

POLS 203- International Relations

Bellevue College, Winter 2020

Course Details

Class Sessions: Daily | 11:30am-12:20pm | D274A

Instructor: Clifford Cawthon, MA

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Phone: 425.564.6159

Office Location: A200F

Office Hours: Daily 8:00am-9:00am

Course Description

This course examines the struggle for power and relationships, and social forces, between nations, intergovernmental, international organizations and non-state actors, by which affairs are conducted between modern nations.

Course Learning 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.
- Understand the nuances and contradictions of global citizenship, non-governmental organizations, corporate social responsibility, international charities and advocacy.
- Articulate the nuance and problematic features of the United Nations' and the importance of the organization and the geographic locations of its members.

Books and Required Materials

The textbook for the course is 2017's [*Essentials of International Relations \(7th Edition\)*, edited by Karen Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft](#) ([Links to an external site.](#)). The Eighth edition will do as well. The book is available in the campus bookstore and you can purchase it used online as well.

I can understand that printing can be expensive and that you have a printing quota each quarter based upon technology fees. This quota is not likely to be enough for you to print all the materials and assignments for every course. I suggest that you visit any of the libraries within the [King County library system](#) ([Links to an external site.](#)), which provides library users with 75 'units' of free printing per week. Also, strategically time when you print certain passages.

Supplemental Materials and Articles

In addition to the required materials, I have also listed suggested reading materials that are not mandatory to read but, will may add context and/ or content to your experience during the lesson. All of the suggested materials are admissible for any exam or project.

Please note, that I only receive assignments (except tests) through canvas. I will not accept assignments, regardless of circumstances through email or on paper, unless specified otherwise.

Course Goals (broader, long-range intended objectives)

Cognitive objectives:

- Develop a basic understanding of the scientific study of International Relations as the study of social conflicts and resolutions;
- Understand the roles of institutions, states and actors in the international system. This includes developing an ability to identify and engage with different paradigms in international relations.
- Confidently articulate the role and power of citizens, conflict and peace (individually and in collective action) with relation to international politics.

Behavioral Objectives:

- Be able to identify weak stereotypes, arguments and xenophobic sentiments and respond with informed knowledge and critical analysis.
- Be able to reflect upon the international political and economic system in order to communicate and act based upon informed knowledge and critical analysis;
- Be able to efficiently connect local and national politics with their larger global implications; and vice versa.

- Be able to act effectively in the world based upon political knowledge.

Updates and Changes Policy

If there are any significant changes to the schedule or assignments laid out in the syllabus then the Professor will post an Announcement and send an accompanying email through the Canvas e-learning system to notify students.

This will be done 24 hours in advance of the change in order to give students to adapt. If the change will effect the Course Assessments schedule (listed below) then it will be announced 48 hours in advance in order to solicit feedback from students.

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Grading

Course Assessments	Percentage
Bi-Weekly Reflection Assignments	25%
Case Study Project	20%
Attendance (See policy)	5%
Midterm Essay	20%
NGO/ Humanitarian Organization Conversations	15%
General Assignments	15%
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

Bi-Weekly Reflections: 25% of grade

At the end of every two weeks you will be asked to write a short reflection piece on what you learned, and you will also be asked different a series of questions each week.

These pieces are not expected to be more than 400 words (i.e. a very small essay or a bigger short answer response). These will be graded on a pass/ fail- complete/ incomplete basis and the criteria will be given ahead of time.

Case Study Project: 20% of grade

International relations as a discipline is concerned with the study of power, relationships, and institutions between nations and on a global scale- so yeah, it gets complicated! You will chose from one of the following themes: a) analyzing a regional or global crisis; b) examining a non-state actor; c) how to significantly reform an international/ intergovernmental organization.

This will be an assessment given in lieu of a final exam. This will be administered on an individual basis.

Attendance: 5% of grade

Students will be expected to attend class with only a reasonable amount of class missed throughout the quarter. "Reasonable" is defined as having only 10-30% of class-time lost due to excused or unexcused absences.

Students who skip class 4 times or more will not receive credit for this. It will be graded based on a complete/ incomplete scale in the gradebook.

Midterm Essay: 20% of grade

During late February, students will be required to complete a midterm essay. The test will cover the content from the first half of the class.

NGO/ Humanitarian Organization Conversations: 15% of grade

Toward the end of the course, students will be required to reach out to someone from a Non-Governmental or Humanitarian Organization based on a list provided by the instructor. Students will then conduct a research interview in which, they will address specific topics associated with material from the course lectures.

General Homework Assignments: 15%:

From time to time, the instructor will provide specific homework assignments that relate to the course materials and topics discussed in class.

Course Calendar

Week 1. Introductions & Fundamentals- NO TEXTBOOK REQ.

Week 2 – IR Approaches and History

Week 3 – IR Theories and the study and theory

Week 4 – What is the State?

Week 5- HYBRID CLASS: The Individual/ Organizations

Week 6 – The International System

Week 7 – War, Civil Strife and Peacekeeping

Week 8 – Human Rights- Theory and Enforcement

Week 9 – International Political Economy

Week 10— International Issues and Crises

Week 11 – Transnational Social Movements and Revolutions

Week 12 – Finals Week- Student Success Day and NO IN-CLASS FINALS

LAST THING....

Please note, that I only receive assignments (except tests) through canvas. I will not accept assignments, regardless of circumstances through email or on paper, unless specified otherwise.

Assignment Submission Policy (per the Attendance Policy)

In this course, I only accept assignments via the assignment page submission platform in canvas. On the ASSIGNMENT page on the left side of your class canvas page, you can find the assignment and on the specific page, the description of the work is featured. In addition to that, on the specific page there will be a SUBMIT button. Please click it and submit your assignment via the platform.

I will not accept assignments via email or in paper form, unless specified otherwise. Apropos to submitting assignments, please submit files in doc (98/2003, X), rtf, or PDF form. Anything else isn't supported. Any links submitted will result in a zero grade if it is not replaced a week after the submission deadline. If you need Microsoft Office suite, you can receive it FOR FREE through the Bellevue College's Library Media Center.

Attendance Policy

The bottom-line of this class is: if you show up, you will pass with flying colors!

In this course, attendance is compulsory, and, in many cases, one will not be able to effectively complete the assignments unless they attend class. an incentive system will be put into place to reward those who attend class and support their efforts.

Students who do not attend class for more than 2 weeks' worth of sessions in a row will receive a follow-up from the instructor and appropriate actions will be taken to address the delinquency.

I will take attendance and those who attend class will receive full credit for it, equaling 5% of their overall grade.

How can I miss a class?

Good question. If you are dealing with one of the scenarios below AND you send me an email within 24 hours before or after class, then I'll count it as an excused absence. Usually, I don't reply to these emails and instead I catalogue them. Usually, I will not question you about your absence either if it falls within the parameters of excused absences; unless there's a pattern and then I would merely seek the best way to support you.

Acceptable Absences

Death in the family

Death of a friend

Car Accident

Personal Illness

Personal Injury

Inclement Weather

Family Injury or Calamity

Income/ Financial issues

Community Agreements

This is never a pleasant section to discuss but, as a public institution, Bellevue College has a [Code of Conduct and Regulations \(Links to an external site.\)](#) that, as a student, you are bound to follow.

In this particular class, there are a few community agreements (a.k.a. rules) that will be central to all of us making sure you are successful, so we can all be successful:

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. Disagree but, don't be disagreeable: If someone makes a point that you disagree with or find downright distasteful, don't make it personal. Just disagree and move on- or come up with a good argument.
3. Integrity: Take responsibility for what you have done.
4. Don't Plagiarize! Don't copy others work and submit it as your own. We will find out.
5. 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.
6. Everyone is everyone: this is a space for all races, classes, genders, sexualities, nationalities, and persons. Racism or any other 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).
7. Last but, not least, you will have the classroom experience that *you create*. In other words, if you are disruptive, hostile, or outright refuse to participate then you'll probably feel very uncomfortable in class. If you adhere to these expectations and come to class, with the desire to learn, engage, and grow then there's no "dumb questions", you'll always be heard, and you will always be respected.

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.

You do not need to ask me to turn in work during this period; all you need to do is turn it in. Late work may lead to delays in grading and delays in instructor feedback, as I will prioritize work that is turned in on time. In-class quizzes and tests do not qualify for this policy.

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 clifford.cawthon@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 and/ or put your laptop away. Unless you have a particular accommodation through the DRC or I state otherwise.

When laptops are allowed, they may only be used for note-taking only. Students who use their laptops for notes due to a special accommodation must, have an accommodation note from the *Disability Resource Center*.

If at any point you feel that you need to use your device(s) for communications, please quietly get up and do so outside.

To respect the wishes of others, by default there is no recording of any audio or video allowed in the classroom; unless you have my explicit consent to do so. 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.

ADDENDUM:

If a student has a concern that the observance of their faith may impact their performance then they will be reasonably accommodated in order to allow them to continue their work un-hindered by the standard course schedule.

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/> (Links to an external site.).

Plagiarism is expressly forbidden in my class, though I do understand that sometimes people will not understand how to cite a source correctly or offer a bibliography.

In the case of plagiarism, there is a three-tiered process to addressing this issue:

1. An informal warning including counseling on the details of citation.
2. A formal warning that will include documentation of the incident.
3. Reporting the behavior to the school.

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#). 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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/

IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAY - College closed	Jan. 20th
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PD DAY, NO CLASS- OFFICES OPEN - College closed	Feb. 17th
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STUDENT SUCCESS DAY, NO CLASS- OFFICES OPEN - College closed	Mar. 17th
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