

Bellevue College
Division of Social Sciences
Political Science Program
Summer 2008(6/23-8/06)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(POLS& 203), Item 5620 OAS/5621 OAC
Previously POLSC 103

Section 1: Course Overview

Mode: Online

Instructor: Dr. T.M. Tate

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Contact: The instructor will be on line, periodically, Mon-Th. You may send e-mails overnight and on weekends; however, you may not receive a response until the following business day. Please use the Blackboard-Vista tool for all communication and to submit all work.

Pre-requisite: Introduction to Political Science (POLSC 101) or another introductory social science course would be a definite asset.

Credits: 5

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 are therefore worthy of study in order 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 for 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 be able to:

- understand the basic vocabulary, questions, and approaches to the study of international relations
- draw informed descriptive or causal inferences from the material being studied
- interpret and explain contemporary issues and conflicts in international relations (IR) in light of larger historical factors
- understand the challenges and opportunities that *international anarchy* presents to states and other actors and their available responses
- analyze key concepts and issues in IR, including the state, power, foreign policy, environment, global poverty, human rights, economic development, interdependence, and globalization using its core concepts and theories
- understand and explain the role of institutions, norms and rules in shaping international outcomes
- analyze the major problems and challenges of international relations and grasp their relevance to their lives and experiences
- demonstrate improved research and writing abilities

Secrets to Success

Complete all required readings in a timely manner; submit all assignments by the due dates, attend class regularly and on time, participate fully in class activities and discussions, read a recommended newspaper, and consult the teaching and learning resources at the Interactive Student Resource site

(<http://politicalscience.wadsworth.com/kegleybrief01/>), which includes additional book-specific features and exercises.

Course Textbooks - REQUIRED

Please purchase these TWO texts at the BCC Bookstore:

- THE GLOBAL FUTURE: A BRIEF INTRO. TO WORLD POLITICS, FIRST EDITION. WC/D (ISBN 0-495-00748-X);
- ESSENTIAL READINGS IN WORLD POLITICS, THIRD ED. (ISBN 0-393-93114-3)

Note: The discussions draw mainly on these two required texts.

Newspaper Reading

In addition to the texts, you are encouraged to read one of the following world-class newspapers at least 3 times per week, to help round out your understanding by seeing how the concepts and theories you are learning may apply in real-world situations where power, interests, conflict and order intertwine: *Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *Financial Times (London)*, or *Wall Street Journal*. Student print subscriptions are available for most of these, and they may also be available on-line. Each week, we will pause to review a lead issue in world politics.

WHAT TO READ: Issues related to international security, U.S. foreign policy, economic integration (WTO, NAFTA, APEC, Mercosur, CAFTA, CARICOM, etc.), inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) such as the United Nations, European Union, OPEC, and OAS; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Global Watch, Asia Watch, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF); and global warming, human rights, terrorism; and other “commons” issues.

Grading Criteria and Standards

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

Weekly discussions	25%
Weekly essays	25%
Internet exercises	20%
Quizzes	10%
Research paper	20%

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!

This course will consist of Internet exercises, essay questions, activities, and quizzes, and a 4-5 page research essay--all designed to meet the course objectives and enrich the learning experience. You will be assessed on all of the above components of the course.

- **Academic Expectations**

All provisions of the BCC regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism will apply; see also Social Science Division statement. **Basic Rules for all Written Assignment:** 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 or endnotes and bibliography. *Recommended--A Manual for Writers of Term Papers*, by Kate Turabian.

- **Disability Resources**

If you require accommodation based on a documented disability or have emergency medical information to share, please contact the instructor right away. To find out about becoming a DRC student, contact the BCC Disability Resource Center (DRC) Offices at 425.564-2498 or go in person to Room B132.

- **Campus Support Services**

If you are on campus, please sign up for a Library tour to learn how to find collections, books, journals, abstracts, audio and videotapes, in addition to other resources that could be very useful for this and other courses. BCC has both Learning and Writing Labs that can help you to succeed. The BCC library is easily accessible on-line, and there are links to several other Washington libraries and resources (<http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/lmc/>).

- **NOTE:** Last day to withdraw without a “W” on your transcript is July 3 by midnight, online or in person by 6:30 p.m.

Further information about the academic calendar, enrolment, examination schedules, etc. may be found in the Credit Class Catalogue for Summer 2008, available on the BCC web page or in the Student Services Bldg.

Section 2: COURSE CALENDAR

Note: Course content and schedule may change, depending on the needs of the class and other considerations.

Week 1 (June 23 - 27): Part 1: *TREND & TRANSFORMATION IN WORLD POLITICS*

Kegley & Raymond: Ch. 1: Exploring Twenty-First-century World Politics

Ch. 2: Theories of World Politics

Mingst & Snyder: Ch. 1

Week 2 (June 30 – July 3): Part II: *THE ACTORS IN WORLD POLITICS*

Kegley & Raymond: Ch. 4: Great-Power Rivalry & the Lure of Hegemony

Ch. 6: Non-state actors and the challenge of global governance

Mingst & Snyder: Ch. 4, 5 & 7

Week 3 (July 7 - 11): Part III: *GLOBAL PEACE & SECURITY*

Kegley & Raymond: Ch. 7: Armed Conflict in the Twenty-First Century

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

Mingst & Snyder: Ch. 2, 8 & 6 (selection by Mueller)

Week 4 (July 14 - 17): ***CONTENDING PERSPECTIVES***

Kegley & Raymond: Ch. 9: Realist Paths to Peace
Ch. 10: Liberal Paths to Peace

Mingst & Snyder: Ch. 3

Week 5 (July 21 - 24): ***Part IV: GLOBAL WELFARE-TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES***

Kegley & Raymond: Ch. 11: The globalization of World Politics
Ch. 5: Rich & Poor in World Politics

Mingst & Snyder: Ch. 9 (selections by Milner, Wolf, and Naim)

Week 6 (July 28 – 31): ***GLOBAL JUSTICE: ISSUES OF “THE COMMONS”***

Kegley & Raymond: Ch. 13: Human Rights and the Quest for Global Justice
Ch. 14: The Preservation of the Global Environment

Mingst & Snyder: Ch. 10

Week 7 (August 4 - 6): ***Part V: ALTERNATIVE WORLD FUTURES***

Kegley & Raymond: Ch. 15: Prospects for a New World Order

Summing up & Conclusions

Note: August 6 is both the end of the quarter and quarter finals—where applicable.