

Bellevue College

Social Science Division
Political Science Program
Spring 2009 (4/01-6/18)
Introduction to Political Science
(POLS& 101, Item 5562 – Online)

Credits: 5

Instructor: Dr. Tate

Contact: The instructor will be on line, periodically, each weekday. You may send e-mails overnight or on weekends; however, you may not receive a response until the next business day. *Please use the Blackboard-Vista tool for all communication and to submit assignments, as applicable.*

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Course Description

This course provides a basic, yet broad, introduction to political science. Given the complex and interdependent character of twenty-first century politics, it is fitting that an introductory course of this sort take a comparative approach, drawing upon evidence and examples from across our world to illustrate meaning and make generalizations. We begin with an overview of how political scientists study *the political* and explore some of the core concepts that form the language of analysis within the discipline. We then apply this knowledge to politics at the individual and group levels. Next, we look at how political institutions are organized and the dynamics of key political processes, such as public policy making and the exercise of power, political development, and political violence. Political Science is basically an inquiry into what is, what should be (the normative aspect), and what can actually be known about the political world. This course seeks to pose some of the critical questions and to provide the tools to enable you to give informed responses.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the conclusion of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Understand what is the political and the sources of political knowledge
- Understand the basic language and concepts of politics, among them power, authority, legitimacy, beliefs, interests, and political culture
- Make informed, accurate judgments about the value disagreements that occur within politics
- Understand and appreciate the modes of operation of governmental institutions, structures, and processes within in different social and cultural contexts
- Understand how to undertake basic political analysis using the concepts, methods, and approaches pertinent to the discipline of political science
- Demonstrate improved research, writing, and critical-thinking skills

How to Succeed in This Course

This course gives you access to a helpful multimedia and interactive toolkit to enable you to understand and connect political concepts. It also contains first-rate case studies, simulations, and newsfeeds to enable you to keep up with current events. Read the required chapter notes and PowerPoint presentations in a timely manner, contribute to the weekly discussions, submit all assignments on time, and stay in touch with current affairs through at least one of the recommended sources below. (Website: <http://wps.ablongman.com/>)

WHAT TO READ

The course readings, activities, and assignments are drawn from this packaged text, which you may purchase at the BCC Bookstore (:<http://bcc.collegestoreonline.com/>)

Danziger, James N. (2009), Ninth Edition, *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*, New York: Pearson Longman, ISBN **0558087892**

Supplemental Reading & Listening

Students are encouraged to read one of the following world-class newspaper *as often as possible* to round out their understanding and to connect the concepts and theories in the course to real-world situations: *The Monitor, The Guardian Weekly, The New York Times, the Washington Post, The Economist, Far Eastern Economic Review, Financial Times (London), Wall Street Journal*. Also highly recommended are: PRI's "The World" (<http://www.theworld.org/>), and the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>).

GRADING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

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

Weekly Discussions	25%
Weekly M-C Tests	20%
Bi-Weekly Simulation/Comparative Exercises	25%
Final Research Essay	30%

Grading: The following confirm the 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!)

Note: This course will typically comprise various internet activities and quizzes, a discussion forum, and a final research essay during the exam period, all of which are designed to meet the course objectives and enrich the learning experience. You will be assessed on all of these components.

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 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).

CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES

If feasible, 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. You may also be interested in BC's 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: April 23, May 8, and May 25 (holiday)

THE EXAMINATION PERIOD IS JUNE 16-18. NOTE: THIS COURSE HAS NO FINAL EXAMINATION BUT THE FINAL RESEARCH ESSAY WILL BE DUE AT THIS TIME.

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT A "W" POSTED TO YOUR TRANSCRIPT IS APRIL 14, IN PERSON, BY 6:30 P.M., OR BY MIDNIGHT, ON-LINE.

Course Agenda & Reading Guide

PART I: ON KNOWING THE POLITICAL WORLD

Week 1 (4/1-3): Politics and Knowledge

Danziger, Ch. 1, plus, Appendix (pp. 468-81)

PART II: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Week 2 (4/6-10): Political Theory and Political Beliefs

Danziger, Ch. 2

Week 3 (4/13-17): Political Actions

Danziger, Ch. 3

Week 4 (4/20-24): Influences on Beliefs and Actions

Danziger, Ch. 4

Note: 4/24: Prof. Dev. Day (No Class)

PART III: POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Week 5 (4/27-30; 5/1): States and Nations

Danziger Ch. 5

Week 6 (5/4-7): Political Institutions I: Structures

Danziger, Ch. 6

Note: 5/08: College Issues Day (No Class)

Week 7 (5/11-15): Political Institutions II: Institutional Arrangements

Danziger, Ch. 7

PART IV: POLITICAL PROCESSES

Week 8 (5/18-22): Public Policy, Power, and Decision

Danziger, Ch 9

Note: 5/25: Holiday (No Class)

Week 9 (5/26-29): Change and Political Development

Danziger, Ch 10

Week 10 (6/1-5): Politics Across Borders

Danziger, Ch 11

Week 11 (6/8-12): Political Violence

Danziger, Ch 12

Week 11 (6/15): Whither Politics? Summing Up/Conclusion

Danziger, pp. 464-66.

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Social Science Division, April 09