

## COURSE OVERVIEW

### **BELLEVUE COLLEGE**

Political Science Program  
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484

**OFFICE HOURS: SEE THE MYBCC COURSE SITE**

**Social Science Division**

Spring 2009 (4/01-6/18)

M-F:<sup>1</sup> 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

**ROOM.L-124**

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(POLSC& 203), Item 5600A

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**Office Hours:** TBA <sup>2</sup>

*No pre-requisite*

**Credits: 5**

*Gen-ed. rating:* See 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 of responsibility in various fields. The more aware and knowledgeable you are about our major problems,

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<sup>1</sup> One credit hour of this class will comprise online activities using the MyBCC tool, thus we will not meet in class on Fridays.

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

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 global competencies, such as 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (2009), Student Choice Edition.  
(Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin), ISBN 9780547195193)<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Passkey access, which is included with your text, is required to enable you to do the Case Study questions and ACE quizzes. In addition, you'll have access to video documentaries, interviews, and newsfeeds from the BBC World and the UN. <http://www.BetweenNations.org/>.

## SUPPLEMENTAL

Students should stay abreast of current affairs *via* the BBC and Daily Newsfeeds from the *Washington Post* at [www.BetweenNations.org](http://www.BetweenNations.org), PRI's "The World" (<http://www.theworld.org/>), and newspapers such as the *Guardian Weekly*. Each week we will pause to discuss key current affairs issues. Please pay particular attention to the present global economic and financial crisis, international trade institutions (WTO, NAFTA, APEC, etc.), international organizations (UN and EU), NGOs (Greenpeace, Human Rights Watch, etc.), "commons" issues (global warming, human rights, and terrorism), and great-power politics.

## GRADING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

THE FOLLOWING WEIGHTED DISTRIBUTION WILL ASSESS HOW WELL STUDENTS HAVE ACHIEVED THE COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Case Studies ( <a href="http://www.BetweenNations.org">www.BetweenNations.org</a> ) <sup>4</sup>	30%
ACE Quizzes ( <a href="http://www.BetweenNations.org">www.BetweenNations.org</a> )	20%
Participation/Group Work	20%
Comprehensive Final	30%

*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)

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<sup>4</sup> Student must submit by e-mail answers to the questions under the heading: **Analyze the Issues** ([www.BetweenNations.org](http://www.BetweenNations.org)) for any **FIVE** Case Studies on **Tuesday by midnight** of each of Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11. *No extensions or exceptions granted.*

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## **COURSE POLICIES -- PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

This course will normally include short lectures, learner-centered group activities, discussion, out-of-class assignments, and, various on-line assignments, as appropriate—all of which are aimed at meeting course objectives and enriching the learning experience.

Class Attendance & Participation: Regular attendance and timely arrival are expected. Frequent and/or chronic lateness and absences will affect your overall performance.

## **ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS**

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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.

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## **LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND ATTENDANCE**

Your final grade will be adversely affected if you are frequently absent or habitually late for class. No extensions will be given for assignments, except with a legitimate excuse, i.e., a serious personal illness or family emergency. In all such cases, documentary proof is required. Where possible, inform the instructor beforehand *via* telephone or e-mail message.

## **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 from the literature and be mindful of the vital importance of critically thinking.*

## **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](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/dss)) in B-132, Tel. /TTY Line: (425)564-2498/425. 564-4110.

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## **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 ([www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/)). Another helpful resource is the Academic Success Center ([www.bellevuecollege.edu/academic](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/academic)). PLEASE USE A COLLEGE E-MAIL ACCOUNT FOR ALL COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THIS COURSE. YOU MAY SIGN UP FOR ONE IN THE NBLDG., WHERE YOU'LL ALSO FIND STUDENT COMPUTER LABS.

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS: APRIL 23, MAY 8, AND MAY 25 (HOLIDAY).**

**EXAMINATION PERIOD IS JUNE 16-18. CLASSES END: THURSDAY, MARCH 18.**

**FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 11:30-1:20 P.M. SLOT, L-124 (ESSAY FORMAT, CUMULATIVE)**

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.

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### 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](http://www.betweenations.org).

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (4/1-3):        **International Relations--A Primer**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 1

Should there be one world government? Could such a government more efficiently address challenges such as regional conflicts, global poverty, and environmental collapse? (See Case Study *WP*, pp. 27-29)

#### II: THEORIES AND CONCEPTS

Week 2 (4/6-10):        **Paradigms, Theories, and Approaches**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 2

*Discussion:* Should states "go it alone" or cooperate? (Read *WP*, pp. 59-60)

Week 3 (4/13-17):        **Analyzing World Politics**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 3

Week 4 (4/20-22; 24): **1. Power in World Politics**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 4

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

## APRIL 23--NO CLASS

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### Week 5 (4/27-30; 5/01): **Foreign Policy Making & Implementation**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 5

*Debating globalization:* Does globalization mean that sovereign states must now change how they approach foreign policy? (Read *WP*, pp. 156-59)

### Week 6 (5/04-07): **International Organizations: Inter-Governmental (IGOs) & Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 6, 7

*Discussion:* What are the potential costs and benefits for the United States of membership in the UN? (Read *WP*, pp. 196-99) II. Does the international community have a responsibility to protect victims of human rights abuses by their governments and others?

## MAY: COLLEGE ISSUES DAY--CAMPUS CLOSED

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### III: CONFLICT AND COOPERATION IN IR

#### Week 7 (5/11-15): **Global Violence: War & Peace; Terrorism**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 10

*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 (5/18-22): **Global Justice-- Women & Human Rights**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 11

*Discussion:* Do we need a universal declaration of women's rights? (Read *WP*, pp. 365-66)

### IV: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (IPE)

#### Week 9 (5/26-29): **The Politics of Global Trade & Finance**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 12

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

## MAY 25: HOLIDAY--NO CLASS

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Week 10 (6/1-5):      **The Politics of Development**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 13

Discussion: What factors explain global poverty? Does foreign aid make a difference? (Read WP, pp. 432-33, plus the World Resource Institute's (<http://www.wri.org/publication/world-resources-2002-2004-decisions-earth-balance-voice-and-power>))

V:      THE POLITICS OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Week 11 (6/8-12):      **A Planet in Peril?**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 14

*Discussion:* How can we best deal with the “tragedy” of global warming? (Read WP, pp. 469-71)

*Discussion:* What are the likely consequences for the global environment, if the U.S. does not sign the Kyoto Accords?

Week 12 (6/15):      **Review & Conclusions**

*Preparation:* Review key points in the chapters

Important Notes

(POLS& 203: International Relations, sect. 5600, L-124/Tate)

Please note carefully the following:

1. Access to the online assignments, plus video documentaries, interviews, and feeds from BBC World, *Washington Post*, and the UN are available by signing up as a student at the textbook-related website (<http://www.BetweenNations.org/>). Please follow the prompts, and be sure to select the correct text, institution, and instructor. *Please note that you'll need the Passkey that comes with your copy of the text in order to gain access.*
2. Re. Case Study component, student must submit type-written answers to the questions under the heading, Analyze the Issues, at [www.BetweenNations.org](http://www.BetweenNations.org), for any FOUR Case Studies in Weeks 3, 5, 7, & 9. *No extensions or exceptions.*
3. Students must complete and submit to the instructor each week all THREE ACE Practice Tests *via* e-mail ([ttate@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:ttate@bellevuecollege.edu)) by midnight the following Sunday.

**Note: Do only the tests for Chs. 1- 7 and 10-14.**

4. Please read carefully the attached Social Science Policy statement.

## Appendix

### PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

*(Revised Spring 2009)*

#### Bellevue Community College's Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue Community 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 BCC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

The college's **Affirmation of Inclusion** is in line with the principle of free speech in a free society: we have the right to express unpopular ideas as long as we don't show disrespect for reasonable people who might believe otherwise. In an online course, you will be expressing ideas through the medium of the course site rather than face to face in the classroom. In that case, these expectations refer to the courtesy with which you communicate with one another through e-mails and e-discussions. Part of this respect involves professional behavior towards the instructor, colleagues, and the class itself.

#### Cheating, Stealing, and Plagiarizing\* and Inappropriate Behavior

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: plagiarizing material from the Internet and posting rude or personal attacks in discussions. When you are in doubt about any behavior, please consult your instructor. In addition, you may wish to review the general applicable rules of cyberspace, such as in the [Core Rules of Netiquette](#). The instructor reserves the right to remove posted messages, and downgrade assessments as a result of these types of behaviors. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services, [link to Student Code](#).

#### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). It is the student's responsibility for maintaining contact and adhering to the agreed-upon actions. Vista class sites, and material, may not be directly accessible after the end of the quarter so it important to make arrangements before the quarter ends. The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F"). There is a standard form that instructors have access to in their instructor's grade briefcase.

#### F Grade

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

#### Final Examination Schedule

Final examinations may involve proctored on-campus arranged exams or may be administrated completely online at the discretion of the instructor and in keeping with the stated policies provided in the course syllabus. Please refer to the syllabus at the start of the quarter for additional details and contact the instructor directly for any clarifications. A student who is not in compliance with the scheduled format 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 in compliance with 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 during the standard academic year (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course. Check [Enrollment Calendar Deadlines, Refunds/Withdrawals](#), for additional details. As with most enrollment deadlines, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these dates and act accordingly.

#### Hardship Withdrawal (HW)

From page 9 of the current course catalog, [2008-2009 online catalog](#), HW indicates a withdrawal request made because of extenuating circumstances after the official withdrawal period is over. The student must contact the instructor to request this withdrawal option, or the faculty member may initiate the contact. No points are calculated into the grade-point average. 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 contact the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) [link to DRC](#). The office is located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110, email [drc@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:drc@bellevuecollege.edu)). Students will need to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter or contact your online instructor directly by email. Students who require accommodation in a course should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

#### Distribution of Grades

Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site. Any returned material should be accessed prior to the end of the quarter. After the end of the quarter, Vista class sites may not be accessible by students. Individual instructors may use non-Vista tools for recording and maintaining the students' progress. Questions about grades assigned should be initially directed to your instructor.

#### Submission and Returning of Papers, Assignments and Assessments

Specific guidelines for taking exams and submitting assignments are published in the syllabus. Please contact instructor at the start of the quarter for any clarifications.

#### Technical Assistance

Vista-related or technical issues should be referred to Distance Education, [link to Distance Education web resources](#). You may also email them at [landerso@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:landerso@bellevuecollege.edu) or call 425-564-2438 (1-877-641-2712). Vista tutorial help and basic instructions can be found at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/studentguide/>

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