

Bellevue College

Social Science Division

Political Science and International Studies

Spring 2011 April 4-June 17)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(POLS& 203)

Item 5373 OAS (*Credits: 5*)

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Note: The instructor will be on line, periodically, each weekday. You may send e-mails overnight or on weekends; however, you may not receive a response until the following business day. Please use the Blackboard-Vista tool for all communication and, except for tutorial quizzes, to submit assignments.

Pre-requisite: None; however an introductory social-science course would be an advantage.

Course Description

This introductory course seeks to identify and analyze the patterns and processes that arise from the interactions of states, international organizations, and the several other actors which comprise our complex and interdependent world. Many of the concerns of this course--from war and peace to currency fluctuations and economic recessions, terrorism to global warming, and the North-South gap to human trafficking--are being shaped by the far-reaching processes of globalization, a theme that runs throughout the course. Although the Cold War is long past, the environment of world politics continues to show both conflict and cooperation, a duality that can only be understood through the lenses of theory and the historical experience. We will treat both these aspects as we tease out the processes that are at work in contemporary IR and treat the specific challenges that we face as a global community in the twenty-first century. Chief among these challenges are international peace and security--including environmental security--global welfare and justice, and resource scarcity.

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 students should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of and apply the basic assumptions, concepts, and approaches of the sub-field of international relations.
- Demonstrate understanding of how the world works using the tools and perspectives of IR, and of the discernible patterns in world politics over time.
- Demonstrated understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and constraints that states and other actors face in seeking to achieve their goals in “anarchic” systems.
- Demonstrate understanding of the role and limits of institutions in global governance
- Demonstrate high-order critical thinking and informed judgments concerning the salient contemporary international issues.
- Demonstrate commensurate analytical, conceptual, writing, and basic social-science research skills.
- Demonstrate global competencies connected to environmental citizenship, gender equality, and the contribution of other cultures and civilizations to human progress and welfare.

Tips to Succeed in this Course

Read the course Syllabus and the other resource materials from the Distance Education Office carefully first, contribute meaningfully to all the weekly discussions, submit assignments according to the Calendar, keep up with current affairs through the recommended supplemental sources below, take full advantage of the teaching and learning resources at the Interactive Student Resource site, which also has other valuable book-specific features and exercises, and pay attention to the periodic Announcements from the instructor: (Read all required chapters and lecture presentations in a timely manner, contribute meaningfully to the weekly discussions, submit all assignments on time, read a recommended newspaper, and consult the teaching and learning resources at the [Student Interactive Resource](#) site, which has additional book-specific features.

Please purchase this text at the [BCC Bookshop](#):

Kegley, Charles W. Jr. & Gregory A. Raymond. *The Global Future: A Brief Introduction to World Politics*, 3rd. edition. (Wadsworth/Cengage Learning 2010), with Passkey, ISBN: 978-1-111-22902-3.

(Note: Discussions draw on this and other instructor resources.)

Supplemental Reading

Students are advised to follow current affairs issues in one or more of these sources:

The Monitor (online), Guardian Weekly, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Economist, Far Eastern Economic Review, The Financial Times (London), and Wall Street Journal. The following will help round out understanding and connect the concepts and theories introduced in the course to real-world situations of power, interests, conflict and cooperation: ***PRI's The World, BBC, Al Jazeera English, and Yale Global Online.*** Give special attention to the current global economic and financial crises, international trade issues, institutions such as the WTO, NAFTA, IMF, and World Bank, IOs (UN and EU), NGOs (Greenpeace and Human Rights Watch, etc.), "commons" issues, incl. global warming, human rights, and terrorism, "hot-spots" such as the Middle East and South Asia, and the Peninsula, the G-8 and G-20, and, of course, great-power politics.

GRADING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

The following weighted distribution will assess how well you have achieved the course objectives. You will be assessed on all of these components.

Weekly Discussions	25%
Four one-page essays	25%
Weekly Tutorial Quizzes	20%
Issue Analysis (Final)	30% ¹

Grading: The following show the grade allocations and corresponding 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)
Below 50 F (0.0)

¹ Students will select and carry out an analysis of an issue of their choice, using the LEVELS OF ANALYSIS methodology. Further guidelines accompany assignment.

COURSE POLICIES (PLEASE read carefully!)

Academic Expectations

All provisions of the BC regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism will apply. All provisions of the BCC regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism will apply--see also [Procedures and Policies of the Social Science Division](#).

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

Campus Support Services

If feasible, please 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](#) is also a handy gateway to other Washington libraries and resources. Also of interest to you may be the [Academic Success Center](#).

Further information about the academic calendar, enrollment, examination schedules, etc. may be found in the Spring 2011 Credit Class Schedule, available on the [BC](#) website.

NOTE: April 15 (midnight, online, or in person, 5:00 p.m.) is the deadline to withdraw without a "W" posted to student transcript

Non-Instructional Day(s): May 30 (Holiday)

CLASSES END TUESDAY, JUNE 14.

Examination Period: June 15-17 (*Note:* Students will submit an Issue Analysis, due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2011. Late submissions cannot be accepted. See Assignments and Calendar for details.

Section 2:

COURSE CALENDAR AND READING GUIDE

(*Note:* This course will normally comprise a discussion series, text-related assignments, essays, quizzes, and other exercises, in addition to the usual PowerPoint presentations and chapter summaries—all of which will enrich the learning experience and meet the course objectives. Course content and schedule may change, depending on the needs of the class, unforeseen events, and other considerations.)

Part 1: TREND & TRANSFORMATION IN WORLD POLITICS

Week 1 (April 4-8): Ch. 1: Exploring Twenty-First-Century World Politics

Week 2 (April 11-15): Ch. 2: Theories of World Politics

Part II: ACTORS IN WORLD POLITICS

Week 3 (May 4-8): Ch. 4: Great-Power Rivalry & the Lure of Hegemony

Week 4 (April 18-22): Ch. 6: Non-state Actors and the Challenge of Global Governance

Part III: THE POLITICS OF GLOBAL SECURITY

Week 5 (April 25-29): Ch. 7: Armed Conflict in the Twenty-First Century

Week 6 (May 2-6): Ch. 8: Military Power & National Security in a Turbulent World

Part IV: GLOBAL WELFARE—TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

Week 7 (May 9-13): Ch. 9: Realist Paths to Peace; and Ch. 10: Liberal Paths to Peace

Week 8 (May 16-20): Ch. 11: The Globalization of World Politics

Week 9 (May 23-27): Ch. 5: Rich and Poor in World Politics

May 30: Holiday—No Class

Week 10 (May 31, June 1-3): Ch. 13: Human Rights and the Quest for Global Justice

Week 11 (June 6-10): Politics of the Global Environment

Ch. 14: Population Dynamics and Global Environmental Politics

Part V: Alternative World Futures

Week 12 (June 13-14)

Ch. 15: Prospects for a New World Order

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