

KIRKPATRICK
*Signature
Series*

FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING
TO BUILD THE AMERICAN DREAM.


BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY
Real Learning for Real Life



**To ensure that our graduates are truly educated
for a quality life, productive work,
and involved citizenship, we developed the**

KIRKPATRICK *Signature Series*

At Bellevue University, we take our commitment to helping to create better citizens seriously. We are forthrightly committed to a core of beliefs that reflect the best in our culture:

- America's noble experiment in democracy and limited government
- The efficacy of our Western intellectual heritage
- The ethical standards inherent in the Judeo-Christian tradition
- The merit and dignity of the individual, and
- The prosperity, fairness, and productivity inherent in a free-market capitalist system

These values are reflected in the Kirkpatrick Signature Series, a series of senior-level seminar-style capstone courses that are required for every Bellevue University undergraduate student.

THE KIRKPATRICK
SIGNATURE SERIES
IS NAMED AFTER
STEWART R. KIRKPATRICK,
A MAN WHO BELIEVED THAT
HUMAN INTELLECT IS
NOURISHED, NOT BY
FORMAL AND TECHNICAL
LEARNING ALONE, BUT BY
THE UNDERSTANDING AND
PRACTICE OF PRINCIPLES,
INCLUDING INDIVIDUALISM,
SELF-RELIANCE,
RELIGIOUS FAITH,
AND THE LOVE OF LIBERTY.

THERE ARE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE KIRKPATRICK SIGNATURE SERIES THAT MAKE IT ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL.

Most Americans today have a passing knowledge of our culture, history, and the values and visions of our society. This knowledge is typically acquired in middle or high school. As adults, we often find ourselves without the time or occasion to research, read, and absorb the core documents that helped form our country, culture, and our lives. The Signature Series provides the needed opportunity to study and engage with these vital documents.

STUDENTS APPRECIATE THE KIRKPATRICK SIGNATURE SERIES.

Signature Series students often express appreciation for the depth of learning and significance of the material provided in the series. They particularly note the serious and sustained discussions of the central ideas and issues in American life.

Here is what two Bellevue University students have said about the Signature Series:

"The Signature Series courses were the most important courses I took in college. All schools should require them."

"I found the courses in the Signature Series an incredibly enriching experience."



THE
KIRKPATRICK
SIGNATURE
SERIES ON
AMERICAN
VISION AND
VALUES

Bellevue University's Kirkpatrick Signature Series provides students with a solid foundation to build their own American Dreams. The Series examines America as a model of success, the Western social and philosophical tradition, and the freedom and responsibility inherent in our society.

Students read about, analyze, and discuss the course's 11 topics: Our Nation's Founding Principles; The U.S. Constitution, Federalism, and Originalism; Limited Government and Individual Liberty; Religion and America's Founding; Moral and Cultural Relativism; Women's Issues; Race in America; Marriage and Family; Democratic Capitalism and Individual Liberty; Democratic Capitalism and Morality; and Civil Society and Charitable Giving.

Students read a generous selection of our nation's founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and several of the Federalist Papers.

Additional readings include classics of the Western intellectual tradition, including the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew, the works of Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides, Descartes, Machiavelli, Locke, Adam Smith, Tocqueville, Douglass, Emerson, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Contemporary commentators include Dinesh D'Souza, Michael Walzer, Irving Kristol, Milton Friedman, E.J. Dionne, and Shelby Steele.

In the Signature Series courses, students explore the values and beliefs that have contributed to American exceptionalism.

THE SIGNATURE SERIES CONSISTS OF THREE 3-CREDIT HOUR COURSES:

Celebrating The Triumph Of Western Thought

American Vision And Values

Students explore the bedrock of American culture – formative events and charter documents, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Critical thought and lively discussion are encouraged in examining personal and political freedoms and democratic principles of individual worth, tolerance, and equality. Initiative, risk taking, and the work ethic are also emphasized.

Building From Strong Foundations

Tradition And Change

Western values provide a stabilizing context for progress in an environment of rapid change. Continued success will require citizens who can draw upon their traditional ideology while taking risks to pioneer new endeavors. Students study American cultural traditions, historic societal changes, the interplay between the two, and how they affect society and the individual.

Counting The Blessings And The Cost Of Liberty

Freedom And Responsibility

Free civilizations, historically, have been more successful than oppressive ones. But freedom is the exception, not the rule. And freedom must be won, defended, advocated, and used responsibly. Students explore the implications and reasoned defenses of freedom in Western history and their responsibilities to assure a just and productive society.



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The Kirkpatrick Signature Series is an integral part of Bellevue University's Center for American Vision and Values, an educational and research institute, dedicated to the exploration and promulgation of ideas and beliefs that have contributed to American exceptionalism.

The Center for American Vision and Values examines the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, and traditional American values and beliefs – the values inherent in successful entrepreneurial and corporate cultures, as well as in the Midwestern ethic that has guided Bellevue University toward its success.



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Accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools • www.ncahlc.org • 800-621-7440 • Bellevue University has received specialization accreditation for its Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and Masters of Business Administration degree programs in business through the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE), Olathe, Kansas. Bellevue University is a member of AACSB International – the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business • www.aacsb.edu • Bellevue University does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability in the educational programs and activities it operates.