

POLS& 101: Intro to Political Science

Bellevue College, Fall 2017 (Item 5345)

COURSE DETAILS

Class Sessions:	Online
Instructor:	David Spataro, PhD
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Phone:	(425) 564-3161
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](#).

GRADED WORK

Reading Notes	15%
Weekly Discussion Board Participation	25%
Political Essay	20%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%
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 turn in their notes from the assigned readings twice each week. Reading notes for Monday readings are due at midnight on Mondays. Reading notes for Wednesday readings are due at midnight on Wednesdays. 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 can use their reading notes on the exams.

Weekly Discussion Board Participation: This is an online course. Student participation in online discussions is a significant portion of the class. The weekly discussion board participation grade is an assessment of the student's participation on all the discussion boards throughout the week. At the end of each week, students compile their participation into a Microsoft Word document, which I will grade on a 10-point scale. I will drop the lowest grade.

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 on Canvas. 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 an 1800-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 our discussion boards. Everyone in class wishes to succeed, and everyone can participate in making that goal a reality.
- **Late work:** 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 cannot be turned in late. This assignment is designed to promote and reward consistent reading/notetaking. The lowest reading notes grade will be dropped, so all students have an automatic freebie. **Weekly Participation:** You may turn in your weekly participation assignment late for 85% of the grade for up to one week. If two or more discussions are posted late during the week, your weekly participation grade will be considered late. **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, turning it in late 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 due date.
- **English Second (or more) Language Students:** 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.
- **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/

SCHEDULE

WK	Date	Readings & Assignments
1 Introduction & Political Knowledge	09.18	-No Reading -Complete “Getting Started Module”
	09.20	-Delli Carpini & Skeeter: bottom of 133 – bottom of 143 -Delli Carpini & Skeeter: 23 – 26 -Kenski & Jamieson: 83 – 89 - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	09.22	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
	09.24	- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
2 Ideology & Democracy (pt. 1)	09.25	-McRaney: You Are Not So Smart podcast, “Backfire Effect” -Nyhan: Fact Checking Can Change Views? -Danziger: 85 – 107 - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	09.27	-Levine: 34 – 37, 61 – 65, 115 – 117, 123 – 127 -Nagle: 54 – 67 - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	09.29	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
	10.01	- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
3 Ideology & Democracy (pt. 2)	10.02	-May: 3 - 15 -Danziger: 112 – 131 (skip “The Debate in 5”, skip “Focus in 5”, but <u>read</u> “Compare in 5”) - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	10.04	-Danziger: 163 – 193 (skip “The Debate in 7”) - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	10.06	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
	10.08	- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)

4 Policing & Protest (pt. 1)	10.09	-Alexander: 58 - 73, 83 – 94 -Balko: 139 - 175 -NPR: The Driving Life and Death of Philando Castile -John Oliver: Civil Forfeiture - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	10.11	-Alexander: 95 – 112, 120 – 136 -Norton: Why Are So Many People in Jail in Scranton, PA? - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	10.13	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
	10.15	- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
5 Policing & Protest (pt. 2)	10.16	-Anderson: Ferguson Isn't About Black Rage -Lerman & Weaver: selection from "Arresting Citizenship" -Movement for Black Lives: A Vision for Black Lives - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	10.18	-MLK: Letter From Birmingham Jail -Theoharis: MLK Would Never Shut Down a Freeway -Taylor: selection from "From #Blacklivesmatter to black liberation" - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	10.20	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
	10.22	- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
6 Midterm Week	10.23	No Readings
	10.25	Midterm - Post test reflection sheet and exam rewrite due 1 week after the exam is graded
	10.27	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
	10.29	- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
7 Political Economy & Neoliberalism (pt. 1)	10.30	-Chang: xiii – xviii, 1 – 10 -Baker: 1 – 28 -Rector & Sheffield: 1 – 21 - Due: Reading notes - Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	11.01	-Phillips-Fein: 87 – 114 -Chang: 137 – 147

		- Due: Reading notes
		- Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	11.03	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
	11.05	- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
8 Political Economy & Neoliberalism (pt. 2)	11.06	-Desmond: Forced Out
		-NY Times: Old and On the Street
		-NLCHP: 12-26, 30-34
		- Due: Reading notes
		- Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	11.08	-Reveal: Toxic Burden
		-Reading: TBD
		- Due: Reading notes
9 The Environment & International Affairs (pt. 1)		- Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	11.10	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
	11.12	- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
	11.13	-Danziger: 288 – 316 (skip ‘Debate in 11’ and ‘Focus in 11’)
		-Reading: TBD
		- Due: Reading notes
10 The Environment & International Affairs (pt. 2)		- Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	11.15	-NAFTA case study readings TBD
		- Due: Reading notes
		- Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	11.17	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
	11.19	- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
11 Review and Final	11.20	-Klein: Selections from “Hot Money”
		-Reading: TBD
		- Due: Reading notes
		- Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	11.22	-Paris Climate Agreement readings TBD
		- Due: Reading notes
		- Due: Original posts to readings discussion boards
	11.24	-Thanksgiving Break
	11.26	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board
		- Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
	11.27	-Peer Reviews due
		-No content readings
	11.29	-Final Exam – Post test reflection sheet and exam rewrite due 1 week after the exam is graded
	12.01	- Due: Original post to video/podcast/activity discussion board

	12.03	-Due: Weekly participation (all original posts and replies)
12	12.04	-Final Essay Due 5pm
BC		
Finals		
Week		