
POL S 203: International Relations

Winter 2011: Mondays and Wednesdays: 9:30-11:20 am: C-168

Instructor: Tim Jones (Please call me “Tim”)

Office: A200B

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, and by appointment

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Course website: <https://go.mybcc.net/classes/5373B013/default.aspx>

(All students should regularly check the course website for announcements)

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and what never will be”

~Thomas Jefferson

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to help you to develop the conceptual and theoretical tools necessary to critically understand and creatively respond to world events. I will be introducing you to the main concepts, perspectives and levels of analysis at the heart of international relations scholarship. In the process, I hope you will come to appreciate how your perspective and level of analysis can both illuminate and obscure understanding. Although we will discuss what is going on around the world, this is more than just a current events course. You will be asked to sort through and develop informed opinions about a variety of issues, including: the causes and consequences of conflict, poverty, globalization, anti-Americanism, respect for human rights, and many other phenomena.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a basic understanding of and appreciation for contemporary international relations.
2. To develop the ability to critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of different international relations perspectives.
3. To develop the ability to think holistically: to see and appreciate different levels of analysis.
4. To develop the ability to synthesize and integrate new information and ideas about international relations.
5. To develop a more informed opinion about some of the more important issues in international relations today.

COURSE POLICIES

This is a college-level course, which means *you are responsible for your own learning*. I will do my best to teach the class in a fun and interesting way, and to assess your learning fairly. I expect you to do your best to complete assignments in a timely and appropriate fashion, to come to class prepared for the day's work, and to actively participate in classroom discussions and activities. Ultimately, *you are responsible for any material*

missed due to absence or lateness so I encourage you to get acquainted with those around you, trade e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers, and make one or more study buddies. Finally, *if you do not understand something you need to take the initiative to find out the answer*—raise your hand, talk to me after class, come to my office, etc. I cannot read minds, so it is up to you to try to seek clarity when it is lacking.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR CLASS DISCUSSIONS

This course involves the discussion of controversial political issues. Remember that reasonable people often disagree. Your challenge and responsibility is to maintain civil discourse. We will achieve this by being respectful of each other and avoiding inflammatory, derogatory and insulting words, phrases and labels. Please note that *all electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom at all times*. This includes cell phones, blackberries, laptops, i-pods/mp3 players, computers, etc. If you need a laptop to take notes, I will need verification. *Students caught using electronic devices will be marked absent and asked to leave class that day*. This may seem like a harsh penalty, but such behavior is not only disrespectful to me, it is also disrespectful to the people around you. Please use your common sense to avoid any other conduct that might distract or offend the instructor or the other students in class. Thank you!

A NOTE ABOUT IDEOLOGY

I have no intention of trying to convert you to my belief system. The issues we will be exploring are often contentious and sometimes there will be no right or wrong answers. That being said, I believe there are good and bad arguments. Good arguments will be entertained in class (i.e. those that are logically sound and supported by the available evidence); bad arguments will not.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS

All assignments must be typed, printed out, stapled, and handed in at the beginning of class. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. If you are going to be absent on the day that an assignment is due it is your responsibility to get a classmate to turn it in for you. All major due dates are indicated: (a) in the attached course schedule and (b) on the calendar on our course website. Because I believe that one of the major lessons that students learn in college is the importance of meeting deadlines, I will not accept any late work unless it has been approved by me BEFORE the date it is due or you can document some sort of emergency. *All assignments turned in late will receive a grade of 0.0*. Likewise, *missed exams will receive a grade of 0.0*. Make-up exams will not be administered unless you receive prior permission from me or you can document some sort of catastrophe (such as being medically unable to take the exam).

GRADE COMPLAINTS

If you wish to formally request a grade change, you must wait at least 24 hours and then turn in a written statement explaining why you feel your assigned grade did not reflect your work based on the grading criteria used. We will then make an appointment to discuss your grade in my office. I will only discuss your grade in my office, and not in class. The statute of limitations for a grade complaint is one week.

DISABILITY RESOURCES

If you are a student who has a disability or a learning challenge and you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. The DRC office is located in B132. The phone number is 425-564-2498, and the website is: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc>. If DRC provides you with documentation indicating that you have a disability that requires academic accommodation, please present that documentation to me at the beginning of the quarter so that we can begin working together as soon as possible to accommodate your needs in this class. The longer you wait to seek accommodation, the more difficult it will be for me to provide that accommodation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating and plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College (http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P_Student_Code_%28Procedures%29.asp).

Such behavior will result in a grade of 0.0 for the assignment/exam in question. Please note that these are serious offences, which can result in possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College and go on your permanent record. If you have questions about academic integrity, please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct and/or come talk to me during my office hours.

ASSIGNED READINGS

The core text for the course is Rourke and Boyer's *International Politics on the World Stage, BRIEF*, 8th Edition. This text is available at the bookstore. Two copies are also available for short-term check out in the library. Supplemental texts will be made available on our class website, which can be accessed via MyBC. To access the supplemental readings click on "Shared Documents" and then "Supplemental Readings." Please note that you are responsible for downloading (and printing) all supplemental readings as they are assigned. For those of you who do not have a printer at home you can print for free in the student computer lab in the N-Building. Please also note that *each reading should be completed before the class session for which it is scheduled*, so that you can participate in any discussion or other classroom activity we do that day. Any material covered by an assigned reading may be included in examination questions, regardless of whether it is specifically discussed in the classroom. If adjustments are made to the reading schedule, you will be informed in class and on our class website. The assigned reading is an important part of this class—if you don't do the reading you are going to find it hard to succeed.

READING PROMPTS

To help you get the most out of the reading, you will be provided with a prompt for nearly every assigned reading in this course. These prompts will be made available at least one class period before the reading is due and they will include a handful of reflection questions as well as a comprehensive list of key concepts. You are expected to engage with these prompts before, during, and after doing the reading. My primary purpose in creating these prompts is to help you focus on what is important in the reading, to help you get ready for our in-class discussions, and to help you prepare for

assignments, quizzes, and exams. I expect everyone to bring a copy of each day's reading prompt to class on the day the reading is due. Please note that ***I will be collecting your prompts at the beginning of every class as a way to keep track of attendance.*** You are encouraged to write answers to the reflection questions that I have provided on the prompts themselves as well as to define the key concepts that I have listed. To give you extra incentive to do so, I will return your prompts to you when you take the midterm and final exams—if you've written a lot on your prompts they are likely to help you with the exams; if you haven't they won't.

KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

Please keep up with current international events. Our discussions in class will frequently touch on current events and it is important that you keep up-to-date on the major international goings-on. Please find a few news sources that work for you (representing different mediums and viewpoints) and make a habit of reading, listening, and/or watching them throughout the quarter. If you have questions about the appropriateness of a particular news source for this class, please ask me sooner rather than later. I suggest that at least one of your sources be a national newspaper such as: the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com), the *Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), or the *Wall Street Journal* (www.wsj.com). I also encourage international sources such as the *BBC* (www.bbc.co.uk) and *Al Jazeera* (<http://english.aljazeera.net>). If you speak another language I encourage you to follow the news in that language and bring that perspective to class.

GRADED WORK

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Attendance | (20 pts) | 5% |
| Participation | (40 pts) | 10% |
| Weekly Journal | (40 pts) | 10% |
| Geography Quizzes | (40 pts) | 10% |
| Policy Memo | (60 pts) | 15% |
| Midterm Exam | (100 pts) | 25% |
| Final Exam | (100 pts) | 25% |
| Total | (400 pts) | 100% |

GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

| Grade | Points | Percentage | Grade | Points | Percentage |
|-------|---------|------------|-------|---------|-------------|
| A | 372-400 | 93-100% | C | 292-311 | 73-77% |
| A- | 360-371 | 90-92% | C- | 280-291 | 70-72% |
| B+ | 352-359 | 88-89% | D+ | 272-279 | 68-69% |
| B | 332-351 | 83-87% | D | 240-271 | 60-67% |
| B- | 320-331 | 80-82% | F | 0-239 | 59% & Below |
| C+ | 312-319 | 78-79% | | | |

ATTENDANCE (20 PTS ~ 5%)

Your presence in class is important as I cover a lot of material in class that cannot be found in the readings. Please note that more than one unexcused absence or late attendance will lower your grade, and continue to do so as you miss more classes. We are scheduled to meet twenty-one times this quarter. One unexcused absence or late arrival will not adversely affect your grade, but ***starting with your second unexcused absence or late arrival you will be docked one point per day***—thus, if you miss or are late to two classes you will receive 19 out of 20 points, if you miss or are late to three classes you will receive 18 out of 20 points, if you miss or are late to four classes you will receive 17 out of 20 points, etc. To excuse an absence or late arrival, you must discuss it with me beforehand, unless it is the result of an emergency. Excused absences include documented doctor's visits, family emergencies, and sometimes work-related issues. If you miss class, you are expected to connect with one or more of your classmates to find out what you missed. I am happy to clarify what you missed during my office hours, but I will only do so after you have checked with at least one of your classmates first.

PARTICIPATION (40 PTS ~ 10%)

This class would be extremely dull if I did all the talking so please do your part to participate. It is impossible for you to participate if you are not in class, but participation is about more than just attendance. You are expected to come to every class having done ALL the assigned reading and homework, and you are expected to contribute to our in-class discussions—even if you are shy. Please come to every class with a pen or pencil, some paper, a copy of the assigned reading, and a copy of that day's reading prompt. It is worth pointing out that ***the BC guideline for homework is two hours outside of class for each hour spent in class!***

***Success Tip:** Don't be shy. Try to participate every day. If you are confused, ask me questions in class, during my office hours, or via email.

WEEKLY JOURNAL (40 pts ~ 10%)

As a supplement to in-class discussion, I would like you to keep a reflective journal this quarter. The primary purpose of this journal is to stimulate your thinking and to serve as a starting point for our in-class discussions. You are responsible for writing approximately one outside-of-class journal entry per week for a total of 10 entries. Each journal entry should be at least fifteen lines in length, typed, single-spaced, with Times New Roman font and one-inch margins. Please keep your journals in a small folder and bring the folder to class every day—I will collect and grade your journals approximately three times during the quarter. Each journal entry is worth four points. All journal entry topics will be announced on Wednesday of each week—both in class and on our class website. Your journal entries need to be completed by the following Monday. Please let me know if you have any questions.

***Success Tip:** Take the journal prompts seriously and keep up with the assigned entries. Make sure you follow the formatting instructions outline above.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZZES (40 pts ~ 10%)

An important part of understanding international relations is being familiar with how the world is divided up politically—in other words, knowing where countries are on a map.

As motivation to expand your knowledge of world geography, nine times throughout the quarter you will be handed a blank map and asked to identify between five and twenty countries on that map. You will not be expected to know the location of every country in the world, but you will be expected to know the major geographic regions and the locations of the most powerful, important, and newsworthy countries in each region. There are nine scheduled quizzes—each one is worth five points—but you only have to complete eight of them for full credit as your lowest graded quiz will automatically be dropped at the end of the quarter. The dates and topics of each quiz are listed below:

Quiz #1: Monday, January 10th (Continents/Oceans)

Quiz #2: Wednesday, January 19th (North/Central America)

Quiz #3: Monday, January 24th (South America)

Quiz #4: Monday, January 31st (Caribbean)

Quiz #5: Monday, February 14th (Western Europe)

Quiz #6: Monday, February 23rd (Eastern Europe)

Quiz #7: Wednesday, February 28th (Africa)

Quiz #8: Wednesday, March 9th (Middle East)

Quiz #9: Wednesday, March 16th (Asia)

INDIVIDUAL POLICY MEMO (60 pts ~ 10%)

As a way to develop your critical thinking and problem-solving skills, you will be writing an individual policy memo to President Obama, which addresses the problem of anti-Americanism. Policy memos—sometimes called “white papers”—are concise, coherent summaries of a public policy problem with a clearly articulated logic for following a particular policy proposal (or solution). Your memo should address the problem of anti-Americanism—a topic we will discuss throughout the quarter. It should be between 2 and 3 pages in length, typed, single-spaced, with Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins. A hard copy of your memo is *due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, March 9th*.

***Success Tip:** Do not wait until the last minute to write your policy memo. Please speak with me ahead of time if you have any questions or need guidance and be sure to proofread for spelling and grammatical errors well in advance of turning in your memo.

MIDTERM EXAM (100 pts ~ 25%)

Your midterm exam will be an *in-class exam held on Monday, February 7th*. It will cover assigned readings, movies, lectures, guest presentations, and major current events related to international relations. The exam will consist of a variety of question types, including: true-false, multiple-choice, identifications, short answer, and essay.

***Success Tip:** Come to class, keep up with the reading, and do not leave your exam preparation for a night-before cram session!

FINAL EXAM (100 pts ~ 25 pts)

Your *final exam will be an in-class exam held on Monday, March 21st*. It will cover assigned readings, movies, lectures, guest presentations, and major current events related to international relations. The exam will likely consist of a series of short answer and essay questions.

POLS 203: International Relations

Tentative Class Schedule

WEEK 1—THINKING AND CARING ABOUT WORLD POLITICS

Monday, January 3rd—Introduction to International Relations (24 pgs)

- Syllabus
- Shenkman: “Gross Ignorance” (pp. 13-36) (24 pgs)

Wednesday, January 5th—Thinking and Caring about World Politics (32 pgs)

- Rourke: “Ch. 1: Thinking and Caring about World Politics” (pp. 1-30) (30 pgs)
- Nau: “The Role of Ethics and Morality” (pp. 15-17) (2 pgs)

WEEK 2—LEVELS OF ANALYSIS/NATIONALISM

Monday, January 10th—Levels of Analysis (31 pgs)

- Rourke: “Ch. 3: Levels of Analysis and Foreign Policy” (pp. 55-79) (25 pgs)
- Postman: “Amusing Ourselves to Death” (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
- Water: “Electronic Isolation Gives Cold Comfort” (2 pgs)
- Geography Quiz #1 (Oceans/Continents)

Wednesday, January 12th—Nationalism/Patriotism (39 pgs)

- Rourke & Boyer: “Chapter 4: Nationalism: The Traditional Orientation” (80-101) (22 pgs)
- Beinart: “The War Over Patriotism” (pp. 1-7) (7 pgs)
- Zinn: “Patriotism” (pp. 111-120) (10 pgs)

WEEK 3—MILITARISM/REALISM

Monday, January 17th—MLK on Militarism (2 pgs)

- NO SCHOOL!
- Solomon: “The Martin Luther King You Don’t See on TV” (pp. 1-2) (2 pgs)
- At-Home Film: *A Call to Conscience* (55 mins)

Wednesday, January 19th—Political Realism (38 pgs)

- Zinn: “Machiavellian Realism and U.S. Foreign Policy” (pp. 9-15) (7 pgs)
- Zinn: “Violence and Human Nature” (pp. 32-47) (16 pgs)
- Mearsheimer: “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power (pp. 60-74) (15 pgs)
- Geography Quiz #2 (North/Central America)

WEEK 4—GLOBALISM/MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

Monday, January 24th—Globalism/Liberalism (52 pgs)

- Rourke & Boyer: “Chapter 5: Globalism: The Alternative Orientation” (pp. 102-130) (29 pgs).
- Sachs: “Common Challenges, Common Wealth” (pp. 3-15) (13 pgs)
- Doyle: “Liberalism and World Politics” (pp. 80-89 (10 pgs)
- Geography Quiz #3 (South America)

Wednesday, January 26th— Power, Statecraft and the National State (39 pgs)

- Rourke: “Ch. 6: Power, Statecraft and the National State” (pp. 131-167) (37 pgs)
- In-Class Film: *Why We Fight* (2004) (99 mins)
- Ledbetter: “What Ike Got Right” (pp. 1-2) (2 pgs)

WEEK 5—SECURITY/CONSTRUCTIVISM

Monday, January 31st— Pursuing Security (41 pgs)

- Rourke: “Ch. 9: Pursuing Security” (pp. 240-280) (41 pgs)
- Geography Quiz #4 (Caribbean)

Wednesday, February 2nd—Constructivism: The Identity Perspective (26 pgs)

- Nau: “The Identity Perspective” (pp. 44-51) (8 pgs)
- Huntington: “The Clash of Civilizations” (pp. 163-169) (7 pgs)
- Said: “The Clash of Ignorance” (pp. 170-173) (4 pgs)
- Nau: “Prisoner’s Dilemma” (pp. 22-28) (7 pgs)

WEEK 6—MIDTERM/ANTI-AMERICANISM

Monday, February 7th— Midterm

- In-class Midterm Exam!

Wednesday, February 9th—The Decline of America’s Reputation (25 pgs)

- Congress: “The Decline in America’s Reputation: Why?” (pp. 1-7) (7 pgs)
- Pew: “Views of the U.S. and American Foreign Policy” (pp. 13-22) (10 pgs)
- Pew: “Views of President Barack Obama” (pp. 25-32) (8 pgs)
- In-Class Film: *The Anti-Americans* (56 mins)

WEEK 7—REVITALIZING BRAND AMERICA

Monday, February 14th—Brand America (Part 1)

- Excerpts from *Brand America*—Page numbers to be announced!
- Geography Quiz #5 (Western Europe)

Wednesday, February 16th—Brand America (Part 2)

- Excerpts from *Brand America*—Page numbers to be announced!

WEEK 8—PRESIDENTIAL RHETORIC/CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Monday, February 21st—President's Day

- NO SCHOOL!!!
- At home film: *War Made Easy* (70 mins)

Wednesday, February 23rd—Civil Disobedience

- Readings to be announced!
- In-Class Film: *The Most Dangerous Man in America* (90 mins)
- Geography Quiz #6 (Eastern Europe)

WEEK 9—IGOS/HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

Monday, February 28th—Intergovernmental Organizations (37 pgs)

- Rourke & Boyle: "Chapter 7: Intergovernmental Organizations: Alternative Governance" (pp. 168-195) (28 pgs)
- Luttwak: "Give War a Chance" (pp. 36-44) (9 pgs)
- Geography Quiz #7 (Africa)

Wednesday, March 2nd—The Debate Over Humanitarian Intervention (21 pgs)

- Power: "Bystanders to Genocide" (pp. 290-310) (21 pgs)
- At Home film: *The Ghosts of Rwanda* (120 mins)
- In-Class Film: *The Devil Came on Horseback* (2007) (85 mins)

WEEK 10—GLOBAL POVERTY/HUMAN RIGHTS

Monday, March 7th—The North-South Economic Divide (59 pgs)

- Rourke & Boyer: "Chapter 10: National Economic Competition: The Traditional Road" (pp. 282-313) (32 pgs)
- Sachs: "Ending Poverty Traps" (pp. 227-252) (27 pgs)
- In-Class Film: *Darwin's Nightmare* (107 mins)

Wednesday, March 9th— International Law and Human Rights (43 pgs)

- Rourke & Boyer: "Chapter 8: International Law and Human Rights" (pp. 207-239) (33 pgs)
- Keck & Sikkink: "Transnational Advocacy Networks" (pp. 279-288) (10 pgs)
- Geography Quiz #8 (Middle East)
- Policy Memos Due in Class!

WEEK 11—TORTURE/ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP

Monday, March 14th—U.S. Torture Policy (44 pgs)

- Mayer: "Outsourcing Torture" (pp. 1-14) (14 pgs)
- Jost: "Interrogating the CIA" (pp. 789-812) (24 pgs)

- Sontag: “Regarding the Torture of Others” (pp. 1-6) (6 pgs)
- In-Class Movie: *Taxi to the Darkside* (2007) (106 mins)

Wednesday, March 16th—Prologue to the Future/Engaged Citizenship (39 pgs)

- Rourke & Boyer: “An Epilogue to the Text/A Prologue to the Future” (pp. 385-386) (2 pgs)
- Loeb: “Introduction” from *Soul of a Citizen* (pp. 1-13) (13 pgs)
- Loeb: “We Don’t Have to Be Saints” from *Soul of a Citizen* (34-57) (24 pgs)
- Geography Quiz #9 (Asia)

WEEK 12—FINAL EXAM

Monday, March 21st—Final Exam

- In-Class Final Exam