

BELLEVUE COLLEGE

SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Political Science and International Studies

Bellevue, WA 98007-6484

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS& 101

COURSE INFORMATION

Item 5350 (Winter 2011, Jan. 3–March 23)

Meets T/Th. 9:30–11:20 a.m., C-168¹

5 credits (see online Catalog)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. T.M. Tate (A-100F)

(425)564-2169

ttate@bellevuecollege.edu

Office Hours: (See Blackboard Course Site)

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 course of this sort take a comparative approach, drawing upon evidence and examples from across our world to illustrate meaning and make generalizations. We begin with an overview of how political scientists study *the political* and explore some of 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 policy making and the exercise of power, political development, and political violence. Political Science is basically an inquiry into what is, what should be (the normative aspect), and what can actually be known about the political world. This course seeks to pose some of the critical questions and to provide the tools to enable you to give informed responses.

¹ One credit hour of this course is online *via* Blackboard Vista.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At course's end, successful students 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

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

This course gives you access to a helpful multimedia and interactive toolkit.

[<http://www.pearsonhighered.com/>] to enable you to understand and connect political concepts. It also contains first-rate case studies, simulations, and newsfeeds to enable you to keep up with current events. Read the required chapter notes and PowerPoint presentations in a timely manner, contribute to the weekly discussions, submit all assignments on time, and stay in touch with current affairs through at least one of the recommended sources below.

WHAT TO READ

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

DANZIGER, **UNDERSTANDING THE POLITICAL WORLD**, Value Pack with Passkey, ISBN: 9780205720934

Supplemental Reading & Listening

Students are encouraged to read one of the following world-class newspaper *as often as possible* to round out their understanding and to connect the concepts and theories in the course to real-world situations. *The Monitor, The Guardian Weekly, The New York Times, the Washington Post, The Economist, Far Eastern Economic Review, Financial Times (London), Wall Street Journal*. Also recommended: PRI's "The World" (<http://www.theworld.org/>); BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>); Al-Jazeera English (<http://english.aljazeera.net/>).

GRADING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

The following weighted distribution will assess how well you have achieved the course objectives.

Weekly On-line Discussions	25%
Class Activities/Participation	25%
Tutorial Quizzes	20%
Final Exam.	30%

GRADING

The following confirm the grade points for this course.

90-100A	(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

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

All provisions of the Bellevue College regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism apply and will be strictly enforced. Please read carefully the *Procedures & Policies of the Social Science Division* in the **Getting Started** folder at the Blackboard Course site. You must follow the standard rules of citation. If you get an idea from any source, you *must* cite the source, even if you do not directly quote from it. This includes online sources. *The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is recommended.* Excellent citation and other help can be found in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers* and the Purdue University Online Writing Lab

(OWL) [<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>]. You may seek assistance from the Library Media Center's Reference Desk (D-126) or the Academic Success Center (D204).

ATTENDANCE/LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Bar cases of serious illness or family emergency, late assignments cannot be accepted. If you are unable to submit an assignment by the due date because of serious illness or family emergency, you must contact the instructor immediately by telephone or call the Division Office (425) 564-2331. In such cases, proof, such as a doctor's note, will normally be required. (*See How to Succeed in this Course above*).

PARTICIPATION

You are expected to participate actively in all courses activities, which may include group work, writing exercises, presentations, etc. You may raise pertinent questions and comments, keeping in mind the basic rules of discourse--respect for diversity of views and allowing others to speak. *You will not be penalized for contrary views; but are expected to support them with reliable evidence that models the methods of the social sciences.*

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.

LIBRARY AND 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 (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/>). Another helpful resource is the Academic Success Center (<http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>). *Please use the Blackboard Course site for all correspondence concerning this course. You are strongly encouraged to get a BC e-mail online or in the N-Bldg., which also houses student computer labs.*

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT A "W" POSTED TO YOUR TRANSCRIPT: JANUARY 14, BY 5 P.M. IN PERSON OR ON-LINE BY MIDNIGHT.

Course Agenda & Reading Guide

*We will endeavor to cover the topic areas listed below, all things being equal. Check the **Announcements** at the course site on a regular basis for any changes or alterations. This schedule is not a legal contract.*

PART I: ON KNOWING THE POLITICAL WORLD

Week 1 (1/3–7): **POLITICS AND KNOWLEDGE**

Danziger, Ch. 1, plus, Appendix (pp. 468–81)

PART II: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Week 2 (1/10–14): **POLITICAL THEORY AND POLITICAL BELIEFS**

Danziger, Ch. 2

Week 3 (1/18–21): **POLITICAL ACTIONS**

Danziger, Ch. 3

January 17 is a Holiday.

Week 4 (4/24–27): **INFLUENCES ON BELIEFS AND ACTIONS**

Danziger, Ch. 4

January 28 is a Non-instructional Day.

PART III: POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Week 5 (1/31; 2/1–4): **STATES AND NATIONS**

Danziger Ch. 5

Week 6 (2/7–11): **POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS I: STRUCTURES**

Danziger, Ch. 6

Week 7 (2/14–18): POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS II: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Danziger, Ch. 7

February 21 is a Holiday.

PART IV: POLITICAL PROCESSES

Week 8 (2/28; 31–4): PUBLIC POLICY, POWER, AND DECISION

Danziger, Ch 9

March 8 is a Non-instructional Day.

Week 9 (3/7, 9–11): CHANGE AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Danziger, Ch 10

Week 10 (3/14–18): POLITICS ACROSS BORDERS

Danziger, Ch 11

SUMMING UP/CONCLUSION

FINAL EXAMINATION: TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 9:30–11:20 A.M.

Social Science Division

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Winter 2011