

Course Overview

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(POLSC& 203), Item 5600A

Bellevue College

SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Political Science/International Studies

Bellevue, WA 98007-6484

Spring 2010 (April 5-June 18)

MW:¹ 9:30 a.m.-11:20 a.m.

ROOM. C-168

T.M. Tate, Ph.D. (A-100F)

425.564-2169 (ttate@bellevuecollege.edu)

Office Hours: TBA ²

No pre-requisite

Credits: **5**

Gen-ed. Rating: [See Online Catalog](#)

Course Description

This introductory course examines the key factors and processes that are determining the direction of world politics today. Many of the concerns of international relations (IR), from sovereignty to currency fluctuation, and from global warming to terrorism, are being molded by complex forces of globalization that have grown well beyond the capacity of states and other international actors to control them. As a result, the post-Cold War international environment shows signs of both conflict and cooperation. In this course, we examine the two sides of IR through the lenses of theory and the historical experience in order to discern patterns and draw inferences. We treat the main actors, institutions, organizations, norms, and other forces that are influencing today's world politics, and we analyze the challenges and opportunities that we face as a global community at the start of a new century, chief among them being war and peace, global welfare, resource scarcity and global justice.

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

¹ One credit hour of this class will be online activities/discussion forum using the MyBC tool.

² The instructor encourages consultation during the regular office hours, or by special appointment, and looks forward to a mutually rewarding quarter!

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, successful students will be able to:

- 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 a range of global competencies, including the contribution of other cultures and civilizations to human progress and security.

How to succeed in this course

Careful and active participation in class discussions are critical. You must keep up to date with s, since it will help both in your preparation for exams and discussions, and will make the lectures more understandable. Submit all assignments by the due dates, attend class regularly and on time, and participate fully in all discussions and group activities. **YOU MUST ALSO WRITE BOTH SCHEDULED EXAMINATIONS.**

REQUIRED (Please purchase this special text, with passkey, at the BCC Bookstore (<http://bcc.collegestoreonline.com/>)

Duncan, W. Raymond, *et al.* *World Politics in the 21st Century*, Student Choice Edition w/passkey. (Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin, 2009), ISBN 978-0-547-19519-3)³

³ Passkey access to [BetweenNations](#), which is included with your text, is required to gain access to the Case Studies, video documentaries, interviews, feeds from BBC World, *Washington Post*, and the UN, as well as Yale Global Studies and Global Policy Forum websites.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Students should stay abreast of current affairs via PRI's [The World](#) and the *Washington Post* Daily Newsfeeds, BBC, Global Policy Forum and Yale Global Online, which are all accessible through [BetweenNations](#) gateway. Note also that the BC Library has excellent print newspapers for this course, including the *Guardian Weekly*, *Financial Times (London)*, and *Wall Street Journal*. Each week we will pause to discuss relevant current affairs issues. Topics that concern us most are globalization, the world economic crisis, international trade and finance, the UN and EU, climate change, humanitarian issues, food and natural resource insecurity, international terrorism, and so on.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Case Studies ⁴	20%
Mid-term Exam ⁵	30%
Participation/Group Work	20%
Final Exam	30%

Grade points:

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)

⁴ Submit written responses to the questions under the heading **ANALYZE THE ISSUES** (www.BetweenNations.org) for **FOUR** Case Studies. See Calendar at MyBC for due dates.

⁵ **Week 6, in-class (May 12)--covers topics under Weeks 1-6, inclusive.**

COURSE POLICIES -- PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

This course will normally include short lectures, in-class learner-centered activities/group work, and MyBC discussions. These are designed to enrich the learning experience and meet course learning outcomes.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

All provisions of the Bellevue Community College regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism apply and will be strictly enforced. Please read carefully the attached ***Procedures & Policies of the Social Science Division***. Although you are encouraged to study together for exams, discuss and collaborate in other ways, you are always expected to hand in your own individual work. It is very important to follow the conventions of appropriate citation. If you get an idea from any source, you *must* cite the source, even if you do not directly quote from it. On-line sources must also be properly cited. The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is recommended for this course. Consult the Library Media Center's Reference Desk in D126 or Academic Success Center in D204 for assistance.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

No extensions will normally be given for assignments, except with proof of serious illness or family emergency. Where possible, inform the instructor beforehand *via* telephone or e-mail.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and timely arrival are expected. Frequent or chronic absence/lateness will affect overall course performance.

PARTICIPATION

You are expected to participate actively in class discussions, including group work, writing exercises and other activities and to raise pertinent questions and comments, keeping in mind the need to be respectful of differences of opinion and to allow others to contribute. *You will not be penalized for your views; however, you are expected to support your points with evidence that is based on reliable sources and generally acceptable in the Social Sciences.*

PROBLEMS AND 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 & 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. Another helpful resource is the [Academic Success Center](#). *It is highly recommended that you open a BC e-mail account for all*

communication with the instructor. You may sign up for one in the N-Bldg., where you'll also find a student computer lab.

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT A "W" POSTED TO YOUR TRANSCRIPT IS APRIL 16 IN PERSON BY 5:00 P.M. OR BY MIDNIGHT ON-LINE.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY: MAY 31 (HOLIDAY). EXAMINATION PERIOD IS JUNE 16-18. CLASSES END TUESDAY, JUNE 15. EXAMINATION FOR THIS COURSE IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 9:30-11:20 A.M. IN C-168 (ESSAY FORMAT).

COURSE CALENDAR & READING GUIDE

Note: This is NOT a formal contract; course content and schedule may change, depending on the progress and needs of the class and on other extenuating circumstances. Lectures draw on various sources, including the text, and are intended to complement your own reading. Activities and discussions are adapted from the Duncan et al. text and www.betweenations.org.

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (4/5-9): **Importance of World Politics**
Globalization

Duncan et al., Ch. 1; plus Global Policy Forum & Yale Global Online [BetweenNations.org]

Discussion: Will globalization lead eventually to one-world government?

Case Study (TEXT, pp. 27-29): One-World Government

II: THEORIES AND CONCEPTS

Week 2 (4/12-16): **Approaches to World Politics**

Duncan et al., Ch. 2

Discussion: Should states "go it alone" or cooperate with each other? (Read TEXT, pp. 59-60)

Week 3 (4/19-23): **Analyzing World Politics**

—The Issue Analysis Method

Duncan et al., Ch. 3; plus, read: Nations & States (Global Policy Forum [BetweenNations.org])

Week 4 (4/26-30): **Power in World Politics**

Duncan et al., Ch. 4

Discussion: Will China be the next global hegemon? (Read *TEXT*, pp. 126-29)

Week 5 (5/3-7): Foreign Policy

Duncan et al., Ch. 5

Discussion: How, if at all, does globalization alter states' approach to their foreign policy? (Read *Join the Debate*, *TEXT* 156-59)

Week 6 (5/10-14): International Organizations

Duncan et al., Ch. 6, 7, plus see Global Policy Forum [BetweenNations.org]

Discussion: What are the potential costs and benefits for the United States of membership in the UN? (Read *TEXT*, pp. 196-99)

III: CONFLICT AND COOPERATION IN IR

Week 7 (5/17-21): Global Violence

Duncan et al., Ch. 10, plus Yale Global Online

Discussion: In think-pairs, reflect on the causes of war and on the possibilities of achieving world peace. (Note: This exercise seeks to reinforce theoretical concepts from Chapters 1 and 2. Using the information in these chapters, you are obliged to consider your ideological stance, i.e. realist, neorealist, idealist, structuralist, feminist, etc. We will tease out the strengths/weaknesses of each of the reasons given.)

Discussion: What, if any, are the solutions to global terrorism?

Week 8 (5/24-28): Global Justice--Human Rights

Duncan et al., Ch. 11; plus Yale Global Online (gender) & Global Policy Forum @ BetweenNations.org

Discussion: II. Does the international community have a responsibility to protect victims of human rights abuses by their governments and others?

MAY 31: HOLIDAY—NO CLASS

IV: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (IPE)

Week 9 (6/1-4): The Politics of Global Trade & Finance

Duncan et al., Ch. 12, plus Yale Global Online & Global Policy Forum @ BetweenNations.org

Discussion: Do MNCs make a significant impact in world politics? (Read *TEXT*, pp. 397-98)

Week 10 (6/7-11): Development; Global Environment

Duncan et al., Ch. 13 (Development), Ch. 14 (Environment); plus Yale Global Online & Global Policy Forum [BetweenNations.org]

Duncan et al., Ch. 14

Discussion 1: What factors explain global poverty? Does foreign aid make a difference?

Read: Join the Debate: Can Outside Aid Help Africa? Text, pp. 432-33--plus Global Policy Forum [BetweenNations.org] and [World Resource Institute](http://WorldResourceInstitute.org).

Discussion 2: How can we best deal with the “tragedy” of global warming? (Read TEXT, pp. 469-72)

V: Review/Conclusions

Week 11 (6/14-15):

Preparation: Review key points in the above chapters

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Spring 2010

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal from Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an

accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*