

COURSE OVERVIEW

BELLEVUE COLLEGE

Political Science Program
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484

Winter 2009 (1/05-3/18)
M-W: 11:30 a.m.-1:20 p.m., B204

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(POLSC& 203), Item 5601A

T.M. Tate, Ph.D. (Rm. A-100F)
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Office Hours: TBA ¹

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, 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.

¹ The instructor encourages consultation during the regular office hours or by special appointment and looks forward to a mutually rewarding quarter! ***I will be overseas Jan. 14-29, inclusive, during which time another instructor will lead the course. Your patience and understanding are much appreciated.***

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 (*Available at the BCC Bookstore: <http://bcc.collegestoreonline.com/>*)

Duncan, W. Raymond, *et al.* *World Politics in the 21st Century* (2009). Student Choice Edition. Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin (ISBN 0-547-05634-6)²

Mingst, Karen A. & Jack Snyder. *Essential Readings in World Politics*, Third Edition. New York: Norton, 2007 (ISBN 0-393-93114-3)

SUPPLEMENTAL

Students should stay abreast of current affairs *via* the BBC and Daily Newsfeeds from the *Washington Post* at 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.

² Passkey access (included with your text) to video documentaries, interviews, and feeds from BBC World and the UN are available at available at: <http://www.BetweenNations.org/>

GRADING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

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

Comprehensive Final	30%
Case Studies (www.BetweenNations.org) ³	20%
ACE Assignments (www.BetweenNations.org)	30%
Participation/group work	20%

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)

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

All provisions of the Bellevue Community College regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism apply and will be strictly enforced. Please read carefully the Social Science Division Policy [handout](#). Although you are encouraged to study together for exams, discuss s 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.

³ Student must submit type-written answers to the questions under the heading: **Analyze the Issues** for any **FOUR** Case Studies (www.BetweenNations.org) in Weeks 3, 5, 7, & 9. *No extensions or exceptions.*

The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is recommended for this course. Consult with the Library Media Center's reference desk (D126) or Academic Success Center (D204) for assistance.

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) in B-132, Tel. /TTY Line: 425. 564-2498/425. 564-4110.

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/). Another helpful resource is the Academic Success Center (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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

No Class: Monday January 19 and February 16

Mid-Term Examination: Monday, February 9

Classes End: Wednesday March 18:

Final Exam: Monday March 23, 11:30-1:20 p.m. slot), B-204 (Essay format, cumulative)

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT A "W" POSTED TO YOUR
TRANSCRIPT IS JANUARY 16, BY 5 P.M. IN PERSON OR BY MIDNIGHT
ON-LINE.

SECTION 2

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 Duncan *et al.* and Mingst/Snyder, and are intended to complement your own reading. Activities and discussions are adapted from the Duncan *et al.* text and www.betweennations.org.

1. INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (1/5, 7): **International Relations--A Primer**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 1; Mingst & Snyder, Selects by Snyder, Thucydides, Kant; Ch. 2: Fukuyama

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

II: THEORIES AND CONCEPTS

Week 2 (1/12, 14): **Paradigms, Theories, and Approaches**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 2; Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 2, selects by Morgenthau, Mearsheimer, Doyle, Tickner

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

JANUARY 19—NO CLASS

Week 3 (1/21): **Analyzing World Politics**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 3

Debating Global Civil Society (Read *WP*, pp. 92-95); Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 4, selects by Bull, Morgenthau, Morgenthau; Ch. 5, select by Anne-Marie Slaughter

Week 4 (1/26, 28): **I. Power in World Politics/ II. Foreign Policy Making & Implementation**

I. Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 4

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

II. 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 5 (2/2-6): **International Organizations: 1. Inter-governmental (IGOs) II. Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 6, 7; Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 7, selects by Roth & Mearsheimer

Discussion: I. 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?

III: CONFLICT AND COOPERATION IN IR

Week 6 (2/12): Global Violence: War & Peace; Terrorism

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 10; Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 8, selects by Carl von Clausewitz, Jervis, Pape, Abrahms, Cohn & Ruddick

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 are the solutions to global terrorism, if any?

FEBRUARY 16: NO CLASS

Week 7 (2/18): Global Justice—Human Rights and Women

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 11; Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 10, selects by Sen, Ignatieff

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

IV: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (IPE)

Week 8 (2/23, 25): The Politics of Global Trade & Finance

Duncan *et al.*, Ch. 12; Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 9, selects by Gilpin, Wolf, Naim

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

Week 9 (3/02, 04): 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 10 (3/09, 11): 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 11 (3/16, 18): Review & Conclusions

Before-class preparation: Review key points in the chapters above.

APPENDIX

(POLS& 203: International relations, sect. 5601, B204/Tate)

Please note carefully the following:

1. Access to video documentaries, interviews, and feeds from BBC World, *Washington Post*, and the UN are available at available by signing up as a student at <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, 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) by midnight the following Sunday. Do only the tests for Chs. 1- 7, & 10-14.
4. Please read carefully the attached Social Science Policy statement.