecurity, international terrorism, and so on.

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Case Studies <sup>3</sup>	20%
Mid-term Exam <sup>4</sup>	25%
Online Discussions/Participation	25%
Final Exam	30%

### 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)
Below 50	F	(0.0)

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### **COURSE POLICIES -- PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

This course will normally include short lectures, learner-centered activities/group work, and Blackboard Vista discussion components. 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. Please read carefully the [Procedures and Policies of the Social Science Division](#). Although you are encouraged to study together for exams, discuss and collaborate in other ways, you are always expected to hand in your own individual work. It is very important to 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's Reference Desk in D126 or Academic Success Center in D-204 for assistance. *You won't be penalized for your views but are expected to bring reliable evidence and considered ideas to the table and to be respectful of classmates.*

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<sup>3</sup> Submit written responses to the questions for the TWO Case Studies, under the heading **ANALYZE THE ISSUES**, which can be found at [Wadsworth/Cengage Learning \(http://college.cengage.com/polisci/duncan/world\\_politics\\_sce/1e/resources.html\)](http://college.cengage.com/polisci/duncan/world_politics_sce/1e/resources.html). See Calendar at the online course site.

<sup>4</sup> Week 6, in-class (November 1)--covers topics under Weeks 1-5, inclusive.

## **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

No extensions will normally be given for assignments, except with proof of serious illness or family emergency. Where possible, inform the instructor beforehand *via* telephone or e-mail.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance and timely arrival are expected. Frequent or chronic absence/lateness will affect overall course performance.

## **PARTICIPATION**

You are expected to participate actively in class discussions, including group work, writing exercises and other activities and to raise pertinent questions and comments, keeping in mind the need to be respectful of differences of opinion and to allow others to contribute. *You will not be penalized for your views; however, you are expected to support your points with evidence that is based on reliable sources and generally acceptable in the Social Sciences.*

## **PROBLEMS AND 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](#), B-132, Tel. /TTY Line: (425)564-2498/425. 564-4110.

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## **LIBRARY & OTHER CAMPUS RESOURCES**

Please sign up for a Library Media Center (LMC) tour to discover 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.

**NOTE:** Deadline to withdraw without a "W" posted to transcript is Oct. 1 by midnight (online) or by 5:00 p.m. in person.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Non-Instructional Days:** Oct. 27; Nov. 11, 25-26.

**Classes End:** Fri., Dec. 3.

**EXAMINATION PERIOD:** DEC. 6-8.

# COURSE CALENDAR AND READING GUIDE

*Note:* This is NOT a formal contract. Course content and schedule may change, depending on the progress and needs of students and other extenuating factors. Lectures draw on various sources, including the text, and are intended to complement your own reading. Activities and discussions are adapted from the Duncan *et al.* text and [Between Nations](#).

## **I: INTRODUCTION**

### **Week 1 (Sept. 20-24): Importance of World Politics**

#### **Globalization**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 1; plus [Global Policy Forum](http://www.globalpolicy.org/) [http://www.globalpolicy.org/] and [YaleGlobal Online](http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/global/index.html) [http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/global/index.html]

*Discussion:* Will globalization lead eventually to one-world government?

*Case Study* (TEXT, pp. 27-29): One-World Government

## **II: THEORIES AND CONCEPTS**

### **Week 2 (Sept. 27-Oct. 1): Approaches to World Politics**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 2

*Discussion:* Should states “go it alone” or cooperate with each other?  
(Read: Text, pp. 59-60)

### **Week 3 (Oct. 4-8): Analyzing World Politics**

#### The Issue Analysis Methodology

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 3; plus, read: “Nations & States,” [Global Policy Forum](#).

### **Week 4 (Oct. 11-15): Power in World Politics**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 4

*Discussion:* Will China be the next global hegemon? (Read: Text, pp. 126-29)

### **Week 5 (Oct. 18-22): Foreign Policy**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 5

*Discussion:* How, if at all, does globalization alter states’ approach to their foreign policy? (Read: *Join the Debate*, Text: 156-59)

### **Week 6 (Oct. 25-29): International Organizations**

**Oct. 27: COLLEGE ISSUES DAY—NO CLASS**

*OCTOBER 28: MID-TERM EXAM*

Duncan et al., Ch. 6, 7, plus see [Global Policy Forum](#).

*Discussion:* What are the potential costs and benefits for the United States of membership in the UN? (Read: Text, pp. 196-99)

### **III: CONFLICT AND COOPERATION IN IR**

#### **Week 7 (Nov. 1-5): Global Violence**

Duncan et al., Ch. 10, plus [YaleGlobal Online](#).

*Discussion:* What, if any, are the solutions to international terrorism?

#### **Week 8 (Nov. 8-12): Global Justice–Human Rights**

### **NOV. 11: HOLIDAY—NO CLASS**

Duncan et al., Ch. 11; plus [YaleGlobal Online](#) (Gender) & [Global Policy Forum](#).

*Discussion:* II. Does the international community have a responsibility to protect the victims of human rights violations by governments and others?

### **IV: The Politics of Global Welfare**

#### **Week 9 (Nov. 15-19): The Globalization of Trade/Development**

Duncan et al., Ch. 12, 13, plus [YaleGlobal Online](#) & [Global Policy Forum](#).

*Discussion I:* Do multinational corporations have a significant role in world politics? (Read Text, pp. 397-98)

*Read:* Join the Debate: Can Foreign Aid Help Africa? (Text, pp. 432-33; plus Global Policy Forum, available at [BetweenNations.org](#) and [World Resource Institute](#).

#### **Week 10 (Nov. 22-24; 29-30): Global Environmental Politics**

Ch. 14 (Environment); plus [YaleGlobal Online](#) & [Global Policy Forum](#).

Duncan et al., Ch. 14

*Discussion 2:* How can we best deal with the commons tragedy of global warming? (Read: Text, pp. 469-72)

#### **Week 11 (Dec. 1-3): Review/Conclusions**