

POLS& 203: International Relations

Bellevue College, Fall 2018

Course Details

Class Sessions: M-TH | 11:30 – 12:20pm | R201
Instructor: Jabril Hassen, MACJ
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Phone: TBA
Office Location: A200F
Office Hours: I will also be available by appointment

Course Description

This course will offer an introduction to the important issues in contemporary international relations. The goal of this class is for students to learn basic concepts and theoretical frameworks that help explain complex geo-political behaviors found in international politics. Students will review current events, and precedence set from historical events that have given rise to various interactions between countries and their borders. A peripheral goal of this course is to provide students with the proper tools to discuss geopolitics openly, while also understanding key theories that inform those politics.

Course Outcomes

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- 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.

- Identify the geographic locations of the United Nations' member states.

Books and Required Materials

The textbook for the course is 2018's IR: International, Economic, and Human Security in a Changing World (Scott, Carter, and Drury, 2018) The book is available in the campus bookstore and you can purchase it used online as well. The first week will also have outside readings in addition to the text. **Each assigned reading is to be completed before the class session for which it is scheduled, or announced via Canvas.**

Supplemental Materials and Articles

In addition to the required materials, you will be required to read various journal articles, and news reports pertaining to geopolitical politics and foreign relations (TBA). Check Canvas for all outside articles.

Canvas Class Discussions

Due to the online component of this course, students will be evaluated on their contribution to weekly online discussions which will draw from readings and news articles. I will post discussion questions starting the second week of class. **All discussions must be submitted every Friday before 11:59pm every week.**

Course Content Change Policy

I reserve the right to change or replace any content in the course; which I will give students at least two days notice. If you have any questions about the assignment please feel to contact me via email.

Grading

| Course Assessments | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| International Relations Class Discussion Leader | 30% |
| Canvas Discussion Posts | 20% |
| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Final Paper | 20% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

| Letter Grade | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|
| 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% |

Assignments

International Relations Class Discussion Leader

30% of grade

There are 14 chapters listed in the required text which will be discussed and led by students for approximately 20 minutes in class. Since we have about 28 students enrolled in the course, everyone will act as discussion lead at least twice throughout the course. I will randomly assigned students for their role of discussion leader in the second week of class.

Canvas Discussion Posts

20% of grade

As motioned above, students will be required to submit answers to weekly discussion questions posted on Canvas. When posting your answers to the question, you must also respond back to at least one other class mate regarding their post to the answer. All initial responses to the question must be a minimum of 500 words. All canvas posts are due Sunday at 11:59pm.

Class participation

10% of grade

Class participation is critical in amplifying your learning experience. While everyone will be required to lead conversations in the class throughout the quarter, if no one engages expect for the professor, class sessions will become monotonous and soul-sucking. My hope is that you take will advantage of the insight your peers possess, while also tapping into the powerful perspective you have to offer in every class session.

Midterm Exam:

20% of grade

During the sixth week of class, you will be required to submit a take-home exam (which will be provided on Canvas) that will be approximately 10 questions. These questions will be mostly essay based, short answer and fill in the blank.

Final Paper:

20% of grade

Chose a topic or concept found in the text, class discussions, or outside readings that pertains to international foreign policy, geopolitical politics, or international laws using theories such as to frame your paper. The paper must be between 7-10 pages. Paper topics must be approved by the professor before being submitted and must have no less than 6 sources with at least one cited from an academic peer reviewed source.

You can also visit the following websites for final paper ideas:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/topics/country/united-states.html>

<https://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/>

<https://www.foreignpolicy.com>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/foreignpolicy>

*** Attendance ***:

Attendance is **not completely mandatory**, as long as you attend 3/4ths of the classes in the term, then you will receive 5% credit towards your total final score and fulfill the requirement. In addition to this, if you attend eighty percent of the classes during the term you will receive 3 bonus points toward the final.

Class Schedule

Week 1 – (Sep 17-20)

We will be getting to know each other, and discussion ways to prepare leading class discussions.

Chapter 1 & 2 of Burchill, S., Linklater, A., Devetak, R., Donnelly, J., Nardin, T., Paterson, M., ... & True, J. (2013). Theories of international relations. Macmillan International Higher Education.

Week 2 – (Sep 24-27)

Text: Read Chapter 1

Chapters 3, 5, and 8, of Burchill, S., Linklater, A., Devetak, R., Donnelly, J., Nardin, T., Paterson, M., & True, J. (2013). Theories of international relations. Macmillan International Higher Education.

The Six Principles of Political Realism. Morgenthau, H. 1978.

<https://polticsmania.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/morganthaus-six-principles.pdf>

Discussion Leaders: Alistair Jones & Nasra Mohamed (book)

Raissa Djoko & Carolina Valdez (article)

Hongyun Zhang & Jasneet Gill (second article)

Week 3 – (Oct 1-4)

Text: Read Chapter 2

I will be out of town Oct 3rd-7th, but can be reached by email.

Discussion Leaders: Sebastien Ramirez & Nicole Lenton (book)

Week 4 – (Oct 8-11) Text: Read Chapter 3 & 4

Postmodernism, Ethics and International Theory. Cochran, M. 1995.

Discussion Leaders: Mayah Mostafa & Vaneeza Malik (book),
An Ha & Robert Tarter (article)

Week 5 – (Oct 15-18) Read Chapter 5

Discussion Leaders: Coby McCabe & Izabela Sasin (book)

Week 6 – (Oct 22-25) Read Chapter 5 **Midterm Exam**

Discussion Leaders: Keiji Kato & Kamilla Hansen (book)

Week 7- (Oct 29-1) Read Chapter 6 & 7

The 1948 Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine (Pappe, 2006)
(see Canvas)

Discussion Leaders: Haley Orozco & Miki Sakuma, (book)
Sabastien Ramirez, Bobby Tarter (article)

Week 8 Nov 5-8– Read Chapter 8

Discussion Leaders: Samantha Rich & Minkyu Jeon (book)

Week 9 – (Nov 12-15) Read Chapter 9 & 10

Discussion Leaders: Sophie Onasch & Aidan Schellings (book)

World Bank, IMF turned poor Third World nations into loan addicts
(John Cavanagh and Jerry Mander, 2003)

Week 10 – (Nov 19-22) Read Chapter 11 & 12

Discussion Leaders: Yifei Geng & Anthony Beal (book)

Week 11 – (Nov 26-29) Read Chapter 13 & 14 Final Paper Bibliography Due

Discussion Leaders: Jasneet Gill, Katia Gonzalez (book)

Week 12 – (Dec 3-5) **FINAL PAPER DUE ON CANVAS SATURDAY DEC 8th @ 11:59AM**

Community Agreements

1. Respect: This is fundamental to our success. Everyone comes into this classroom with a valid viewpoint. Each of us deserves to be seen as worthwhile and each of us must give that respect to the other. This means that this classroom is a ***no shame zone***. ***You will not be judged by myself or anyone else in class for the way you look, the way you ask a question, for asking a question, for having trouble with the coursework, for who you are and for being yourself. In fact, on the last point, you'll be applauded for being yourself!***
2. Listen to understand, NOT to respond.
3. Don't Plagiarize! Don't copy others work and submit it as your own. We will find out.
4. Step up, step back: If you like to contribute to classroom conversations, contribute to the learning of your fellow students who may be a bit more shy and create space for them to speak up. It's not a bad thing to contribute but, sometimes one can take up more space and marginalize others without intending to.
5. Help Create a Safe Environment: this is a space for all races, classes, genders, sexualities, nationalities, and persons. Any form of discrimination or oppressive slurs or

behavior **will not be tolerated and result in your immediate exit from the course.**
That goes for harassment as well (see point #1).

6. Come to class prepared after doing the required readings.
7. Participate in discussion.
8. No phones (except in emergencies, or to quickly fact check).

Late work and Classroom Policies

Late work: Assignments are due on the date listed in the course schedule and the quizzes/tests will be in-class on the date listed in the schedule. You will have a period of two weeks after the assignment due date to turn in late work for 85% of the grade. This means that if you turn in work during this two-week period, I will multiply your final score by 85/100.

If your work is more than two weeks late or you are falling behind due to emergency/unforeseen circumstances, you can work with me to create an individualized plan. Please do not make requests for extensions in person at the beginning or end of a class period because it is difficult for me to properly keep track of agreements made hastily. Instead, email me at jabril.hassen@bellevuecollege.edu or please schedule a time to meet with me or come to my office hours.

English Second (or more) Language Students: If English is your second language, you can use a translation dictionary during in-class assessments (quizzes and exams). The dictionary must be a book not an electronic dictionary, and it must be the type of translation dictionary that only includes the translation, not the definition. 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 your phone on silent and put it away. Unless I state otherwise, phones are not allowed in class. Laptops are allowed for note-taking only. Students who use their laptops for notes must submit their notes to me electronically following each and every class period. 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.

In order to respect the wishes of other, by default there is no recording of any audio or video allowed in the classroom. Nevertheless, if any of these policies prohibit you from being able to learn in the fullest possible way, please meet with me to work out an individualized solution.

Email and Canvas Inbox: Canvas provides many different places to communicate with me (replies to my feedback/grading, etc.), which can sometimes make communicating more challenging than it needs to be. The best ways to communicate with me are: in person during office hours (or by appointment); through my BC email; or the Canvas 'inbox'. I may check these locations at odd hours, such as at night or over the weekend. But please do not expect

me to reply outside of regular business hours. Respect the dynamic that teaching this class is my workplace. On my end 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.

Institutional Commitments and Policies

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 should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

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.

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. Such behavior will result in a zero grade for the assignment/exam in question. Please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2050p/>.

"Sharing is Caring"

~Barney the Purple Dinosaur

Important Resources/Services

Disability Resource Center – B132

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) 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 the DRC as soon as possible. If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [Autism Spectrum Navigators](#). Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call the reception desk at (425) 564.2498. Deaf students can reach the DRC by Skype: the address is **DRCatBC** (NOTE: There is no @ sign...it is actually **DRCatBC**). Please visit the website at [Disability Resource Center](#) for application information and other helpful links.

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

Multicultural Services (MCS) is a student-centered service program on campus that is designed to support all students in general, and diverse student populations in particular. 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. The Counseling Center can be a helpful place for locating community resources (referrals) as well as free counseling appointments with the center's staff of licensed mental health counselors. Please familiarize yourself with the services offered by the counseling center by stopping by or visiting: bellevuecollege.edu/counseling/