

POLS& 101: Intro to Political Science

Bellevue College, Fall 2017 (Item 5340)

COURSE DETAILS

Class Sessions:	M/W/Hybrid 9:30 – 11:20AM L221
Instructor:	David Spataro, PhD
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Office:	D200E
Office Hours:	M 12:00 – 1:30PM W 12:00 – 1:30PM Th 10:30 – 11:30AM Additional office hours by appointment if needed

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course that is designed for students who are new to the study of politics. This course will provide you with a broad introduction to the field of political science and help you to develop informed knowledge about a variety of political topics. The course is divided into four sections under the following themes: ideology and liberal democracy; policing and protest; political economy and neoliberalism; and the environment and international affairs.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this class, students should be able to:

1. Critically analyze current political issues;
2. Articulate the rights and responsibilities of democratic citizenship;
3. Constructively engage in the political process;
4. Apply core political science concepts to the real world;
5. Differentiate the major sub-fields of political science;
6. Explain the significance of the scientific method in political science.

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS

The required readings and audio/visual materials will be available on our Canvas website. You may print the readings out or read them on your computer; I encourage all students to find the most appropriate reading method that works for you. BC students have a 150-page printing quota each quarter, but this quota is not likely to be sufficient for all the materials and assignments for every class. I suggest that residents of King County patronize the King County library system, which provides patrons with 75 pages of black and white free printing per week (<http://bit.ly/2ioS9Pb>).

GRADED WORK

Reading Notes	15%
Hybrid Assignment	15%
Political Essay/Zine	25%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:		A	92 - 100%	A-	90 - <92%
B+	88 - <90%	B	82 - <88%	B-	80 - <82%
C+	78 - <80%	C	72 - <78%	C-	70 - <72%
D+	68 - <70%	D	60 - <68%	F	<60%

Reading Notes: Students are required to hand in their notes from the assigned readings at the beginning of class each day. Five times during the quarter (chosen randomly), I will grade the reading notes on a 5-point scale. I will use the top four scores to calculate the final reading notes grade. Students who turn in their reading notes on time may use their notes on the tests.

Hybrid Assignment: This is a hybrid course, which means that a portion of our class happens online. The hybrid part of the course requires that students develop media literacy by keeping up with current political news. Students will use Canvas discussion boards for this assignment. Five times during the quarter (chosen randomly), I will grade the hybrid assignment on a 10-point scale.

Midterm and Final Exam: There will be two tests during the quarter, which are designed to assess your conceptual knowledge and reading comprehension. These tests will be in-class. The questions are short essay questions. When the tests are graded, students will receive a feedback rubric sheet and a post-test reflection worksheet. In order to “hold” the score received on the test, students are required to complete the reflection worksheet AND resubmit their test questions with 100% correct answers. The final exam will be cumulative.

Political Essay: In this class you will write a 1500-word essay on a political topic using a combination of personal reflection and political analysis.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

*These policies may apply differently to students with DRC accommodations. I will be working with all students individually to meet their accommodations.

- **No shaming, no judging:** This classroom is a “no shaming, no judgment zone.” It is important that everyone contributes and that everyone is accountable to class

policies. But we will not be shaming or looking negatively upon others for mistakes, for their political beliefs, or for any other reason.

- **Collective Structure:** This class is based upon the principles of cooperation and collaboration. Students who develop strong community bonds in college tend to succeed. Additionally, social scientists find that participation in cooperative groups builds “social capital”—a term for hard-to-measure human capacities involving trust and one’s ability to collaborate. All areas of life—including employment, family, community, and politics—involve working together. The development of human capital greatly influences the efficacy of social groups. Thus we will model this behavior in an authentic manner in the classroom. Everyone in class wishes to succeed, and everyone can participate in making that goal a reality.
- **Late work/absences:** If you are having significant health or personal issues that prevent you from completing your work on time, please contact me directly about an individualized plan. I will work with you so that you can make up the content and assignments you missed. However, if you miss a deadline due to other reasons, I will use the following late policy automatically (you do not need permission from me for these policies). **Reading Notes:** Reading notes are due at the beginning of class (with a 10-minute grace) and cannot be turned in late. This assignment is designed to promote and reward consistent reading/notetaking and consistent attendance. The lowest reading notes grade will be dropped, so all students have an automatic freebie. **Hybrid Assignment:** You may turn in your hybrid assignment late for 85% of the grade for up to one week. **Political Essay:** You may turn in your political essay late for 85% of the grade for up to one week. Due to the political essay being late in the quarter, late essays may stall your final grade in the class. **Exams:** Students must provide genuine evidence of illness or other emergency in order to make up an exam. The exam must be made up within one week of the exam date.
- **English Second (or more) Language Students:** If English is your second language, you may use a translation dictionary during tests. The dictionary must be a book not an electronic dictionary and it must be approved prior to the test. If English is a second (or third or fourth) language, I encourage you to talk with me directly so that we can make sure the learning environment works for you.
- **Electronics Policy:** At the beginning of class please turn off your phone and put it away. Laptops are allowed for note-taking only. Students who use their laptops for notes must first meet with me during my office hours, and submit their class notes to me electronically at the end of each week. This is so that I know that you are using your laptop for note-taking only. If at any point you feel that you need to use your device(s) for communications, please quietly get up and do so outside. I do not allow recording of any audio or video in the classroom.

- **Academic integrity:** Cheating and plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2050/>. I will report all instances of cheating/plagiarism to the campus Behavioral Intervention Team (now known as the CARE team).
- **Communicating with me:** I encourage you to communicate with me a lot and in a way that works best for you. I will be answering your messages swiftly. However, if I do not answer your inquiry in about a day, you should feel comfortable to follow up. Please do not worry about offending or annoying me.

CLASSROOM LEARNING ATMOSPHERE

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.

Religious Holidays

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance will be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. Please provide me with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term.

College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES/SERVICES

Disability Resource Center – B132

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. Please visit the office or website for application information and other helpful links: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>.

Multicultural Services – 2nd Floor of B building (above the bookstore)

Multicultural Services (MCS) is a student-centered service program on campus. MCS is a broad program that can assist students with tutoring in Math and English as well as help

students locate community resources such as food and housing assistance. Please familiarize yourself with MCS by stopping by or visiting: bellevuecollege.edu/mcs/.

Counseling Center – 2nd Floor of B building (above the bookstore)

The Counseling Center provides personal, career, and academic counseling for all registered BC students. Please familiarize yourself with the services offered by the counseling center by stopping by or visiting: bellevuecollege.edu/counseling/

WK (TOPICS)	DATE	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	09.18	No Reading
Introduction & Political Knowledge/Ignorance	09.20	Delli Carpini & Skeeter: bottom of 133 – bottom of 143 Delli Carpini & Skeeter: 23 – 26 Kenski & Jamieson: 83 – 89
	09.22	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight
	09.25	McRaney: You Are Not So Smart podcast, “Backfire Effect” Nyhan: Fact Checking Can Change Views? Danziger: 85 – 107
2 Ideology & Democracy (pt. 1) (Ideology, political socialization, social science, social theory)	09.27	Levine: 34 – 37, 61 – 65, 115 – 117, 123 – 127 Nagle: 54 – 67
	09.29	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight
	10.02	May: 3 - 15 Danziger: 112 – 131 (skip “The Debate in 5”, skip “Focus in 5”, but <u>read</u> “Compare in 5”)
3 Ideology & Democracy (pt. 2) (state sovereignty, power, authority, democracy, institutional arrangements)	10.04	Danziger: 163 – 193 (skip “The Debate in 7”)
	10.06	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight
4 Policing & Protest (pt. 1) (constitutional rights, civil liberties, policing, carceral state)	10.09	Alexander: 58 - 73, 83 – 94 Balko: 139 - 175 NPR: The Driving Life and Death of Philando Castile John Oliver: Civil Forfeiture
	10.11	Alexander: 95 – 112, 120 – 136 Norton: Why Are So Many People in Jail in Scranton, PA?
	10.13	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight

5 Policing & Protest (pt. 2) (citizenship, belonging, custodial citizenship, social movements, white supremacy, white rage, theories of social change)	10.16	Anderson: Ferguson Isn't About Black Rage Lerman & Weaver: selection from "Arresting Citizenship" Movement for Black Lives: A Vision for Black Lives
	10.18	MLK: Letter From Birmingham Jail Theoharis: MLK Would Never Shut Down a Freeway Taylor: selection from "From #Blacklivesmatter to black liberation"
	10.20	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight
6 Midterm Week	10.23	No Readings
	10.25	MIDTERM IN CLASS
	10.27	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight
7 Political Economy & Neoliberalism (pt. 1) (Capitalism, Labor Unions, Neoliberalism, Deindustrialization, Privatization of Public Goods, Inequality)	10.30	Chang: xiii – xviii, 1 – 10 Baker: 1 – 28 Rector & Sheffield: 1 – 21
	11.01	Phillips-Fein: 87 – 114 Chang: 137 - 147
	11.03	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight
8 Political Economy & Neoliberalism (pt. 2) (Homelessness, Evictions, Criminalization of Poverty, Environmental Justice, Gentrification)	11.06	Desmond: Forced Out NY Times: Old and On the Street NLCHP: 12-26, 30-34
	11.08	Reveal: Toxic Burden Gentrification/Environmental Justice reading TBD
	11.10	NO CLASS: Rough Draft of Essay Due Friday Midnight

9 The Environment & International Affairs (pt. 1) (The international system of states, Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, United Nations, IGOs, NGOs, WTO, NAFTA, Free Trade Agreements, Globalization)	11.13	Danziger: 288 – 316 (skip ‘Debate in 11’ and ‘Focus in 11’) Steger: 37 - 59
	11.15	NAFTA case study readings TBD Steger: 60 - 73
	11.17	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight
10 The Environment & International Affairs (pt. 2)	11.20	Davis: 20 - 49 Klein: Selections from “Hot Money”
	11.22	Globalization and Emissions readings TBD Paris Climate Agreement readings TBD
	11.24	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight
11 Review and Final	11.27	Peer Review Readings due No Content Readings
	11.29	FINAL EXAM IN CLASS
	12.01	NO CLASS: Hybrid Assignment Due Friday Midnight
12 BC Finals Week	12.04	NO CLASS: Faculty Professional Development Day Final Essay Due 5PM
	12.06	CLASS MEETS 9:30 – 11:20AM Final Exams Returned Political Pamphlet/Zine Due Class Party