

POLS& 203 – International Relations

Item# 5363 Spring 2017

Instructor: Christina Sciabarra

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Office: A-265, next to Carlson Theater

Office Hours: Mondays from 8-10 or by appointment

Class Times and Location: Daily from 11:30-12:20 L-221

Course Structure: In class lectures, discussion, and activities with required reading and out of class research. All readings, assignment guides, and other information will be posted on the **Canvas site** for the class. This site will be active so please be sure to check it frequently.

Course Description: Examines the struggle for power and peace and the methods by which affairs are conducted between modern nations.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Apply core concepts in international relations, such as power, anarchy, conflict, cooperation, globalization, interdependence, and sustainability
- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of major international relations perspectives such as Liberalism and Realism as well as secondary perspectives such as Constructivism, Feminism, and Marxism
- Differentiate major global actors, including states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, individuals, and transnational advocacy networks
- Express informed opinions about issues of global importance, such as global warming, interstate and intrastate conflict, global inequality, and international human rights
- Articulate the paradox and dilemma of global citizenship and demonstrate basic competencies in the realm of advocacy

Grade Requirements:

Participation and Attendance	50 days x 5 pts	250 points
Facebook post	10 x 5 points	50 points
Weekly Response (blog)	10 x 10 points →	100 points
Mid-week check-ins	10 x 10 points →	100 points
Book Review		100 points
Final Exam		100 points
Service Learning Project		100 points
	Total:	800 points

Course Assignments:

Attendance and Participation - This course is designed to be an experiential learning course meaning we will be using class time to actively learn the material. Attendance and participation are an important part of learning the material and building important skills. Activities include: short writing assignments, short group presentations, group discussions, video recordings, simulations, debates. Attendance and participation are worth 5 points per day. Students are permitted to miss up to 2 days of class for unexcused reasons. Students are permitted to miss class without penalty for approved activities including school trips, religious holidays, and extended illness.

Weekly Responses – Students will learn how to analyze current events and provide informed, evidence based commentary in a variety of mediums to include blogs, vlogs, videos, and essays. All assignments categorized as “weekly responses” must be submitted online by 11 p.m. on Sundays. Students will receive specific guidance each week on the assignment.

Facebook Post – Everyone will join the Facebook group “Exploring International Relations and share a news story each week. The group is closed but includes students from the online class as well.

Mid-week Check-ins – Students will respond to prompts each week related to the readings. The prompts will be conducted in the discussion sections of Canvas. Students are not required to respond to one another, although they are welcome to do so if they choose.

Book Review – Students will select one of the following assignments to complete the review and assessment of a book related to international relations. Each assignment includes a written component and a class presentation/discussion. Students can find specific details and rubrics on Canvas.

Service Learning Project – We will be completing a service learning project as part of the class. This is a new idea and a work in progress, but we will be collecting the stories of people who have come to the United States and will be conducting research and writing the political backgrounds for each story. The stories will be published on the website Pocket Stories - <http://www.ourpocketstories.org/>

Final Exam – Students will complete a 2-day, in-class final exam based on the material covered in the class.

Required Text:

Mingst, Karen A. and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. 2017. *Essentials of International Relations*, 7th ed. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

Additional readings will be assigned and made available on the Canvas course site.

Course Rules:

1. **Attendance** – **students are expected to attend all classes.** I will take attendance on a daily basis and you will receive points for attending and participating in the in-class activities.

2. **Cell phones and computers are not permitted during class** other than during designated times, unless you have accommodations from the DRC. Students will lose attendance points each time a cell phone appears.

3. I reserve the right to assign additional readings that are not initially listed in the syllabus.

4. **Late assignments** are not accepted unless discussed with the instructor AHEAD OF TIME.

5. Students will participate in group work and discussions. There will be class discussions, projects, and peer reviews which will take place in smaller groups. Students are expected to participate in group activities, contribute to group production, and maintain a civil and open learning environment. ****Offensive** language, comments or actions will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from the class and possible disciplinary action. We will design class discussion rules as a group during the first week of class.

6. We will be discussing violence in its various forms which will include sensitive topics. Please contact me if you are concerned about any of the topics covered in the class.

7. **Affirmation of Inclusion** - Bellevue 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 Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

8. The **Disability Resource Center** serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact asn@bellevuecollege.edu or 425.564.2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125. Autism Spectrum Navigators (Links to an external site.)

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at Disability Resource Center (Links to an external site.)

9. **Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity** - Cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

10. **Public Safety and Emergencies** - Public Safety is located in the K building and can be reached at **425-564-2400** (easy to remember because it's the only office on campus open 24 hours a day—2400). Among other things, Public Safety serves as our Parking Permits, Lost and Found, and Emergency Notification center. Please ensure you are signed up to receive alerts through our campus alerting system by registering at <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/alerts/?ref=footer> If you work late and are uneasy about going to your car, Public Safety will escort you to your vehicle. To coordinate this, please phone ahead and let Public Safety know when and where you will need an escort. Please familiarize yourself with the emergency postings by the door of every classroom and know where to go in the event of an evacuation. Your instructor will be asked if anyone might still be in the building, so check in before you do anything else. Emergency responders will search for anyone unaccounted for. **If a major emergency occurs, please follow these two rules: 1) Take directions from those in charge of the response** - We all need to be working together. **2) Do not get in your car and leave campus (unless directed to)** - Doing so will clog streets and prevent emergency vehicles from entering the scene. Instead, follow directions from those in charge. Please do not hesitate to call Public Safety if you feel safety questions or concerns at any time.

11. **Academic Calendar** - The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

Class Schedule and Assignments

(Check Canvas daily for updates and announcements)

Week 1 – Introduction (Apr 3-9)

Topics to be covered: approaches to IR, historical context and foundations of IR, tools for analyzing events in international relations

Readings: Ch. 1 & 2

Assignments: Complete the course assessment and bring to class on Tuesday → due: April 4
Submit the week 1 mid-week check-in on Canvas and Facebook post → due: Apr 5 (11 pm)
Submit weekly response 1 on Canvas → due: Apr 9 (11 pm)

Week 2 – International System (Apr 10-16)

Topics to be covered: thinking theoretically, levels of analysis, theoretical paradigms, game theory

Readings: Ch. 3 & 4

Assignments: Submit week 2 mid-week check-in on Canvas and Facebook post → due: Apr 12 (11 pm)
Submit weekly response 2 on Canvas → due: Apr 16 (11 pm)

Week 3 – Actors in the System: State, Individuals, and Non-State Actors (Apr 17-23)

Topics to be covered: state structures, power sources, foreign policy, revolution, non-violence, individuals, elites, non-state actors

Readings: Ch. 5 & 6

Assignments: Submit week 3 mid-week check-in on Canvas and Facebook post → due: Apr 19 (11 pm)
Submit weekly response 3 on Canvas → due: Apr 23 (11 pm)

Week 4 – Conflict and the International System (Apr 24-30)

Topics to be covered: defining war, causes of interstate conflict, institutions and war, alliances, collective security, commitment problems, credibility, incomplete information, costs of war, bargaining, data sources

Readings: Ch. 8

Assignments: Submit week 4 mid-week check-in on Canvas and Facebook post → due: Apr 26 (11 pm)

Submit weekly response 4 on Canvas → due: Apr 30 (11 pm)

Week 5 – Conflict below the System Level (May 1-7)

Topics to be covered: domestic politics, democratic peace theory, civil conflict, terrorism, data sources, peacebuilding

ATTENDANCE REQUIRED – THURSDAY AND FRIDAY FOR SIMULATION

Readings: readings posted on Canvas

Assignments: Submit week 5 mid-week check-in on Canvas and Facebook post → due: May 3 (11 pm)

Submit weekly response 5 on Canvas → due: May 7 (11 pm)

Week 6 – Organizations (May 8-14)

Topics to be covered: intergovernmental organizations, international law, non-governmental organizations

Readings: Ch. 7

Assignments: Submit week 6 mid-week check-in on Canvas and Facebook post → due: May 10 (11 pm)

Submit weekly response 6 on Canvas → due: May 14 (11 pm)

Week 7 – International Political Economy – System and Monetary Relations (May 15-21)

Topics to be covered: monetary relations, Bretton-Woods, monetary systems, currency, free-trade, liberalization, organizations regulating trade, bilateral trade, regional agreements, borrowing and lending between countries, debt crises, multinational corporations

Readings: Ch. 9

Assignments: Submit week 7 mid-week check-in on Canvas and Facebook post → due: May 17 (11 pm)

Submit weekly response 7 on Canvas → due: May 21 (11 pm)

Week 8 – Development and Globalization (May 22-28)

Topics to be covered: foreign aid, approaches to development, globalization, colonialism, industrialization, liberalization, global inequality, women's rights

Readings: readings posted on Canvas

Assignments: Submit week 8 mid-week check-in on Canvas and Facebook post → due: May 24 (11 pm)

Submit weekly response 8 on Canvas → due: May 28 (11 pm)

Week 9 – Human Rights and Transnational Advocacy (May 30-Jun 4)

Topics to be covered: regimes, norms and organizations, human rights law, agreements, rights of women and children, migration

NO CLASS – MAY 29

Readings: Ch. 10

Assignments: Submit week 9 mid-week check-in on Canvas and Facebook post → due: May 31 (11 pm)

Submit weekly response 9 on Canvas → due: Jun 4 (11 pm)

Week 10 – Transnational Politics (Jun 5-11)

Topics to be covered: environmental degradation, climate change, global health, international crime networks, militarized transnational networks

Readings: Ch. 11

Assignments: Submit weekly response 10 on Canvas and Facebook post → due: Jun 7 (11 pm)

Submit week 10 mid-week check-in on Canvas → due: Jun 11 (11 pm)

Week 11 – Presentations and Final Exam (Jun 12-16)

FINAL EXAM – held in class Jun 12-13, 11:30-12:20

Final Presentations – in class, Jun 16 11:30-1:20