

# POLS& 203: International Relations

Bellevue College, Winter 2017 (Item 5361)

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## COURSE DETAILS

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Class Sessions:</b> | M-Th/Hybrid   11:30AM – 12:20PM   L220 |
| <b>Instructor:</b>     | David Spataro, PhD                     |
| <b>E-mail:</b>         | david.spataro@bellevuecollege.edu      |
| <b>Phone:</b>          | (425) 564-3161                         |
| <b>Office:</b>         | D200E                                  |
| <b>Office Hours:</b>   | M, W, Th 1 – 2:45 PM<br>By Appointment |

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

I designed this course to introduce students to the conceptual tools that political scientists use to analyze the international state system (“state system”). The course will introduce the two major conceptual frameworks in international relations (IR) and the most significant critical alternative frameworks. Throughout the class, we will develop the knowledge to describe and explain: the workings of the state system, the forms of power and authority within the state system, the conflicts and political violence that arise (including war and terrorism), the forms of cooperation and interdependence that exist in the political and economic spheres, and the role of citizens/residents and other non-state actors in influencing world politics.

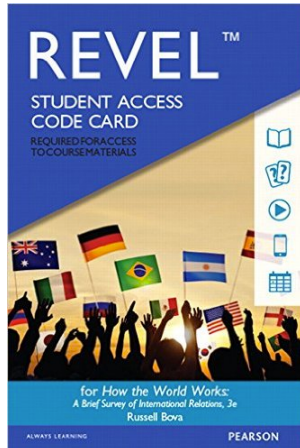
## LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this class, students should be able to:

1. Apply core concepts in international relations, such as power, anarchy, conflict, cooperation, globalization, interdependence, and sustainability.
2. Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of major international relations perspectives such as Liberalism and Realism as well as secondary perspectives such as Constructivism, Feminism, and Marxism.
3. Differentiate major global actors, including states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, individuals, and transnational advocacy networks.
4. Express informed opinions about issues of global importance, such as global warming, interstate and intrastate conflict, global inequality, and international human rights.

5. Articulate the paradox and dilemma of global citizenship and demonstrate basic competencies in the realm of advocacy.
6. Identify the geographic locations of the United Nations' member states.

## BOOKS AND REQUIRED MATERIAL



The required textbook is the online version of *How the World Works: A Brief Survey of International Relations 3e*, by Russell Bova. Students can purchase access to the online text at the campus bookstore or directly online. Students may access the textbook immediately online for free for a two-week period prior to purchasing access. Other required readings and audio/visual materials will be available on our Canvas website.

## GRADED WORK

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| Reading Notes            | 10%  |
| Geography Quizzes        | 15%  |
| Midterm                  | 20%  |
| Blog Assignment (Hybrid) | 25%  |
| Final Exam               | 30%  |
| Total                    | 100% |

|                |           |          |           |           |           |
|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Grading Scale: |           | <b>A</b> | 92 - 100% | <b>A-</b> | 90 - <92% |
| <b>B+</b>      | 88 - <90% | <b>B</b> | 82 - <88% | <b>B-</b> | 80 - <82% |
| <b>C+</b>      | 78 - <80% | <b>C</b> | 72 - <78% | <b>C-</b> | 70 - <72% |
| <b>D+</b>      | 68 - <70% | <b>D</b> | 60 - <68% | <b>F</b>  | <60%      |

**Reading Notes:** Students are required to hand in their notes from the assigned readings at the beginning of class each day. Five times during the quarter, I will grade the reading notes and use the top four scores to calculate the final grade. Students who turn in their reading notes on time may use their notes on the tests (quizzes excluded).

**Geography Quizzes:** On Mondays (except midterm week) there will be a short geography quiz. There will not be a quiz on weeks in which we do not have Monday class.

**Midterm:** The midterm will be a multiple choice test covering the first half of the course content. The midterm grade includes a post-midterm test reflection worksheet, which each student must complete.

**Blog Assignment (Hybrid):** Students will create a WordPress blog (self-published online content) focusing on a major international issue. Students's blog posts will be the foundation for the hybrid portion of the classes, which will involve online group work analyzing and critiquing blog posts.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be a multiple choice test covering the second half of the course content. The final exam grade includes a post-final test reflection worksheet, which each student must complete.

## **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

\*These policies may apply differently to students with DRC accommodations. I will be working with all students individually to meet their accommodations.

- **No shaming, no judging:** This classroom is a “no shaming, no judgment zone.” It is important that everyone contributes and that everyone is accountable to class policies. But we will not be shaming or looking negatively upon others for mistakes, for their political beliefs, or for any other reason.
- **Collective Structure:** This class is based upon a model of cooperation and collaboration. There are two primary reasons for this class structure. Firstly, students who develop strong community bonds in college tend to succeed. Secondly, social scientists find that participation in cooperative groups builds “social capital”—a term for hard-to-measure human capacities involving trust and one's ability to collaborate. All areas of life—including employment, family, community, and politics—involve working together. The development of human capital greatly influences the efficacy of social groups. Thus we will model this behavior in an authentic manner in the classroom. Everyone in class wishes to succeed, and everyone can participate in making that goal a reality.
- **Late work/absences:** If you are having significant health or personal issues that prevent you from completing your work on time, please contact me directly about an individualized plan. I will work with you so that you can make up the content and assignments you missed. However, if you miss a deadline due to other reasons, I will use the following late policy automatically (you do not need permission from me for these policies). **Quizzes:** If you miss a quiz you may make it up during my office hours the same week only. **Reading Notes:** If you have to miss class but wish to submit your reading notes, you

may do so electronically before the time class starts. Otherwise, I will not except reading notes late. This assignment is designed to promote and reward consistent reading/notetaking. The lowest reading notes grade will be dropped, so all students have an automatic freebie. **Blog Assignment:** You may turn in late blog assignments for 85% of the grade for up to one week.

- **English Second (or more) Language Students:** If English is your second language, you may use a translation dictionary during tests. The dictionary must be a book not an electronic dictionary and it must be approved prior to the test. If English is a second (or third or fourth) language, I encourage you to talk with me directly so that we can make sure the learning environment works for you.
- **Electronics Policy:** At the beginning of class please turn off your phone and put it away. Laptops are allowed for note-taking only. Students who use their laptops for notes must first meet with me during my office hours, and submit their class notes to me electronically at the end of each week. This is so that I know that you are using your laptop for note-taking only. If at any point you feel that you need to use your device(s) for communications, please quietly get up and do so outside. I do not allow recording of any audio or video in the classroom.
- **Academic integrity:** Cheating and plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2050/>. I will report all instances of cheating/plagiarism to the campus Behavioral Intervention Team.
- **Communicating with me:** I encourage you to communicate with me a lot and in a way that works best for you. I will be answering your messages swiftly. However, if I do not answer your inquiry in about a day, you should feel comfortable to follow up. Please do not worry about offending or annoying me.

## **CLASSROOM LEARNING ATMOSPHERE**

### **Affirmation of Inclusion**

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the

college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

### **Religious Holidays**

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance will be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. Please provide me with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term.

### **College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)**

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

### **IMPORTANT RESOURCES/SERVICES**

#### **Disability Resource Center – B132**

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. Please visit the office or website for application information and other helpful links: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>.

#### **Multicultural Services – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of B building (above the bookstore)**

Multicultural Services (MCS) is a student-centered service program on campus. MCS is a broad program that can assist students with tutoring in Math and English as well as help students locate community resources such as food and housing assistance. Please familiarize yourself with MCS by stopping by or visiting: [bellevuecollege.edu/mcs/](http://bellevuecollege.edu/mcs/).

#### **Counseling Center – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of B building (above the bookstore)**

The Counseling Center provides personal, career, and academic counseling for all registered BC students. Please familiarize yourself with the services offered by the counseling center by stopping by or visiting: [bellevuecollege.edu/counseling/](http://bellevuecollege.edu/counseling/)

| <b>WK</b> |                                       | <b>DATE</b> | <b>READINGS &amp; ASSIGNMENTS</b>   |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1         | The Realist Framework                 | 01.02       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Class</li> </ul>  |
|           |                                       | 01.03       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Reading</li> </ul>  |
|           |                                       | 01.04       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bova 1 Introduction (Revel)</li> <li>Bova 1.1 (Revel)</li> <li>Quiz 1.1 (Revel)</li> <li>Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>   |
|           |                                       | 01.05       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bova 1.2 (Revel)</li> <li>Quiz 1.2 (Revel)</li> <li>Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>  |
|           |                                       | 01.06       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NO CLASS &amp; No Hybrid Assignment</li> </ul>   |
| 2         | Alternatives to the Realist Framework | 01.09       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bova 1.3 (Revel)</li> <li>Quiz 1.3 (Revel)</li> <li>Bova 1 Conclusion (Revel)</li> <li>Enloe p. 83-96 (Canvas PDF)</li> <li>Reading notes due in class</li> <li>Geography quiz #1 in class</li> </ul>                  |
|           |                                       | 01.10       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enloe p. 96-108 (Canvas PDF)</li> <li>Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>  |
|           |                                       | 01.11       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enloe p. 108-124 (Canvas PDF)</li> <li>Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>   |
|           |                                       | 01.12       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bova 2 Introduction (Revel)</li> <li>Bova 2.3 (Revel)</li> <li>Quiz 2.3 (Revel)</li> <li>Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>   |
|           |                                       | 01.13       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due</li> </ul>   |
|           |                                       | 01.16       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NO CLASS: MLK Holiday</li> </ul>   |
| 3         | Periods in the State System           | 01.17       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bova 2.4 (Revel)</li> <li>Quiz 2.4 (Revel)</li> <li>NPR on "Break the Silence" (Web) <a href="http://n.pr/2j10yYo">http://n.pr/2j10yYo</a></li> <li>Berman (Canvas PDF)</li> <li>Reading notes due in class</li> </ul> |
|           |                                       | 01.18       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bova 2.5 (Revel)</li> <li>Quiz 2.5 (Revel)</li> <li>Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>  |
|           |                                       | 01.19       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bova 2.6 (Revel)</li> <li>Quiz 2.6 (Revel)</li> <li>Bova 2 Conclusion (Revel)</li> <li>Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>   |
|           |                                       | 01.20       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due</li> </ul>   |

|   |                    |       |   |
|---|--------------------|-------|---|
| 4 | Levels of Analysis | 01.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bova 3 Introduction (Revel)</li> <li>• Bova 3.1 &amp; 3.2 (Revel)</li> <li>• Quiz 3.1 &amp; 3.2 (Revel)</li> <li>• Reading notes due in class</li> <li>• Geography quiz #2 in class</li> </ul> |
|   |                    | 01.24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mearsheimer &amp; Walt – 1<sup>st</sup> Half (Canvas PDF)</li> <li>• Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>   |
|   |                    | 01.25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mearsheimer &amp; Walt – 2<sup>nd</sup> Half (Canvas PDF)</li> <li>• Chomsky (Canvas PDF)</li> <li>• Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>   |
|   |                    | 01.26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bova 3.3 (Revel)</li> <li>• Quiz 3.3 (Revel)</li> <li>• Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>  |
|   |                    | 01.27 | • NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due   |
|   |                    |       |   |
| 5 | War and Violence   | 01.30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bova 4 Introduction (Revel)</li> <li>• Bova 4.1 (Revel)</li> <li>• Quiz 4.1 (Revel)</li> <li>• Reading notes due in class</li> <li>• Geography quiz #3 in class</li> </ul>                     |
|   |                    | 01.31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bova 4.2 (Revel)</li> <li>• Quiz 4.2 (Revel)</li> <li>• Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>  |
|   |                    | 02.01 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bova 4.3 (Revel)</li> <li>• Quiz 4.3 (Revel)</li> <li>• Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>  |
|   |                    | 02.02 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bova 4.4 (Revel)</li> <li>• Quiz 4.4 (Revel)</li> <li>• Bova 4 Conclusion (Revel)</li> <li>• Reading notes due in class</li> </ul>   |
|   |                    | 02.03 | • NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due   |
|   |                    |       |   |
| 6 | Midterm Week       | 02.06 | • No readings, no quiz  |
|   |                    | 02.07 | • Midterm part #1   |
|   |                    | 02.08 | • Midterm part #2   |
|   |                    | 02.09 | • NO CLASS: College issues day  |
|   |                    | 02.10 | • NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due   |