

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(Syllabus)

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About the course

Politics is an inescapable part of life. Can you imagine any human organization that doesn't have conflict over collective decisions? This course will introduce you to the formal study of politics. We will explore political issues at all levels individual, group, national, and international. You will become familiar with the basic vocabulary of the discipline, learn about the different ways that political issues are studied, and develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills.

The course assumes no prior familiarity with any aspect of political science. The only precondition is a willingness to engage with a wide variety of arguments about politics – both from the course readings and from your fellow students.

Requirements

- a. Students are expected to attend all lectures. Attendance will be recorded in each lecture.
- b. Students must complete the assignments and be prepared to discuss the selected readings during the lectures.
- c. Only electronically submitted written assignments will be accepted.

Conduct

- a. Arrive to class on time. If you have a schedule that causes you to be late, notify the instructor as early as possible at the start of the semester.
- b. Be attentive, engaged, and responsive in the classroom. Devote your total attention to classroom activities such as lectures, discussions, and note taking. Participate in instructor/student dialog, while taking notes. Faculty also encourages student engagement in the form of questions and discussion. Refrain from non-class related topics or activities during class such as private conversations, passing notes, text messaging, reading non-class related materials (e.g., newspapers), studying for other courses. No disruptive

conversations (e.g., talking, laughing) or conduct will be allowed while the instructor is lecturing or during an exam period.

- c. Disable your cell phones and other electronic devices such as smartphones and PDAs. Notebook computers may be used for class-related work. Other uses will not be tolerated. If there is an imperative need to have a cell phone due to an impending personal emergency, inform the instructor prior to class. In general, there will be zero tolerance for the use of electronic devices unless otherwise permitted by the instructor.
- d. Be courteous, respectful, and professional to your fellow students and the instructor at

all times.

- e. Do not disturb and interrupt others during lectures. Disruptive behavior is rude and disrespectful to your classmates and the instructor. Pay respect to the opinions of your fellow students.

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Students found engaged in cheating, plagiarism (using others' words as their own), or any other violation of academic integrity should expect the severest penalties available under university policies. If you commit to do your own work and use proper citation, none of this will be a concern for you. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to consult me at any time.

Readings

We will use selected chapters from the following books:

Newton, Kenneth & Van Deth, Jan W. (2010) *Foundations of Comparative Politics*. Cambridge University Press. (N&VD)

Grigsby, Ellen (2005) *Analyze Politics, an Introduction to Political Science*. London and New York: Wadsworth Publishers. (G)

Kegley, Charles W. & Raymond, G. A (2010) *The Global Future. A Brief Introduction to World Politics*. London and New York: Wadsworth Publishers. (KR)

Course outline

1. **February 17.** Introduction.

2. **February 22-24.** What is Politics (To be distributed in class)
3. **February 29-March 2.** Power. (G. Chapter 4)
4. **March 7-9.** The State: origins and development (Chapters 1,2,3)
5. **March 14-16.** Institutional structure of states (Chapters 4, 5, 8. Optional ch. 7)
6. **March 28-30.** Democracies vs. Nondemocracies (G. Chapter 8)
7. **April 4-6.** Political behavior (Chapters 9, 12)
8. **April 11-13.** Pressure groups and political parties (Chapters 10, 13)
9. **April 18.** Political Ideologies. (G. Chapter 5)
10. **April 20.** Political Ideologies. (G. Chapter 6)
11. **April 25.** Political Ideologies. (G. Chapter 7)
12. **April 27.** Foreign Policy. (KR. Chapter 3)
13. **May 2-4.** International Relations. (G. Chapter 11-12)
14. **May 11.** Non-state actors and the Challenge of Global Governance (KR. Chapter 6.)
15. **May 16-18.** Global Security (KR. Chapters 7, 8)
16. **May 23-25.** Globalization and Political economy (KR. Chapters 11, 12, 13)
17. **May 30.** Wrap-up