



Introduction to Political Science- Syllabus

(Winter 2020 Item# 5344)

Instructor: Christina Sciabarra, Ph.D. (Please refer to me as Dr. C or Professor Sciabarra)

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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.

Meeting information: completely online

Course Information

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 writing projects. 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](#)

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 politics. 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.

Political Action and Reflection Paper - Students will take some kind of political action and share their experience and reflection on that experience. Students will receive guidance on the different types of action they can take. The paper will be two pages, double-spaced.

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

This course requires the following books. They are both available on Amazon for under \$15 each and are currently available in the library. There will be additional readings, but they will be included on weekly modules in Canvas.

Danziger, James N. 2013. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science, 11th ed.* New York, NY: Pearson Education, Inc.

***You can purchase a more recent version of the textbook

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

Help with Canvas

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!

Students can find help with Canvas by following the link here: [Student Canvas Help](#)

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 PM on week nights and will respond at that time so please allow 24 hours for a response. Weekends are an important time with my family so I will check email once over the weekend so expect 48 hours for a response on Saturdays and Sundays.

Late work and Class Engagement– 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.

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)

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.

Questions/Concerns – if you have a question regarding grading or the course, the Social Science department asks you to contact me first. You are welcome to copy the chair of the department, David Spataro (david.spataro@bellevuecollege.edu) on any emails regarding concerns or you can contact him directly. AFTER contacting David, you can contact the current Interim Dean, Eric Davis (eric.davis@bellevuecollege.edu), but he is likely to refer you back to David. Please do not contact the president or provost's office as they will forward your emails back to Dean Davis. **I am always willing to discuss grades and student concerns/needs so please contact me first so we can find a resolution and keep moving through the course. I want everyone to be successful and if you do not feel you are getting that opportunity because of the course structure, I would like to know and address it.**

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, 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 Non-Discrimination Statement, 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. 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/>)