

SECTION 1: COURSE OVERVIEW

Bellevue College
Social Science Division
Political Science Program
Winter 2009 (1/05-3-23/09)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(POLS& 203)
Item 5603 OAS/5604 OAC

Mode: Online

Credits: 5

Instructor: Trevor McMorris Tate, Ph.D.
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E-mail: ttate@bellevuecollege.edu

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.*

NOTE: I WILL BE OVERSEAS 1/13-1/29/09 INCLUSIVE AND MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER. I APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

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

Read all required chapters and lecture presentations in a timely manner, contribute meaningfully to the weekly discussions, submit all assignments on time, read a recommended newspaper, and consult the teaching and learning resources at the Interactive Student Resource site (<http://politicalscience.wadsworth.com/kegleybrief01/>), which includes additional book-specific features and exercises.

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

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

Newspaper Reading

Students are encouraged to read one of the following world-class newspapers **at least 3 times per week** to round out their understanding and connect the concepts and theories learned elsewhere in the course to real-world situations of power, interests, conflict and cooperation,: *The Christian Science Monitor, Guardian Weekly New York Times, Washington Post, The Economist, Far Eastern Economic Review, Financial Times (London), Wall Street Journal*. Student print or on-line subscriptions are likely available. Also highly recommended are PRI's "The World" (<http://www.theworld.org/>), and the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>).

Each week we will pause to consider key issues in the news. *Please give particular attention to the present global economic and financial crises, international trade and financial bodies such as the WTO, NAFTA, IMF, and World Bank, international organizations (UN and EU), NGOs, such as Greenpeace and Human Rights Watch), “commons” issues, including global warming, human rights, and terrorism, and, of course, great-power politics, and “hot-spots” such as the middle East and South Asia.*

GRADING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

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

Weekly Discussions	25%
Weekly Essays	25%
Internet Exercises	20%
Quizzes	10%
Issue Analysis	20% ¹

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!)

Note: This course will normally comprise Internet exercises, essay questions, activities, and quizzes, and a final examination—all designed to meet the course objectives and enrich the learning experience.

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

¹ Students will select and conduct a comprehensive analysis of a global issue of their choice—guidelines will be posted with assignment.

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, 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/) 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). **EXCEPT TO SUBMIT THE INTERNET EXERCISES/QUIZZES, PLEASE USE THE COURSE TOOLS FOR ALL COURSE COMMUNICATION.**

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).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

No Class: Monday January 19, February 16

Classes End: Wednesday, March 18

EXAMINATION PERIOD IS 03/19-23—NO EXAM THIS COURSE

**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: 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 (1/5-9): Ch. 1: Exploring Twenty-First-century World Politics

Week 2 (1/12-16): Ch. 2: Theories of World Politics

PART II: ACTORS IN WORLD POLITICS

JANUARY 19 IS A HOLIDAY

Week 3 (1/20-23): Ch. 4: Great-Power Rivalry & the Lure of Hegemony

Week 4 (1/26-30): Ch. 6: Non-state Actors and the Challenge of Global Governance

PART III: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, WAR & PEACE

Week 5 (2/02-06): Ch. 7: Armed Conflict in the Twenty-First Century

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

Week 6 (2/09-13): Ch. 9: Realist Paths to Peace

Ch. 10: Liberal Paths to Peace

PART IV: GLOBAL WELFARE—TRANS-NATIONAL ISSUES

FEBRUARY 16 IS A HOLIDAY

Week 7 (2/17-20): Ch. 11: The Globalization of World Politics

Week 8 (2/23-27): Ch. 5: Rich and Poor in World Politics

Week 9 (3/02-06): Ch. 13: Human Rights and the Quest for Global Justice

Week 10 (3/9-13): Ch. 14: Preservation of the Global Environment

PART V: ALTERNATIVE WORLD FUTURES

Week 11 (3/16-18): Ch. 15: Prospects for a New World Order

SUMMING UP & CONCLUSIONS