

SECTION I: COURSE OVERVIEW

Bellevue College
Social Science Division
Political Science Program
Spring 2010 (April 5-June 18)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(POLS& 203)
Item 5601 OAS/5602 OAC

Mode: Online

Credits: 5

Instructor: Dr. Trevor McMorris Tate

Telephone: (425) 564-2169

email: ttate@bellevuecollege.edu

Note: The instructor will be on line periodically each weekday. You may send messages overnight or on weekends; however, a response may not be forthcoming until the next weekday. **EXCEPT FOR QUIZZES, PLEASE SUBMIT ALL WORK AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM WITHIN THE COURSE ITSELF.**

Pre-requisite: None; however, Introduction to Political Science (POLSC 101) or similar 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:

- 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 global competencies, such as the contribution of other cultures and civilizations to human progress and security.
-

Tips to Success 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: (<http://politicalscience.wadsworth.com/kegleybrief01/>)

Please purchase this text at the BCC Bookshop: (<http://bcc.collegestoreonline.com/>)

Kegley, Charles W. Jr. & Gregory A. Raymond. *THE GLOBAL FUTURE: A BRIEF*

INTRODUCTION. TO WORLD POLITICS, Third Edition, with Passkey.

Wadsworth/Cengage), ISBN: ISBN is 9781111229023.

(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. Also highly recommended: PRI “The World” (<http://www.theworld.org/>), BBC

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>), and Yale Global Online (<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/>). These 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. 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	30%
Four One-page Essays	20%
Weekly Tutorial Quizzes	20%
Final Research Assignment	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--see also Social Science Division statement. **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) in B-132, Tel.: 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 (www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/) is also a handy gateway to other Washington libraries and resources. Also of interest to you may be the Academic Success Center (www.bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess).

Further information about the academic calendar, enrollment, examination schedules, etc. may be found in the Winter 2010 Credit Class Schedule, available on the BC web page (www.bellevuecollege.edu).

**LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT A “W” POSTED TO YOUR TRANSCRIPT IS
APRIL 16 IN PERSON BY 6:30 P.M. OR ON-LINE BY MIDNIGHT.**

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS: May 31. Classes End: Tuesday, June 15. EXAMINATION PERIOD: JUNE 16-18 (SEE NOTE BELOW)

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 I: TREND & TRANSFORMATION IN WORLD POLITICS

Week 1 (4/5-9): Ch. 1: Exploring Twenty-First-Century World Politics

Week 2 (4/12-16): Ch. 2: Theories of World Politics

PART II: ACTORS IN WORLD POLITICS

Week 3 (4/19-23): Ch. 4: Great-Power Rivalry & the Lure of Hegemony

Week 4 (1/26-30): Ch. 6: Non-state Actors and the Challenge of Global Governance

PART III: THE POLITICS OF GLOBAL SECURITY

Week 5 (5/3-7): Ch. 7: Armed Conflict in the Twenty-First Century

Week 6 (5/10-14): Ch. 8: Military Power & National Security in a Turbulent World

PART IV: GLOBAL WELFARE—TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

Week 7 (5/17-21): Ch. 9: Realist Paths to Peace; and Ch. 10: Liberal Paths to Peace

Week 8 (5/24-28): Ch. 11: The Globalization of World Politics

MAY 31 IS A HOLIDAY—NO CREDIT CLASSES

Week 9 (6/1-4): Ch. 5: Rich and Poor in World Politics

Week 10 (6/7-11): Ch. 13: Human Rights and the Quest for Global Justice

Week 11 (6/14-15): Ch. 14: Population Dynamics and Global Environmental Politics

PART V: ALTERNATIVE WORLD FUTURES

-PLUS SUMMING UP & CONCLUSIONS

Read: Ch. 15: Prospects for a New World Order

IMPORTANT NOTE: EXAMINATION PERIOD IS JUNE 16-18. IN LIEU OF A FINAL EXAMINATION, STUDENTS WILL SUBMIT A RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT (ISSUE ANALYSIS), DUE NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT, THURSDAY, JUNE 17. SEE ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDAR FOR DETAILS. LATE SUBMISSIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

Social Science Division

Political Science

April 2010

End of document