

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**Bluefield State College**  
**POSC 405—SPRING 2015**  
**Section 1**  
**CRN: 20976**  
**BLKBD**

**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: 25% for Attendance & Participation\*; 25% for the Midterm Exam; 25% for the Research Paper; and 25% 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.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of POSC 405, students should be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts; to articulate arguments and examine their flaws; be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning; be familiar with essays, both pro and con, regarding world politics, theories of world politics, international decision making, rivalries and relations among the great powers, the global South in a world of powers, non-state actors and the quest for global community, the threat of armed conflict to the world, the pursuit of power through arms and alliances of armed aggression to the world, the quest for peace through international law and collective security, 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.

Teaching Procedures: This course will be taught fully online utilizing BlackBoard software. Individual work is required, such as answering chapter discussion questions, submitting a research paper, and completing online quizzes, including a midterm and final exam.

Interaction Plan: This course will require continuous communication between you, the student, and myself, the instructor, utilizing the tools provided by the course BlackBoard 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 online distance learning 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 texts, **keep up with the chapter readings**, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, and 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 may be submitted to [Turnitin](#) by the instructor 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. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each day of class; failure to sign the attendance sheet—even if in attendance—will be counted as an absence. “When the number of clock hours of willful absences exceeds the number of semester hours of credit, the instructor will notify the Registrar that the student has exceeded the permissible number of absences and should be withdrawn from class.” Students with Excused Absences must submit to me a hard copy of the campus publication *The Bulletin* announcing your allowed absence in order to get credit for the day(s) of your absence. “It is the responsibility of the student to...provide supporting documents for institutional and unavoidable absences” (*Bluefield State College Academic Catalog 2012-2014*, p. 55). As well, you are expected to follow the syllabus and accordingly be prepared for each day's class. This means that you must read the pre-assigned readings before class so that you will be prepared to discuss and debate in class the subject matter scheduled for that day and answer questions related to the issues being covered. **NOTE: TURN OFF** all cell phones during class.

\* Absence from class may be made up by preparing a **two-page, typed** (i.e. using maximum 12 point font size and maximum double-spaced text with one-inch margin on all sides), **summary** on the missed material scheduled to be covered the day(s) of your absence. The summary must be in your own words and must **not** be copied material from the text(s), the internet, or any other source(s). **All summaries must be turned in to me by the last day of classes if you want credit for your absences.**

**Online Class Discussion Policy:** Each of you will receive each Chapter Class Discussion Question in your email. 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. [Alternatively, click on the “Discussion” icon on the course Moodle page and then click on the Chapter Class Discussion Question you wish to answer; go to the bottom of the question and click on the hyperlink “Reply” button and submit your answer.] **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 you receive in your email 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. **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 12.5% credit (i.e. half of 25% for the Quizzes and 12.5% 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 [i.e. May 8, 2015] 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 1-8. The Final Exam will cover Chapters 9-15. 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 BlackBoard 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](mailto: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.

Disability Services Statement: BSC is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require classroom, equipment, testing or assignment accommodations should contact the Student Support Services at 304.327.4227 to request accommodations before the start of the semester. Your immediate attention to these arrangements is necessary to assure a positive learning experience.

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:

Kegley Jr., Charles W. and Shannon L. Blanton. 2013. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation, 2013 - 2014 Update Edition, 14th Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, [Cengage Learning] [ISBN-13: 9781111830106] 624 Pages Paperback.

#### Recommended Supplemental Text:

Allen, John L. and Christopher J. Sutton. 2013. *Student Atlas of World Politics* [Paperback] , Tenth Edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Higher Education [ISBN-13 9780078026201], 240 pages.

**\*\*\*This class is a fully online BlackBoard course and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC BlackBoard website, including chapter PowerPoint summaries, etc.\*\*\***

**Jan. 19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (College Closed)

**Jan. 20:** Classes begin for Spring Semester

**Jan. 20-23:** Exploring World Politics

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

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

**Jan. 26-30:** Theories of World Politics

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

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

**Feb. 2-6:** Theories of International Decision Making

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

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

**Feb. 9-13:** Rivalries and Relations Among the Great Powers

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

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

**Feb. 17-20:** The Global South in a World of Powers

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

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

**Feb. 23-27:** Nonstate Actors and the Quest for Global Community

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

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

**Mar. 2-5:** The Threat of Armed Conflict to the World

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

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

**Mar. 9-13:** The Pursuit of Power Through Arms and Alliances of Armed Aggression to the World

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

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

**Mar. 16-20:** Midterm Exam [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 20, 2015.]

**Mar. 23:** Mid-Semester grades due to Registrar

**Mar. 23-27:** Spring Break (no classes; college closed)

**Mar. 30-Apr. 3:** The Quest for Peace Through International Law and Collective Security

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

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

**Apr. 6-10:** The Globalization of International Finance & International Trade in the Global Marketplace

**Readings:** Kegley & Blanton Chs. 10 & 11

**Assignment:** Complete Quizzes for Chapters 10 & 11 and answer Chapters 10 & 11 Class Discussion Questions.

**Apr. 10:** Last Day to Withdraw from course/college with a grade of "W"

**Apr. 13-17:** The Demographic and Cultural Dimensions of Globalization

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

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

**Apr. 20-24:** The Promotion of Human Development and Human Rights

**Readings:** Kegley & Blanton 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 BlackBoard page for submission instructions. Also, send an electronic copy to me by email as a Microsoft Word attachment to ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu.

**Apr. 27-May 1:** Global Responsibility for the Preservation of the Environment

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

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

**May 4-8:** Looking Ahead at Global Trends and Transformations

**Readings:** Kegley & Blanton Ch. 15

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 15 and answer Chapter 15 Class Discussion Question.

**May 8 [Friday]:** [Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.]

**Assignment:** Complete all readings.

**May 9-15:** 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 15, 2015.]

**May 18 [Monday]:** Final grades due to Registrar by 12:00 Noon electronically.