

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**Bluefield State College**  
**POSC 405—SPRING 2020**  
**Section 001**  
**CRN: 20899**  
**MOODLE**

**Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.**  
**Class: Online 24/7**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
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Study of the major concepts and approaches in world politics and analysis of process, institutions, problems of war and peace, and contemporary trends. PR: POSC 200 or POSC 210.

**Grading Policy:** 20% for Attendance which requires completing Online Chapter Quizzes and answering Chapter Class Discussion Questions (i.e. 10% + 10% = 20%); 20% for the Midterm Exam; 20% for participating in the Soliya Connect Program; 20% for the Research Paper; and 20% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet will be posted outlining the requirements for your Research Paper.

**Grading Scale:** 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F. These numerical scores correspond to the following evaluations: “A” = Excellent; “B” = Good; “C” = Satisfactory (NOTE: A grade of “C” or better is required in major courses); “D” = Poor (passing, except in major courses); “F” = Earned Failure (removed only by repeating the course; upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is “excluded” from grade point average. The second grade is “included” in the recalculation of the grade point average); and “I” = Incomplete.

**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 will be handed out in class. If you do not sign up for INST 492, then you must participate in the Soliya Connect Program for 20% of your course grade.

**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:**

- PO1: Examine the evolution and/or effects of cultures in terms of behaviors, experiences, and differences.*
- PO2: Understand and/or apply basic knowledge of principles and methods found in the social sciences disciplines.*
- 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 POSC 405, students should:

- CLO1: Demonstrate ability to utilize email to communicate and send attachments, navigate the Moodle course page, and complete online quizzes and exams.
- CLO2: be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;
- CLO3: be able to articulate arguments and examine their flaws by submitting answers to chapter class discussion questions;
- CLO4: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning by articulating your perspective on issues raised in class discussion questions as well as depicted by the arguments in your semester research paper;
- CLO5: be familiar with essays, both pro and con, regarding world politics by reading the assigned texts;
- CLO6: have some familiarity of the various theories of world politics by utilizing various theories to respond to chapter class discussion questions;
- CLO7: demonstrate an understanding of international decision making, including rivalries and relations amongst the great powers, the history leading up to the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, the subsequent Cold War conflict between capitalism and communism, as well as the post-Cold War aftermath and present conjuncture of power relation in your responses to chapter class discussion questions as well as in your semester research paper;
- CLO8: demonstrate an understanding of the historical evolution of human culture, including struggles over rights and responsibilities, the many horrendous tragedies as well as numerous accomplishments of various peoples who struggled to overcome adversity in their unending quest for freedom, as well as the present division of the world between rich and poor nations, the role of non-state actors, and the quest for global community in your responses to chapter class discussion questions as well as in your semester research paper;
- CLO9: demonstrate an awareness of the effects of race, gender, class, and other divisions on society and the effect of differing constitutional provisions amongst states to attempt to either enhance or dissipate such divisions, understanding how such divisions pose a threat of armed conflict to the world resulting in a pursuit of power through arms and alliances of armed aggression, as well as stimulating efforts seeking peace through international law and collective security in your responses to chapter class discussion questions as well as in your semester research paper;
- CLO10: demonstrate comprehension of the globalization of international finance, international trade in the global marketplace, the demographic and cultural dimensions of globalization, the promotion of human development and human rights, and the global responsibility for the preservation of the environment in your responses to chapter class discussion questions as well as in your semester research paper;

CLO11: be able to articulate, either orally or in writing, a coherent, logical, and critically persuasive argument, embodying a defensible conception of human freedom, on a designated topic relating to international relations.

**Teaching Procedures:** This course will be taught fully online utilizing Moodle software. Individual work is required, such as submitting the Mandatory Name Assignment, completing online chapter quizzes, answering chapter discussion questions, submitting a research paper, and completing the online midterm and final exams, on the dates indicated.

**Interaction Plan:** This course will require continuous communication between you, the student, and myself, the instructor, utilizing the tools provided by the course Moodle page and related software, including as well the BSC email system. We shall follow the posted syllabus as our guide.

**Caveat Emptor (i.e. Buyer Beware):** This course is intense and requires a commitment by you, the student, to keep up with the readings and the work. By taking this course, you are making a **commitment** to purchase the required text, **keep up with the chapter readings**, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, take the **Chapter Quizzes** and submit answers to the **Class Discussion Questions** as they arise, in addition to completing the **Midterm Exam** and **Final Exam** by the dates indicated.

**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 Honesty Policy can be found at: <http://www.bluefieldstate.edu/academics/academic-honesty-and-proctoring>. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments are submitted to [Turnitin](#) for the purpose of checking for possible 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. For an online course, this means that you must regularly (i.e. at least once each week) login to the online course page, submit answers to each chapter discussion question, complete chapter quizzes and exams, and submit your research paper, etc., on the dates indicated.

**Mandatory Name Assignment:** All of you should first complete the Mandatory Name Assignment by the end of the first week of class. Read the instructions below for the first assignment which requires you to send me your name in Microsoft Word format as an attachment. Yes, your name must be in a file sent as an attachment, so do NOT send me your name in an email message and think that you have completed this assignment. Send the attachment to my BSC email address, i.e. [ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu](mailto:ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu). Once I receive it, you will have a “completed” noted on your grade sheet on the course Moodle page under “Mandatory Name Assignment”. The reason for this exercise is that you need to know how to send a Microsoft Word attachment, because later in the course you will each have to upload and submit a copy of your research papers formatted in Microsoft Word to the Turnitin website as well as sending me a copy to my BSC email. Remember: use Microsoft Word and not Microsoft Works as an editor. Also note that the Research Paper Guidelines have been updated and will tell you all you need to know to complete the Research Paper.

**Online Class Discussion Policy:** The Chapter Discussion Questions will be posted on the class Discussion board at the beginning of each week. At the bottom of the chapter question, there is a hyperlink “Reply” button. Simply click this “Reply” button and submit your answer to the chapter question. **Each student must make at least one entry per each Chapter Class Discussion question.** Make sure you **simply hit the reply button on the Discussion Question which is posted to submit your answer**, so that the Subject Heading is the same as the Discussion Question, in order to get credit for that Chapter’s Discussion Question. Note that each student MUST provide their own answer to each question. **DO NOT SUBMIT ATTACHED ANSWERS.** **YOU MUST TYPE YOUR REPLY IN THE DISCUSSION SECTION SO THAT ALL CAN READ IT WITHOUT OPENING UP AN ATTACHMENT.** **Copying from any other student’s answer or**

**simply repeating what other students have written constitutes plagiarism and will be dealt with harshly.** Also, you will not be able to view other students' responses until you have submitted one of your own first. Note that, like the quizzes, you must complete all chapter discussion questions by the **Last Day of Classes by 11:55 p.m.** in order to receive 10% credit (i.e. half of 20% for the Quizzes and for the Discussion Questions).

**Quiz and Test Policy:** You will have **three possible attempts** with each chapter quiz to make your highest score. On the Midterm and Final Exams, you will have **only one possible attempt** to make your highest score. Your chapter quizzes will become accessible on the date indicated online and you will have until **the Last Day of Classes at 11:55 p.m.** to take them. The Midterm and Final Exams will be accessible on the date indicated online and on the syllabus and **you will have only 120 minutes to complete each exam.** If you attempt to utilize the course textbook to answer the questions on the Midterm and Final Exams, you will likely run out of time. **Make sure to complete both the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam by the stipulated dates.** The Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1-7. The Final Exam will cover Chapters 8-14. Questions on the Midterm and Final Exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

**Special Note About the Chapter Quizzes:** Each Chapter Quiz contains at least thirty questions and, sometimes, more. However, do not be discouraged by this, because you will NOT be graded on how many answers you get wrong or right on the Chapter Quizzes but, rather, you will be graded simply on whether or not you took each Chapter Quiz at least once. Yes, you read that correctly. All you need to do in order to receive your 12.5% credit (i.e. half for the Quizzes and 12.5% for the Discussion Questions, for a total of 25% for Attendance) for completing the Chapter Quizzes is to simply attempt to take each Chapter Quiz at least once. Make sure you click the "Submit" button at the end of each Chapter Quiz so that Moodle notifies me that you have taken the quiz. By completing the chapter quizzes, you will also be preparing yourself for the Midterm and Final Exams, as the questions on the exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

**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, the Dean and the 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 and Student Support Services:** 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.

**English for International Students:** Contact the Office of International Initiatives or click on the English for International Students page at:  
<https://bluefieldstate.edu/resources/international-initiatives/english-international-students>

**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).

Contact Student Support Services at 304.327.4098.

**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.

**Library Resources:** The William B. Robertson Library is open Mondays through Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Fridays until 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Library resources can be found here:

<https://bluefieldstate.edu/academics/library/resources>

**Help Desk Support:** Contact the BSC Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) Team to obtain a BSC email if you do not have one, learn how to use and navigate your Moodle course(s), and answer any questions you may have regarding your online course experience at BSC. Call the Help Desk at 304.327.4545 or email [moodlesupport@bluefieldstate.edu](mailto:moodlesupport@bluefieldstate.edu).

#### Required Texts:

Blanton, Shannon Lindsey and Charles William Kegley Jr. 2021. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. [ISBN-13: 9780357141809] 560 pages, paperback.

#### Recommended Supplemental Text:

Allen, John L. and Christopher J. Sutton. 2012. Student Atlas of World Politics 2014-2015. [Paperback]. Tenth Edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Higher Education [ISBN-13 9780078026201], 240 pages, paperback.

**\*\*\*This class is a fully online Moodle course and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC Moodle website.\*\*\***

**Quality Matters Alignment Codes: Unless otherwise indicated, all learning activities below support the following course learning objectives or competencies:**

**Alignment:** ILO1, ILO2, ILO6, & ILO7>CLO1-11

#### **Jan. 13 [Monday]: First Day of Classes**

**Mandatory Name Assignment:** Log on to the course webpage and familiarize yourself with the course content, icons, syllabus, Moodle links, etc. Each student **must** send me an attachment **to my BSC email at ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu** a document **spelling out your complete name**. This document **MUST** be composed in **Microsoft Word** and **SENT AS AN ATTACHMENT**. As your research paper at the end of the semester **must be composed in Microsoft Word** and sent as an attachment, you must master this task at the beginning of the semester. Remember to send your Mandatory Name Assignment as a Microsoft **WORD** file and NOT a Microsoft **WORKS** file.

**Alignment:** ILO1 & ILO2>CLO1<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These codes will demonstrate the relationship between learning objectives or competencies and learning activities.

## **Part I: TREND AND TRANSFORMATION IN WORLD POLITICS**

**Jan. 13-17 [Week One]:** Discovering World Politics

**Main Themes:** What are international relations (IR)? Why should we be interested in IR? Where do we fit in the schema of international relations? Who are “we” and what do “we” stand for? What is to be done in IR?

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 1

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 1 and answer Chapter 1 Class Discussion Question.

**Jan. 20 [Monday]: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (Holiday – No classes; School Closed)**

**Jan. 20-24 [Week Two]:** Interpreting World Politics through the Lens of Theory

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 2

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 2 and answer Chapter 2 Class Discussion Question.

**Jan. 27-31 [Week Three]:** Theories of International Decision Making

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 3

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 3 and answer Chapter 3 Class Discussion Question.

## **Part II: THE GLOBE'S ACTORS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS**

**Feb. 3-7 [Week Four]:** Great Power Relations and Rivalries

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 4

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 4 and answer Chapter 4 Class Discussion Question.

**Feb. 10-14 [Week Five]:** World Politics and the Global South

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 5

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 5 and answer Chapter 5 Class Discussion Question.

**Feb. 17-21 [Week Six]:** Non-state Actors and the Quest for Global Community

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 6

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 6 and answer Chapter 6 Class Discussion Question.

## **Part III: CONFRONTING ARMED CONFLICT**

**Feb. 24-28 [Week Seven]:** The Threat of Armed Conflict to the World

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 7

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 7 and answer Chapter 7 Class Discussion Question.

**Feb. 29-Mar. 5 [Week Eight]:** Midterm Exam Online [Click on Quizzes and then on “Midterm Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Midterm Exam by 11:55 p.m. on March 5, 2020.]

**Mar. 6 [Friday]:** Mid-Semester grades due to Registrar

**Mar. 9-13 [Week Nine]:** Spring Break (no classes; college closed)

**Mar. 16-20 [Week Ten]:** The Pursuit of Power through Arms and Alliances

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 8

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 8 and answer Chapter 8 Class Discussion Question.

**Mar. 23-27 [Week Eleven]:** The Quest for Peace through International Law and Collective Security

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 9

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 9 and answer Chapter 9 Class Discussion Question.

#### **Part IV: HUMAN SECURITY, PROSPERITY, AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**Mar. 30-Apr. 3 [Week Twelve]:** The Globalization of International Finance

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 10

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 10 and answer Chapter 10 Class Discussion Question.

**Apr. 3 [Friday]:** Last Day to Drop a class and receive a grade of “W”

**Apr. 6-10 [Week Thirteen]:** International Trade in the Global Marketplace

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 11

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 11 and answer Chapter 11 Class Discussion Question.

**Apr. 13-17 [Week Fourteen]:** The Demographic and Cultural Dimensions of Globalization

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 12

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 12 and answer Chapter 12 Class Discussion Question.

**Apr. 20-24 [Week Fifteen]:** The Promotion of Human Development and Human Rights

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 13

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 13 and answer Chapter 13 Class Discussion Question.

**April 26 [Sunday]: [Research Papers Due]**

**Assignment:** Research Papers Due today. Submit a copy of your Research Papers to Turnitin. Click on the Turnitin button on the course Moodle page for submission instructions. Also, send an electronic copy to me by email as a Microsoft Word attachment to ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu.

#### **Part V: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF WORLD POLITICS**

**Apr. 27-May 1 [Week Sixteen]:** Global Responsibility for the Preservation of the Environment & Looking Ahead at Global Trends and Transformations

**Readings:** Blanton & Kegley, Ch. 14

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 14 and answer Chapter 14 Class Discussion Question.

**Assignment:** Complete all Quizzes, Chs. 1-14, and answer all Class Discussion Question, Chs. 1-14.

**May 1 [Friday]:** [Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed and submitted by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.]

**Assignment:** Complete all readings, quizzes, and chapter discussion questions.

**May 2-10 [Week Seventeen]:** Final Exam [Click on Quizzes and then on “Final Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Final Exam by 11:55 p.m. on May 10, 2020.]

**May 12 [Tuesday]:** Final grades due in Faculty Web-Self Serve or to the Registrar electronically.