

POLS& 101: Intro to Political Science

Bellevue College, Fall 2018 (Item 5344)

COURSE DETAILS

Class Sessions:	Online
Instructor:	David Spataro, PhD
E-mail:	david.spataro@bellevuecollege.edu
Phone:	(425) 564-3161 (leave a voice message)
Office:	D200E (off-campus fall quarter)
Office Hours:	M: 11am – 12pm T: 9am – 11am W: 11am – 12pm Th: 10am – 11am

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 five sections under the following themes: (1) political knowledge, belief, and ideology; (2) states and liberal democracy; (3) policing and protest; (4) political economy and inequality, and (5) international affairs and the environment.

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 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

Leading Current Events Small Group Discussion	15%
Weekly Participation	15%
Political Essay	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%

Leading Small Group Discussions: Students will be assigned to small groups of approximately 6-8 students at the beginning of the quarter and then rearranged into new small groups after the midterm. The small group discussions will focus on current political events. Beginning in week two each student will be required to lead one current events discussion during the quarter. Leading the discussion requires: (1) selecting strong reading materials for your peers in the group, (2) writing and posting the discussion's guiding questions, (3) communicating with your peers to encourage/invite participation and (4) facilitating the discussion throughout the week. Think of this like a small reading group with your peers. The leader selects the readings, brings questions to start the discussion, organizes the group and then helps to guide the discussion.

Weekly Participation: This is an online course and therefore student participation in online discussions is a significant part of the class. This class is made up of weekly modules in Canvas. With the exception of the midterm week and holidays, the class follows a consistent pattern. This is designed to ensure clarity about what to do and when. The weekly pattern is available as a Canvas page at the beginning of each week's module. The weekly participation grade is an assessment of the student's participation on the small group discussion board, the discussions on the reading material, and the Friday activity. At the end of each week, students compile their participation into a Microsoft Word document, which I will grade on a 10-point scale. The grade is based upon meeting the requirements of the assignments, not on the content of the written work. The lowest grade will be dropped.

Political Essay: In this class students are required to write an 1800-word essay on a political topic using a combination of personal reflection and political analysis.

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 will include multiple choice and short essay questions. The final exam will be cumulative. On the day of the test, students will have the choice of a morning or evening time. All morning test-takers will work on the test simultaneously, and all evening test-takers will work on the test simultaneously.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

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

- **Canvas discussions:** This class requires a significant amount of student interaction on Canvas discussion boards. Additionally, the course content will require that students engage with one another on topics considered to be controversial or polarizing in mainstream society. **Everyone has a responsibility to ensure that all others can fully participate in the class. As such, I expect that everyone communicates their ideas with respect for their peers. I will not accept language and ideas that express hate or harm toward others.**
- **No shaming, no judging:** This class 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). **Leading Small Group Discussion:** Because other students in the small group are relying on the leader, this assignment must be completed on time. There will be no late work accepted for this grade except as a result of documented emergencies. **Weekly Participation:** You may turn in your weekly participation assignment late for 85% of the grade for up to one week. If your discussions are

consistently 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 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/.

Academic Success Center – 2nd Floor of D building

The Academic Success Center provides high-quality educational resources for all students enrolled at Bellevue College. The center provides tutoring services and is home to reading, writing and math labs. The Academic Success Center also hosts workshops on a range of study skills. Please visit the ASC website for more information: bellevuecollege.edu/asc/.

SCHEDULE

The detailed course schedule of readings and activities is located on Canvas in the “Modules” tab.

September 17 – 21: Week 1 (Political Knowledge, Beliefs, Ideology and Partisanship)

Monday, September 17

- Current Event Readings

Tuesday, September 18

- Delli Carpini & Keeter: In Search of the Informed Citizen (p. 133 – 143)
- Delli Carpini & Keeter: Gender Gap in Political Knowledge (p. 23 – 26)
- Kenski & Jamieson: Gender Gap in Political Knowledge (p. 83 – 89)

Wednesday, September 19

- No Readings

Thursday, September 20

- You Are Not So Smart Podcast: “The Backfire Effect”
- Nyhan: Fact Checking Can Change Views? We Rate That as Mostly True
- Danziger: Influences on Beliefs and Actions (p. 85 – 97)

Friday, September 21

- Political Knowledge Activity

September 24 – 28: Week 2 (Political Knowledge, Beliefs, Ideology and Partisanship)

Monday, September 24

- Current Event Readings

Tuesday, September 25

- Levine: Conservatism (p. 34 – 37)
- Levine: Fascism (p. 61 – 65)
- Levine: Left/Right/Center (p. 115 – 117)
- Levine: Liberalism (p. 123 – 127)
- Levine: Neo-Conservatism (p. 158 – 161)
- Levine: Socialism (p. 206 – 209)
- Milstein: Anarchism (p. 2 – 15)

Wednesday, September 26

- No Readings

Thursday, September 27

- Gallup: US Conservatives Outnumber Liberals by Narrowing Margin
- Taub: Why Americans Vote Against their Interest – Partisanship
- Levitz: America is Not a Center-Right Nation

Friday, September 28

- Ideology Activity

October 1 – 5: Week 3 (States and Liberal Democracy)

Monday, October 1

- Current Events Reading

Tuesday, October 2

- Diener and Hagan: The Modern State System (p. 37 – 58)

Wednesday, October 3

- No Readings

Thursday, October 4

- Levine: Nation/Nationalism (p. 155 – 157)
- Levine: Multiculturalism (p. 149 – 154)
- Vargas: My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant
- Warner: Kurdish Crossroads

Friday, October 5

- Sovereignty and Territory Activity

October 8 – 12: Week 4 (States and Liberal Democracy)

Monday, October 8

- Current Event Readings

Tuesday, October 9

- Parsons: Governments (p. 126 – 155, stop at section 5.5)

Wednesday, October 10

- No Readings

Thursday, October 11

- Parsons: Inside Liberal Democracy – Representation (p. 197 – 230, stop at section 7.6)

Friday, October 12

- Representation Activity

October 15 – 19: Week 5 (Midterm Week)

Monday, October 15

- Current Events Readings

Tuesday, October 16

- No Tuesday Readings (prepare for midterm)

Wednesday, October 17

- No Readings

Thursday, October 18

- **Midterm**

Friday, October 19

- No Activity (midterm week)

October 22 – 26: Week 6 (Policing and Protest)

Monday, October 22

- Current Events Readings

Tuesday, October 23

- Alexander: The Lockdown (p. 58 – 83)
- NPR: The Driving Life and Death of Philando Castile

Wednesday, October 24

- No Readings

Thursday, October 25

- Alexander: The Color of Justice (p. 95 – 112, 123 – 130)
- Norton: Why Are There So Many People in Jail in Scranton, PA?

Friday, October 26

- Invention of Race Activity

October 29 – November 2: Week 7 (Policing and Protest)

Monday, October 29

- Current Events Readings

Tuesday, October 30

- Lerman and Weaver: Democracy Don't Get You a Second Chance (p. 110 – 138)

Wednesday, October 31

- No Readings

Thursday, November 1

- MLK: Letter From Birmingham Jail
- Anderson: Ferguson Isn't About Black Rage
- Theoharis: MLK Would Never Shut Down a Freeway
- Taylor: Black Lives Matter – A Movement, Not a Moment (p. 153 – 158, 173 – 177, p. 189 – 190)

Friday, November 2

- Registration Activity

November 5 – 9: Week 8 (Political Economy, Poverty and Inequality)

Monday, November 5

- Current Events Readings

Tuesday, November 6

- Chang: There Is No Such Thing as a Free Market (p. 1 – 10)
- Reading on Keynesianism/Welfare State TBD

Wednesday, November 7

- No Readings

Thursday, November 8

- Steger and Roy: What's "Neo" About Neoliberalism (p. 1 – 20)
- Reading on Poverty and Inequality TBD

Friday, November 9

- Entitlement Programs Activity

November 12 – Week 9 (Political Economy, Poverty and Inequality)

Monday, November 12

- Veteran's Day – No Readings

Tuesday, November 13

- Current Events Readings
- Readings TBD

Wednesday, November 14

- No Readings

Thursday, November 15

- Readings TBD

Friday, November 16

- College Debt Activity

November 19 – 23: Week 10 (International Affairs and the Environment)

Monday, November 19

- Current Events Readings

Tuesday, November 20

- Readings TBD

Wednesday, November 21

- No Readings

Thursday, November 22

- Thanksgiving Holiday – No Readings

Friday, November 23

- Thanksgiving Holiday – No Activity

November 26 – 30: Week 11 (International Affairs and the Environment)

Monday, November 26

- Current Events Reading

Tuesday, November 27

- Readings TBD

Wednesday, November 28

- No Readings Due

Thursday, November 29

- Readings TBD
- **Final Paper Due**

Friday, November 30

- Ecological Footprint Activity

December 3 – 6: Week 12 (Finals Week)

Monday, December 3

- Student Success Day – No Readings

Tuesday, December 4

Wednesday, December 5

- **Final Exam**

Thursday, December 6

- Quarter Ends