

# POLS 203 - International Relations (Online)

## Syllabus

### (Winter 2020 Item # 5362 )

Instructor: Christina Sciabarra, PhD

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Office location: A-200F

Office Hours: Mondays 1-3 PM, Thursdays 8:30-10 AM or by appointment. I will be available online during these times – please email me if you are planning on meeting during office hours so we can determine a communications method.

\*\*\*I am also available in the evenings after 8:30 PM for skype/zoom calls as I know that many people work during the day and take online classes for the convenience – please email me to schedule during these times.

## Course Information

**Course Structure:** This course is entirely online so videos, lectures, discussion, and activities with required reading and out of class research all take place through the Canvas platform. All readings, assignment guides, and other information will be posted on the **Canvas site** for the class. This site will be active so please be sure to check it every other day.

**Course Description:** Examines the struggle for power and peace amongst states and people and the methods by which affairs are conducted between modern nations.

# Course Outcomes

- 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

## How Outcomes Will be Met

- Complete the weekly readings and watch weekly videos
- Complete the weekly discussions
- Complete the long-term writing projects
- Participate actively in online activities including discussions and simulations
- Contact the professor if you have questions or concerns **AND to make me aware of any life complications that will impact the course as soon as possible**

## Grading

The College Grading Policy is explained in the current Course Catalog and can also be found at this link: [Grading Policy](#)

### Grade Breakdown:

A 93-100%	A- 90-92%	
B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%	B- 80-82%
C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%
D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D- 60-62%
F 0-59%		

### Course Assignments:

***Textbook readings and additional readings and vidoes***– students are expected to read the assigned chapters in order to participate in the discussions and complete the final exam.

***Group Post/Discussion*** – Students will utilize the Canvas discussion boards to share their research and comments on the readings for each week. Students will be asked to complete short tasks related to the content of the week, share their questions on the material, provide additional examples for the week, and comment on a guided question.

***Blog Post*** – students will write a 500-1000 word blog essay on a topic of their choice related to international relations. This is a 5 paragraph essay and should include links to online information. The purpose of this essay is to give students a framework for expressing their opinions using evidence. Students will complete the blog in pieces as separate assignments.

***Tyranny Project*** – Students will read “On Tyranny” by Timothy Snyder and complete create a short document in which they select one of the lessons to review. Students will provide a cover image, summarize the lesson and why it is important, give a real world example of it being upheld and an example of it being violated in the world, and give an action plan regarding what can be done to challenge tyranny.

***Simulation*** – this project simulates a peace summit amongst conflictual parties. Students will work in their assigned groups to come up with solutions and work with other students in the course to write agreements. Students will prepare research on their own, coordinate with their group on strategies, work with students in other groups to find solutions and write agreements, and write a reflection on their own.

***Short reflection papers*** – instead of a final exam, I will ask you to write 3 short (1 page, single space) papers after each main section of the course (about every 3 weeks) and one longer (2 page, single space) reflection paper at the end of the course. There are clear rubrics for each paper, but please note that they are meant to show understanding of the course materials and your own understanding of the larger topics covered in the course.

**A separate calendar with due dates is available on Canvas.**

## Books and Materials Required

1. Mingst, Karen and Ivan M. Arreguín-Toft. 2016. *Essentials of International Relations*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company.

Please note – this is NOT the most recent version. This version is cheaper than the newest version. If you purchase the 8<sup>th</sup> edition, please note that I have posted a separate reading schedule so you have the proper pages.

2. Snyder, Timothy. *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](#)

If you have never used Canvas before, I HIGHLY recommend that you take the online Canvas introduction course available on the Canvas dashboard.

## Classroom Learning Atmosphere

### Instructor's Expectations

This class is online – to achieve success, **students should expect to get online at least 3 times per week**. Modules will be available on a weekly basis and students should utilize the suggested “work flows” provided in the weekly introductions. Falling behind will make it very difficult to successfully complete the course.

You will find a separate calendar with due dates and every week there will be a list of tasks to complete – you can find this in the weekly introductions.

\*\*\*Please note – while I can allow some flexibility in completing assignments, you CANNOT submit everything at the end of the course. You must get caught up and submit all assignments by the following dates:

Weeks 1-4, must be submitted by February 7

Weeks 5-8, must be submitted by March 6

Weeks 9-10 + final assignments by March 13 (I will not grade anything submitted later)

Final reflection paper is due – by 8 AM on March 18 (no exceptions)

We will be covering sensitive topics including violence due to war, human rights violations, migration and refugees, and poverty. Please let me know if you are concerned about any of the topics and we will find a solution.

We will have online discussions in this course – please focus on the arguments and not the people. We can disagree, but we cannot be disrespectful. You will receive additional guidance regarding discussions during the first week. Failure to follow the guidelines will result in no credit for the assignment and could result in an administrative drop from the course.

## **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/>)

## **Reasons of Faith and Conscience**

Reasonable Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience: Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the course to the office of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (see Bellevue College [Policy 2950](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id2950/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id2950/>)). In the event you feel you are being discriminated against based on faith or conscience, you may refer to the

procedures outlined in the college's [Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy 1440P](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-1440p/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-1440p/>).

## **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.

Reports of gender and sex-based based discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation by a student should be raised with the Title IX office (see 1440P2 for contact information). In cases where the impacted party is a student and the responding party is a college employee, the Title IX coordinator will direct the matter to the Office of Human Resources (HR). All other reports, including all reports where the impacted party is an employee, should be raised with the HR. If a report is against personnel in the Title IX office or HR, it should be submitted to the president's office for referral to an alternate designee.

[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, repeatedly 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](#)

## Important Links

See ["Important Links" page online](#) for more information about the E-mail and MyBC, Public Safety, the Academic Calendar, the Academic Success Center, and more.

## 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](mailto:drc@bellevuecollege.edu). Deaf students can reach us by calling TTY: (425) 564-6189, 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.

## **Additional Information**

A note about accessing Canvas from the People's Republic of China: some users have reported that they do not have full access to all Canvas functionality from within the People's Republic of China. This appears to be due to Canvas' parent company, Instructure, not fully committing to Chinese government requirements regarding internet operations within the country. The Chinese government does not inform foreign entities of their policy updates; therefore, Bellevue College cannot anticipate access to Canvas.

If you will be in China during the quarter, you should prepare for intermittent and uncertain access to Canvas.

Source: [Access to Canvas in China](https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/article/1157-access-to-canvas-in-china/) (https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/article/1157-access-to-canvas-in-china/)