

# Bellevue College

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Social Science Division  
Political Science Program  
**Fall 2009 (Sept. 21-Dec. 9)**  
*Introduction to Political Science*  
(POLS& 101, Item 5562 – Online)

Credits: 5

Instructor: Dr. Trevor McMorris Tate  
Telephone: (425) 564-2169, E-mail: [ttate@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:ttate@bellevuecollege.edu)

*Contact:* The instructor will be on line, periodically, each weekday. You may send messages overnight or on weekends; however, you may not receive a response until the next business day. ***Please use the Course-specific tools for all assignment and communication.***

## *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, including 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.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

*At the conclusion of this course, 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 (**MyPoliSciKit**: [http://wps.ablongman.com/long\\_danziger\\_mpskupw\\_9/97/24901/6374887.cw/index.html](http://wps.ablongman.com/long_danziger_mpskupw_9/97/24901/6374887.cw/index.html)) 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/>):*

***Understanding the Political World w/POLS Kit***, by James N. Danziger (ISBN 9780558317874)

#### *Supplemental Reading & Listening*

Students are advised to read regularly one of the following world-class newspapers 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 highly recommended are: PRI's "The World" (<http://www.theworld.org/>), and the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>).

### **GRADING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS**

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

Weekly Discussions	25%
Weekly M-C Tests	20%
Bi-Weekly Simulation <u>or</u> Comparative Exercises	25%
Final Research Essay	30%

Grading: The Course grade points are as follows:

90-100 A <sup>+</sup> (4.0)
87-89 A (3.7)
84-86 B <sup>+</sup> (3.3)
80-83 B (3.0)
76-79 B <sup>-</sup> (2.7)
72-75 C <sup>+</sup> (2.3)
68-71 C (2.0)
64-67 C <sup>-</sup> (1.7)
60-63 D <sup>+</sup> (1.3)
50-59 D (1.0)
Below 50 F (0.0)

COURSE POLICIES (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!)

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*Note:* This course will typically comprise various internet activities and quizzes, a discussion forum, and a final research essay during the exam period, all of which are designed to meet the course objectives and enrich the learning experience. You will be assessed on all of these components. Course content and schedule may change, depending on the needs of the class, unforeseen events, and other considerations.

**Academic Expectations**

All provisions of the BC regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism will apply--see also *Procedures & 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 ([www.bellevuecollege.edu/dss](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/dss)), B-132, Tel.: 425.564-2498/TTY Line: 425. 564-4110).

**CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES**

If feasible, 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 ([www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/)) is also a handy gateway to other Washington libraries and resources. You may also be interested in the BC Academic Success Center (<http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>).

*Further information about the academic calendar, enrollment, and examination schedules may be found in the Fall 2009-Credit Class Schedule, available on the BC web page [www.bellevuecollege.edu](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu).*

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WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE: OCT. 2 BY 5:0 P.M. (WITHOUT A "W" POSTED TO TRANSCRIPT) AND NOV. 6, BY 5:00 P.M., IN PERSON OR BY MIDNIGHT, NOV. 8, ON-LINE (WITH A "W" POSTED TO TRANSCRIPT).
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**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS:** Oct. 5, Nov. 11, 26, 27

## Course Agenda and Reading Guide

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### *PART I: ON KNOWING THE POLITICAL WORLD*

Week 1 (9/21-25): Politics and Knowledge

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

### *PART II: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR*

Week 2 (9/28-30 & 10/1-2): Political Theory & Political Beliefs

Danziger, Ch. 2

Week 3 (10/6-9): Political Actions

Danziger, Ch. 3

*Note: 10/5: (No Class)*

Week 4 (10/12-16): Influences on Beliefs and Actions

Danziger, Ch. 4

### *PART III: POLITICAL SYSTEMS*

Week 5 (10/19-23): States and Nations

Danziger Ch. 5

Week 6 (10/26-30): Political Institutions I: Structures

Danziger, Ch. 6

Week 7 (11/2-6): Political Institutions II: Institutional Arrangements

Danziger, Ch. 7

### *PART IV: POLITICAL PROCESSES*

Week 8 (11/9-10 & 12-13): Public Policy, Power, and Decision

Danziger, Ch 9

*Note: 11/11: (No Class)*

Week 9 (11/16-20): Change & Political Development

Danziger, Ch 10

Week 10 (11/23-25 & 30): Politics Across Borders

Danziger, Ch 11

*Note: 11/26, 27: (No Class)*

Week 11 (12/1-4): Whither Politics? Summing Up/Conclusion

Danziger, pp. 464-66.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** EXAMINATION PERIOD IS DEC. 7-9. FINAL RESEARCH ESSAY DUE ANYTIME DURING THIS PERIOD  
BUT NO LATER THAN 8 P.M. ON DEC. 9.

Social Science Division,  
Political Science  
September '09

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