

Introduction to Political Science - Syllabus

(Winter 2019 Item 5344) Online

Instructor: Christina Sciabarra, Ph.D. (I go by Christina, but you may also refer to me as Dr. Sciabarra or Professor Sciabarra)

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Office location: A-203

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 2:30-4 PM and Thursdays from 8-9 AM. I am available for appointments so please email me if you choose to meet outside of set hours.

Meeting information: completely online

Course Information

Course Description

This is an introductory course designed for students who are new to the study of politics. The course focuses on the three levels of politics in the world: system, state, and individual. We will look at different cases and concepts with specific focus on democratic and non-democratic forms of government. We will also cover the major sub-fields of political science including International Relations, American Politics, and Comparative Politics.vfcgd

Course Outcomes

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Critically analyze current political issues
- Articulate the rights and responsibilities of democratic citizenship
- Constructively engage in the political process
- Apply core political science concepts to the real world

- Differentiate the major sub-fields of political science
- Explain the significance of the scientific method in political science research

How Outcomes Will be Met

This course is completely online, but you are expected to interact with your classmates and myself online. You are expected to complete the readings, participate in discussions in and class assignments, and complete out of class work. This course not only covers important content regarding political science, but also gives you the opportunity to start building a skillset that you can use in future education and career opportunities. Engaging fully with the course will result in an increase in knowledge and real-world skills.

Grading

The College Grading Policy is explained in the current Course Catalog and can also be found at this link: [Grading Policy - https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-3000/](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-3000/)

Assignments will be posted under the “Modules” section in Canvas. I will post updates or additional materials as announcements, which you will also receive as an email. We will use class time for the group assignments, so it is important you attend class every day. Individual projects will be completed outside of class, but discussed during class.

The course is broken down in the following ways:

Participation – 25%

This includes participating in online discussion groups, sharing chapter information with your group, and completing the Canvas quizzes. You will be posting interesting events as well as breaking up the reading and sharing what you read with your group. Participating in online interactions is important and more information is available on Canvas.

Weekly Mini-Projects – 25%

There are 10 mini-projects throughout the course of the quarter and they occur weekly. They are designed to help you engage with real documents, sources, etc. and connect what you are learning with the real world. You must complete the readings before starting these projects as they will require you to draw on the information in the readings.

Group Projects – 25%

We will engage in two group projects in this class: Service Learning and a class-wide Simulation. You will work in groups on these various projects and more information is available on Canvas.

Individual Projects – 25%

There are two projects you will work on individually – the Tyranny Project and the Action Plan. The Tyranny Project utilizes the Timothy Snyder book and you will work on it throughout the quarter. The Action Plan requires you to reflect on the readings and what you have learned in the class, propose an action and explain your reasoning, take some form of political action, take some form of political action, and reflect on that experience. The final version of this paper is due at the end of the quarter.

Specific information regarding all assignments will be discussed in class and posted on Canvas.

Books and Materials Required

This course requires four books. They are all available on Amazon for under \$10 and will be available in the library. You are welcome to share books, but please plan ahead so that you are able to keep up with the readings.

Chua, Amy. 2004. *World on Fire*. New York, NY: Anchor Books. (either edition is fine)

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Alistair Smith. 2011. *The Dictator's Handbook*. New York, NY: Public Affairs.

Dahl, Robert A. 2003. *How Democratic is the American Constitution?* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Snyder, Timothy. 2017. *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*. New York, NY: Tim Duggan Books.

Help with Canvas

Students can find help with Canvas by following the link here: [Student Canvas Help](https://bellevuecollege.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/Home/)

<https://bellevuecollege.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/Home/>

We will be using Canvas extensively so please make sure you know how to access the course and submit assignments. If you need help – please let me know!

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

Instructor's Expectations

We will set up class discussion rules as a group during the first week of class, but it is important to note that inappropriate language will not be permitted. Failure to adhere to the agreed upon discussion rules will result in being asked to leave class and possibly dropped from the course. All viewpoints are welcome, but must be accompanied by evidence and logical reasoning.

Email policy – I check email at 8 AM and 8 PM every week day, generally. I will respond to your email within the window it is received meaning if you send it after 8 AM, you can expect a response after 8 PM.

Late work – I generally do not accept late work, but I understand that life happens and will discuss any extension requests on a case by case basis. It is important you let me know BEFORE an assignment is due that you might need some extra time. The course moves quickly so staying up on your assignments is crucial.

Class Engagement – You will need to be engaged to do well in this class. This means that you sign in at least twice a week to share with your group, complete the readings, complete the mini-projects, participate in group work, and complete the individual assignments. I have designed this course to ensure that you come away with knowledge of political systems, the ability to assess and analyze events and outcomes, and the ability to advocate for yourself. If you do not fully participate in the course, you will not be able to meet these outcomes.

Accessibility

The online elements of this course are designed to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning styles, have disabilities, or are new to online learning. Be sure to let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes I can make to the course so that it is more welcoming to, accessible to, or usable by students who take this course in the future.

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.

[Affirmation of Inclusion](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/inclusion/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/inclusion/>)

Religious Holidays

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments because 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. The [Request for Accommodations for Reasons of Faith or Conscience Form](#) provides more information about and the steps to request this accommodation.

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.

[Policy 2950 Accommodations for Reasons of Faith or Conscience](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2950p-2/)
(<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2950p-2/>).

Annual Notice Non-Discrimination

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; creed; color; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates. Bellevue College is prohibited from discriminating in such a manner by college policy and by state and federal law. All college personnel and persons, vendors, and organizations with whom the college does business are required to comply with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations designed to promote affirmative action and equal opportunity.

[Equal Opportunity](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal/) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal/>)

Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share with the Title IX Coordinator any and all information regarding sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct (e.g. relationship violence, stalking) that may have occurred on campus or that impacts someone on campus. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the BC Counseling Center at (425) 564-2212. The Title IX Office can be contacted at 425-564-2641 and more information can be found at [Title IX](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/>).

If you have any concerns, you may report to: [Report Concerns](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/reportconcerns/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/reportconcerns/>).

Student Conduct Code and Academic Integrity

Any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source), and fabrication, and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Conduct Code of Bellevue College. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Conduct Code to the Manager of Student Conduct for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Conduct Code at: [Student Code](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2050/). <https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2050/>

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with disabilities. Common disabilities include physical, neurological (e.g. Autism, ADD/ADHD), and mental health (e.g. depression, anxiety). If you are a student who has a disability or if you think you may need accommodations in order to have equal access in your classes, programs, activities, and any other services, please contact the DRC.

If you require assistance in an emergency, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan for while in class and contact the DRC to develop a safety plan for while you are elsewhere on campus.

The DRC office is located in building B Room 132. You can contact the DRC by stopping by the office at B132, calling our front desk phone number (425) 564-2498, emailing drc@bellevuecollege.edu. Deaf students can reach us by calling TTY: (425) 564-4110, or by Skype (account name **DRCatBC**). For more information about the services we offer, including our Initial Access Application, visit our website at [Disability Resource Center](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc>).

Service Animals are allowed in this classroom. Emotional Support Animals need to be approved through the DRC. All other animals will be asked to leave. If you believe you need your animal with you, please connect with the DRC and refrain from bringing your animal until a decision has been made.