

SOLIYA CONNECT PROGRAM

**Bluefield State College
INST 492—FALL 2019**

CRN: 12413

Sections: 001

September 9-December 6, 2019

Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.

Class: online 24/7

Office Hours: TBA

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Place-bound BSC students engage in virtual intercultural student exchanges in real time with students in different countries. This activity is embedded within courses with an international focus such as International Relations, Comparative Politics, or Intercultural Communication. The Soliya Connect Program can be repeated for each of the above-mentioned internationally-recognized courses for additional credit. Soliya participation will be awarded 1 credit hour (INST 492) in addition to the 3 credit hours in one of the courses listed above.

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, and Europe 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.

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

Grading Policy: The Soliya Connect Program will run from September 9 until December 6, 2019. 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.

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.

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; Five sessions = D; Four sessions are less = F. 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.

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

Communication Policy: There are no synchronous or on-site requirements for this online distance learning course. As the instructor of this course, I will be keeping track of your attendance in your group discussion sessions and will assign grades based upon such attendance. 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.

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.*****

Aug. 19 [Monday]: Classes begin for Fall Semester

Sept. 2 [Monday]: Labor Day Holiday — College closed (No Classes)

Sept. 9 [Monday]: **Soliya Connect Program:** Student Registration begins

Sept. 23 [Monday]: **Soliya Connect Program:** Student Registration deadline

Oct. 14 [Monday]: **Soliya Connect Program launch – first day of discussion groups**

Nov. 8 [Friday]: Last Day to Drop a class and receive a grade of “W”

Nov. 25-29 [Week Fifteen]: Thanksgiving Day Holidays — College closed (No Classes)

Dec. 6 [Friday]: **Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date. Last day of Soliya discussion groups.**

Dec. 17 [Tuesday]: Final grades due to Registrar by 12:00 Noon electronically.