

SECTION 1: COURSE OVERVIEW

Bellevue College
Social Science Division
Political Science Program
Fall 2009 (Oct. 7-Dec. 9)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(POLS& 203)
Item 5602 OL

Mode: Online

Credits: 5

Instructor: Dr. Trevor McMorris Tate
Telephone: (425) 564-2169
E-mail: 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 business day. Except to submit the weekly quizzes, please use the course-specific tools for all related communication or submissions.

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 examines the patterns that inform the international political events and issues in our world today. Many of the concerns of international relations (IR) -- from war and peace to currency fluctuations, global warming and the rights of the child--are being reshaped by what is called globalization; and the actors that help shape those events and issues have grown well beyond states (countries). The international environment in the post-Cold War era shows both conflict and cooperation. These patterns can only be understood fully when looked at through the lenses of theory and enriched by the historical experience. This is the approach of this course. We will treat the main actors and processes that shape contemporary IR and the specific challenges that we face as a global community at the start of a new century. Chief among these challenges and issues are international conflict and global welfare, scarcity, and justice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, learners 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.
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How to Succeed in This Course

Contribute meaningfully to the weekly discussions, submit all assignments on time, keep up with current affairs through the recommended sources below, and consult the teaching and learning resources at the Interactive Student Resource site, which also has other valuable book-specific features and exercises: (<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, Second Edition* (Wadsworth, 2008), ISBN: 0-495-00748-X.

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

Newspaper Reading

Students are advised to follow current affairs issues in one or more of these sources: *The Monitor (online version only)*, *Guardian Weekly*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *The Financial Times (London)*, *Wall Street Journal*, PRI's "The World" (<http://www.theworld.org/>), BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>).

This 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	25%
Bi-Weekly Essays	25%
Tutorial Quizzes	20%
Final Issue Analysis	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)

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).

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

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/academic).

Further information about the academic calendar, enrollment, examination schedules, etc. may be found in the Credit Class Schedule for winter 2009, available on the BC web page (www.bellevuecollege.edu).

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS: Nov. 11, 26, 27

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE: NOV. 8 BY NOON ON-LINE, (WITH A "W" POSTED TO TRANSCRIPT).
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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 contingencies.)

PART I: TREND & TRANSFORMATION IN WORLD POLITICS

Week 1 (10/7-9): Ch. 1: Exploring Twenty-First-Century World Politics

Week 2 (10/12-16): Ch. 2: Theories of World Politics

PART II: ACTORS IN WORLD POLITICS

Week 3 (10/19-23): Ch. 4: Great-Power Rivalry & the Lure of Hegemony

Week 4 (10/26-30): Ch. 6: Non-state Actors and the Challenge of Global Governance

PART III: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, WAR & PEACE

Week 5 (11/2-6): Ch. 7: Armed Conflict in the Twenty-First Century

Ch. 8: Military Power and National Security in a Turbulent World

Week 6 (11/9-13): Ch. 9: Realist Paths to Peace

Ch. 10: Liberal Paths to Peace

PART IV: GLOBAL WELFARE—TRANS-NATIONAL ISSUES

Week 7 (11/16-20): Ch. 11: The Globalization of World Politics

Week 8 (11/23-25): Ch. 5: (IPE) Rich and Poor in World Politics

Nov. 11, 26, 27 (NO CLASS)

Week 9 (11/16-20; 30): Ch. 13: Human Rights and the Quest for Global Justice

PART V: ALTERNATIVE WORLD FUTURES

Week 10 (12/1-4): Prospects for a New World Order

SUMMING UP & CONCLUSIONS

IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS COURSE HAS NO FINAL EXAMINATION. HOWEVER, THERE IS A FINAL RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT (ISSUE ANALYSIS) DUE NO LATER THAN 8 P.M. ON DEC. 9.

Social Science Division,
Political Science
October'09

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