

# POLS& 101: Intro to Political Science

Bellevue College, Winter 2017 (Item 5341)

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## COURSE DETAILS

<b>Class Sessions:</b>	T/Th/Hybrid   9:30 – 11:20AM   L221
<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 By Appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

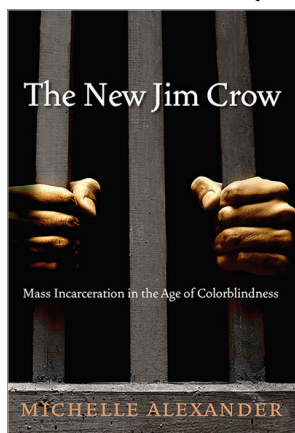
This is an introductory course that is designed for students who are new to the study of politics. The purpose of this course is to provide you with a broad introduction to the field of political science and to help you to sort through and develop informed opinions about a variety of political topics. Some of the topics of study include: Power, Sovereignty, Authority, Liberal Democracy, *the State*, the *Carceral State*, Citizenship, Settler Colonialism, Immigration, Exclusion, Resistance, Political Economy, Capitalism, Neoliberalism, and Socialism.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

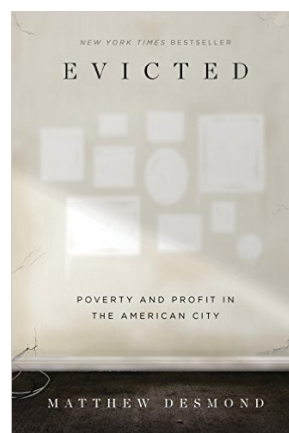
After completing this class, students should be able to:

1. Critically analyze current political issues;
2. Articulate the rights and responsibilities of democratic citizenship;
3. Constructively engage in the political process;
4. Apply core political science concepts to the real world;
5. Differentiate the major sub-fields of political science;
6. Explain the significance of the scientific method in political science.

## BOOKS AND REQUIRED MATERIALS



Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (The New Press, 2012)



Matthew Desmond's *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (Crown Publishers, 2016)

Students can purchase the required books at the campus bookstore or online. Other required readings and audio/visual materials will be available on our Canvas website. I encourage all students to find the most appropriate reading method that works for you. BC students have a printing quota each quarter, but this quota is not likely to be sufficient for all the materials and assignments for every class. I suggest that residents of King County patronize the King County library system, which provides patrons with 75 'units' of free printing per week.

### **GRADED WORK (SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT)**

Reading Notes					10%
Hybrid Assignment					15%
Midterm					20%
Final Exam					30%
Political Essay/Political Pamphlet					25%
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.

**Hybrid Assignment:** This is a hybrid course, which means that a portion of our course happens online. The hybrid part of the course requires that students assess and criticize arguments on political topics. Students will use Canvas discussion boards for this assignment.

**Midterm and Final Exam:** There will be two content tests during the quarter, which are designed to assess your conceptual knowledge and reading comprehension. Following the midterm, students are required to complete a post-test reflection worksheet.

**Essay/Political Pamphlet:** In this class you will write a 1500-word essay on a political topic using a combination of personal reflection and political analysis.

## 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 the principles of cooperation and collaboration. Students who develop strong community bonds in college tend to succeed. Additionally, 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). **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. **Other Assignments:** You may turn in your hybrid and essay 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/)

WK	DATE	TOPICS	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	01.03	Power & Politics	No Reading
	01.05		Tobocman: 112-119 (Canvas PDF) hooks: 1-8 (Canvas PDF)
	01.06		<b>NO CLASS: No Hybrid Assignment</b>
2	01.10	Territory, Sovereignty, Authority, Liberal Democracy & Institutional Arrangements	Danziger: 111-115, 121-128 (Canvas PDF) Danziger: 163-175 (Canvas PDF)
	01.12		Alexander: 1-19 (Required Book)
	01.13		<b>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight</b>
3	01.17	MLK Week Exclusion, Resistance, & Backlash	King, Jr.: 1-6 (Canvas PDF) Alexander: 20-30 (Required Book) Kelley: 55-75 (Canvas PDF)
	01.19		Alexander: 30-58 (Required Book)
	01.20		<b>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight</b>
4	01.24	Constitutional Rights, Racial State & Carceral State	Alexander: 59-74 (Required Book) Alexander: 84-93 (Required Book) NPR: <a href="http://n.pr/2c6DEx9">http://n.pr/2c6DEx9</a> (Web) John Oliver: <a href="http://bit.ly/2cRDjy8">http://bit.ly/2cRDjy8</a> (Web)
	01.26		Alexander: 97-112 (Required Book) Alexander: 123-130 (Required Book)
	01.27		<b>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight</b>
5	01.31	Citizenship & Belonging	Alexander: 130-172 (Required Book)
	02.02		Pager: 937-962 (Canvas PDF)
	02.03		<b>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight</b>
6	02.07	Midterm Week	<b>Midterm exam</b>
	02.09		NO CLASS: College Issues Day
	02.10		<b>NO CLASS: No Hybrid Assignment Due</b>
7	02.14	Political Economy & Capitalism	Danziger: 199-207, 211-222 (Required Book) Conservative Poverty Research: TBD
	02.16		Desmond: 1-5 (Required Book)

	02.17		Desmond: 9-19 (Required Book)
			<b>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight</b>
8	02.21	Public/Private, De-industrialization & Neoliberalism	Baker: 1-28 (Canvas PDF)
	02.23		Desmond: 20-31 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 32-43 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 44-52 (Required Book)
	02.24		<b>NO CLASS: Rough Draft of Essay Due Friday Midnight</b>
9	02.28	Gender, Class, Social Policy, & Criminalization of Poverty	Desmond: 53-63 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 64-79 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 80-93 (Required Book)
	03.02		Desmond: 94-107 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 135-143 (Required Book)
			NLCHP: 12-26 & 30-34 (Canvas PDF)
	03.03		<b>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight</b>
10	03.07	Socialism & Social Democracy	<b>NO CLASS</b>
			Desmond: 144-157 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 167-176 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 177-185 (Required Book)
	03.09		Desmond: 186-196 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 215-226 (Required Book)
	03.10		<b>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight</b>
11	03.14	Wrap-up & Review	Desmond: 227-233 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 242-252 (Required Book)
			Desmond: 293-313 (Required Book)
	03.16		No Reading
	03.17		<b>NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight</b>
12	03.20		<b>Final Essay Due 5PM</b>
	03.21		<b>Final Exam In Class at 9:30 AM</b>
			<b>Political Pamphlet/Zine Due</b>