SOLIYA CONNECT PROGRAM
Bluefield State College
INST 492—FALL 2020
CRN: 12413
Section: 001

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Class: online 24/7   **INTERNET: ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu**
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BSC students engage in virtual intercultural student exchanges in real time with students in different countries. Soliya participation will be awarded 1 (one) credit hour. The Soliya Connect Program can be repeated.

Description: Founded in 2003, the Soliya Connect Program is a cross-cultural virtual international exchange program connecting students in the United States with their counterparts in the Middle East and North Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas providing a platform for college youth to initiate dialogue on critical cultural, social, and political issues impacting our world through real-time voice and image interface in diverse groups of eight to ten students.

Soliya Connect Program: Students are eligible to sign up for INST 492 "Soliya Connect Program" which is an eight-week international cross-cultural exchange program for one additional hour of course credit. Information on the program is posted on the course Moodle page.

Website: https://bluefieldstate.edu/bsc-soliya-connect-program

Grading Policy: The Fall 2020 Soliya Connect Program will run from October 12, 2020 until December 4, 2020. Registration on the Soliya website begins on September 7, 2020 and ends on September 21, 2020. Students must attend each two-hour discussion session during the eight weeks of the program in order to obtain one credit hour for this course.

Grading Scale: Attend each of the two-hour sessions for the eight-week duration of the program to receive a grade of "A". Seven sessions = B; Six sessions = C. Note that Soliya will drop any student who misses three discussion sessions with no exceptions. There are no Incompletes issued for this course.

Netiquette: When sending me an email, **ALWAYS** put the course number (e.g. POSC 200) in the Subject Heading line on your message, as I teach many courses and have many students; consequently, with no reference to which course you are referring to, it is difficult to look it up.

Institutional Learning Outcomes for General Studies:

ILO1: Communication [AAC&U WRITTEN AND AAC&U ORAL COMMUNICATION]
Students will communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

ILO2: Information Literacy [AAC&U INFORMATION LITERACY]
Students will select appropriate resources, prioritize information in terms of relevance and reliability, question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and use information in an ethical manner.

ILO5: Social, Artistic, and Cultural Literacy [AAC&U GLOBAL LEARNING AND AAC&U CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]
Students will analyze and compare diverse social and cultural patterns, texts, and performances and will evaluate them from a global perspective.

ILO6: Scientific Literacy [AAC&U INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS]
Students will understand and apply scientific concepts and develop science inquiry and research skills.

ILO7: Critical and Ethical Reasoning [AAC&U CRITICAL THINKING AND AAC&U ETHICAL REASONING]
Students will interpret, analyze, and construct ethical arguments.

(effective August 8, 2013)

Program Learning Outcomes:

PO3: Communicate effectively within a social science area of concentration.
PO4: Critique, analyze, and assess topics, ideas, and/or sources within the social sciences disciplines.
PO5: Evaluate, select, and apply an appropriate research methodology in the social sciences.
PO6: Apply ethics across the social science disciplines.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of INST 492, students should be able:
CLO1: to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;
CLO2: to articulate arguments and examine their flaws;
CLO3: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning;
CLO4: understand the differences between a secular and theistic form of living;
CLO5: be cognizant of different cultures, countries, and their place in the world;
CLO6: be cognizant of the historical evolution of human culture, including struggles over rights and responsibilities;
CLO7: be cognizant of the horrendous tragedies as well as the notable accomplishments of the US experiment in self-government in its efforts to balance the principles of liberty with order as well as the efforts of different cultures and societies to forge their own governmental structures and practices;
CLO8: be cognizant of the value and role of human labor, money, and commodities;
CLO9: be cognizant of the reasoning behind the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers in the US Constitution and how the lack of such distributions of power may impact other societies;
CLO10: be cognizant of the reasoning behind the idea of checks and balances in the US Constitution;
CLO11: be able to recognize other peoples and countries and how their societies attempt to fulfill the demands for justice and, hence, legitimacy for their political systems;
CLO12: understand the proper ordering of political relationships, the nature of class struggle, the basics of political economy, the contradictions between liberty and order, and the effects of race, gender, class, and other divisions on society and the effect of constitutional provisions to either enhance or dissipate such divisions;
CLO12: be able to articulate, either orally or in writing, a coherent, logical, and critically persuasive argument, embodying a defensible conception of human freedom, freedom of speech, the principles and purposes of dialogue to advance a more just world.

Mission Statement: The mission of Bluefield State College is to provide students an affordable, accessible opportunity for public higher education. An historically black institution, Bluefield State College prepares students for diverse professions, graduate study, informed citizenship, community involvement, and public service in an ever-changing global society. The College demonstrates its commitment to the student's intellectual, personal, ethical, and cultural development by providing a dedicated faculty and staff, quality educational programs, and strong student support services in a nurturing environment.

Teaching Procedures: This course will be taught fully online utilizing Moodle software. This course requires individual work, such as attending each of the eight Soliya discussion sessions for the entire two

hour weekly sessions, completing assigned readings and engaging in dialogue with group members during meeting sessions, and submitting a reflection paper.

Interaction Plan: This course will require continuous communication between you and your designated Soliya discussion group, utilizing the tools provided by the Soliya Connect Program, including as well the BSC email system. NOTE that whenever you email me: 1) use your BSC email, as I will not respond to non-BSC email; and 2) ALWAYS put your course number in your email Subject Heading.

Academic Integrity Policy: Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all work for this class must be undertaken and completed by you alone without collaboration from others. Any dishonesty in the performance of course work, such as plagiarism or cheating in other forms, will be reported. In the event the student is charged with some form of dishonesty, the Student Discipline Policy will be followed. The full text of the BSC Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: https://catalog.bluefieldstate.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=130&hl=Attendance+policy&returnto=search. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments must be submitted to Turnitin for the purpose of checking for plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin and will be used solely for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism during the grading process during this term and in the future.

Attendance Policy: Attendance in class is mandatory. Attendance in each online group discussion sessions is mandatory.

COVID-19 Absences: If you have a documented excuse that you are unable to attend the in-class sessions due to illness or other temporary or emergency situation (e.g., self-quarantining, travel restrictions), you are still expected to complete all assignments by the deadlines. The school's policy on absences (excused and unexcused) is still in effect unless superseded by any exigency guidelines such as those for COVID-19 containment. If you are physically unable to complete the course requirements, you may receive an Incomplete grade for the semester until all work can be safely completed. Note that all Incompletes must be accompanied by medical or other official documentation. You will also have the option to withdraw from the course. Your instructor will work with you as best they can to accommodate individual circumstances while maintaining the course objectives and curriculum requirements. Individual cases will be decided by your instructor with the guidance of the Chair of the Department, the Dean, and in the cases of international students, the Director of International Initiatives.

Communication Policy: There are no synchronous or on-site requirements for this online distance learning course. I am teaching this course from Bluefield, West Virginia, and we may not be able to meet directly in person as some of you are far from here. Nevertheless, I will login to the course regularly to answer email, respond to bulletin board questions, etc. If you have a question, email me at ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu.

Withdrawal Policy: Academic Withdrawal from the course prior to the deadline date for withdrawal as published within the academic calendar is accomplished by securing a change in schedule form and having it signed by appropriate persons. Blank copies of the change in schedule form are available in the offices of the Registrar, the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Provost), the Dean and your advisor. After obtaining the required signatures, the student must submit, prior to the deadline date, the change in schedule form to the Office of the Registrar.

ADA Accommodation: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Student Support Services at 304-327-4097 in Basic Science 113 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Accessibility Statement: Bluefield State College is committed to providing students, faculty and staff with access to its facilities and the technology and information they need to succeed in and out of the classroom, and that these resources are accessible in accordance with applicable law.
This page contains resources for those who require accessible technology or who have questions about accessibility at the university.

Accommodation Requests: If you encounter something that is not accessible, please use the following contact information for submitting requests:

For Students: Students who need accommodations should contact Carolyn Kirby, ADA Services Coordinator at ckirby@bluefieldstate.edu or call (304) 327-4098.

Assistive Technology: Students needing assistive technology, should contact Carolyn Kirby, ADA coordinator at ckirby@bluefieldstate.edu or (304) 327-4098.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER – Basic Science 110

Student Support Services: Basic Science 110, phone: (304) 327-4095.
Tutoring is provided in almost every class offered at BSC. Not only can we help you if you are having problems in a class, but we can also work with you if you just need a little extra help to make that "A" or "B". Our peer tutors also serve as mentors to participants and assist them in the "ins and outs" of college life and refers students to appropriate campus resources when necessary.

Blue Stars: Basic Science 111, phone (304) 327-4228.
The Blue Stars Center provides tutoring services for students who do not qualify for SSS and also for students who are struggling academically.

Both programs provide study skills workshops to assist students in gaining knowledge and skills to become better students.

All students will be screened in BS 113 to determine which program will best suit their needs.

Tutor.com: This fall we will be introducing a new online tutoring platform, Tutor.com. This platform will be available 24/7 and will cover a majority of subjects offered at BSC.

Services for Disabled Students: Based on documentation and recommendation of services from physicians and therapists, the following services can be provided to students with disabilities:
- extended test time
- proctored tests
- adaptive software
- note-takers
- sign-language interpreters
- and more (depending on the recommendation of therapist and/or physician.

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **Smarthinking free online tutoring for all BSC students** in the following subjects: Math; Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Financial; Writing (all subjects); Grammar; Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Statistics; Spanish. Chemistry, etc. This service is free and available 24 hours a day to all BSC students. Go to http://www.smarthinking.com/ and follow these instructions.

Required Texts:

Readings will be provided by the Soliya Connect Program.

This class is a fully online course requiring students to login to their Soliya Connect Program discussion groups each week for two hours during the eight weeks of the program. Students will be able to access reading and supplemental materials as provided by the Soliya Connect Program.

August 13 [Monday]: Classes begin for Fall 2020 Semester

Sept. 7 [Monday]: Soliya Connect Program: Student Registration begins

Sept. 21 [Monday]: Soliya Connect Program: Student Registration deadline

Oct. 12 [Monday]: Soliya Connect Program launch – first day of discussion groups

Nov. 6 [Friday]: Last Day to Drop a class and receive a grade of "W"

Nov. 18 [Wednesday]: Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.

Dec. 4 [Friday]: Last day of Soliya discussion groups.