

SECTION 1: COURSE OVERVIEW

**Bellevue College**  
**Social Science Division**  
**Political Science Program**  
Spring 2009 (4/01-6/18)

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**(POLS& 203)**  
**Item 5601 OAS/5602 OAC**

*Mode:* Online

Credits: 5

Instructor: Trevor McMorris Tate, Ph.D.  
Telephone: (425) 564-2169 (Social Science Division)  
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*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 following business day. *Please use the Blackboard-Vista tool for all communication and to submit assignments, as applicable.*

Pre-requisite: No, but Introduction to Political Science (POLSC 101) or another introductory social science course would be a definite asset.

**Course Description**

This introductory course examines the patterns that inform the international political events and issues in our world today. Many of the concerns of international relations (IR) -- from war and peace to currency fluctuations, global warming and the rights of the child--are being reshaped by what is called globalization; and the actors that help shape those events and issues have grown well beyond states (countries). The international environment in the post-Cold War era shows both conflict and cooperation. These patterns can only be understood fully when looked at through the lenses of theory and enriched by the historical experience. This is the approach of this course. We will treat the main actors and processes that shape contemporary IR and the specific challenges that we face as a global community at the start of a new century. Chief among these challenges and issues are international conflict and global welfare, scarcity, and justice.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### **On completion of this course, learners should:**

- 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*

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Contribute meaningfully to the weekly discussions, submit all assignments on time, keep up with current affairs through the recommended sources below, and consult the teaching and learning resources at the Interactive Student Resource site, which also has other valuable book-specific features and exercises: <http://politicalscience.wadsworth.com/kegleybrief01/>.

*Please purchase this text at the BCC Bookshop: (<http://bcc.collegestoreonline.com/>)*  
Kegley, Charles W. Jr. & Gregory A. Raymond. *THE GLOBAL FUTURE: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS*, Second Edition (Wadsworth, 2008), ISBN: 0-495-00748-X.

(*Note:* Discussions draw on this and other instructor resources.)

#### *Newspaper Reading*

Students are encouraged to follow current affairs issues in one or more of these sources: *The Monitor (online version only)*, *Guardian Weekly*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *The Financial Times (London)*, *Wall Street Journal*, PRI's "The World" (<http://www.theworld.org/>), and the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>). This will help round out understanding and connect the concepts and theories introduced in the course to real-world situations of power, interests, conflict and cooperation. *Give special attention to the current global economic and financial crises, international trade issues, institutions such as the WTO, NAFTA, IMF, and World Bank, IOs (UN and EU), NGOs (Greenpeace and Human Rights Watch, etc.), "commons"*

issues, incl. global warming, human rights, and terrorism, “hot-spots” such as the Middle East and South Asia, and the Peninsula, the G-8 and G-20, and, of course, great-power politics.

## GRADING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

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

Weekly Discussions	25%
Bi-Weekly Essays	25%
Tutorial Quizzes	20%
Final Issue Analysis	30% <sup>1</sup>

Grading: The following show the grade allocations and corresponding grade points for this course:

90-100 A <sup>+</sup> (4.0)
87-89 A (3.7)
84-86 B <sup>+</sup> (3.3)
80-83 B (3.0)
76-79 B <sup>-</sup> (2.7)
72-75 C <sup>+</sup> (2.3)
68-71 C (2.0)
64-67 C <sup>-</sup> (1.7)
60-63 D <sup>+</sup> (1.3)
50-59 D (1.0)
Below 50 F (0.0)

### **COURSE POLICIES (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!)**

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*Note:* This course will normally comprise a discussion series, text-related assignments, essays, quizzes, and other exercises, in addition to the usual PowerPoint presentations and chapter summaries—all of which will enrich the learning experience and meet the course objectives.

*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 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Students will select and carry out an analysis of an issue of their choice, using the *levels of analysis* methodology. Further guidelines will accompany assignment.

### 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](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/dss)) in B-132, Tel.: 425.564-2498/TTY Line: 425. 564-4110).

### CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES

If feasible, please 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/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/)) is also a handy gateway to other Washington libraries and resources. Also of interest to you may be the Academic Success Center ([www.bellevuecollege.edu/academic](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/academic)). **EXCEPT TO SUBMIT QUIZZES, PLEASE USE THE COURSE TOOLS FOR ALL COURSE COMMUNICATION AND SUBMISSIONS.**

*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](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu)).*

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS:** April 23, May 8, and May 25 (holiday).

**EXAMINATION PERIOD IS JUNE 16-18. NOTE: THIS COURSE HAS NO FINAL EXAMINATION. HOWEVER, THERE IS A FINAL RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT.**

**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.**

**SECTION 2: COURSE CALENDAR AND READING GUIDE**

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

**PART I: TREND & TRANSFORMATION IN WORLD POLITICS**

Week 1 (4/1-3): Ch. 1: Exploring Twenty-First-Century World Politics

Week 2 (4/6-10): Ch. 2: Theories of World Politics

**PART II: ACTORS IN WORLD POLITICS**

Week 3 (4/13-17): Ch. 4: Great-Power Rivalry & the Lure of Hegemony

Week 4 (4/20-22; 24): Ch. 6: Non-state Actors and the Challenge of Global Governance

**APRIL 23 IS A PROF. DEV. DAY (NO CLASS)**

**PART III: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, WAR & PEACE**

Week 5 (4/27-30; 5/01): Ch. 7: Armed Conflict in the Twenty-First Century

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

Week 6 (5/04-07): Ch. 9: Realist Paths to Peace

Ch. 10: Liberal Paths to Peace

**MAY 8 IS COLLEGE ISSUES DAY (NO CLASS)**

**PART IV: GLOBAL WELFARE—TRANS-NATIONAL ISSUES**

Week 7 (5/11-15): Ch. 11: The Globalization of World Politics

Week 8 (5/18-22): Ch. 5: (IPE) Rich and Poor in World Politics

**MAY 25 IS A HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)**

Week 9 (5/26-29): Week 8 Cont'd.

Week 10 (6/1-5): Ch. 13: Human Rights and the Quest for Global Justice

Week 11 (6/8-11): Ch. 14: Preservation of the Global Environment

**PART V: ALTERNATIVE WORLD FUTURES**

Week 12 (6/12, 15): Ch. 15: Prospects for a New World Order

**SUMMING UP & CONCLUSIONS**

EXAMINATION PERIOD (JUNE 16-18): FINAL COURSE BUSINESS; ISSUE ANALYSIS DUE ANYTIME DURING THIS PERIOD BUT NO LATER THAN 12 8 P.M. ON JUNE 18.

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*Social Science Division, April 209*