POLS 110: Introduction to Political Science (WI)

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Office: Saunders Hall #607

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to basic knowledge of the academic discipline known as political science. Lecture PPTs and discussion topics will cover various fields of political science such as research methods, political theories and thoughts, international relations, and comparative politics as well. First of all, this course will help students to acquaint with the key concepts of political science such as power, state, sovereignty, legitimacy, etc. By demonstrating the significance of those concepts in contemporary political issues, students will be able to learn how these concepts are connected to analysis of larger theories.

Secondly, this course will provide various ethical foundations of politics through the issues of political thoughts (e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Machiavelli, etc.). Lectures and readings will help students learn how ethical issues are raised, analyzed, and understood in political discourse. Thirdly, students will learn the research methods analyzing various empirical studies. Finally, this course briefly introduces students to the field of comparative politics as well as international relations. Both are very broad fields of political science in domestic and international aspects. We will more focus on political systems and the role of various actors such as interest groups and political parties in both domestic and international levels. It will help students to develop broad perspectives for better understanding of current events in world politics and to develop academic interests for the future research in each field.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is planned to provide basic concepts and understanding in political science as foundation for further studies, and it encourages students to find their own research interests and to get involved with political issues in global, regional, national, local and daily life with their
own perspective. In this regards, the goal of this class is to fulfill the student learning outcomes of the Department of Political Science. You will find the student learning outcomes from related link at http://www.politicalscience.hawaii.edu/undergraduate/index.html.

**Course Requirements**

1. **Response Papers (300 points)**

Three response papers will be submitted by their due dates. You will search for articles of your own research interest. Choose two articles and write a review of the articles. Each response paper should be about 500 words in length. Instructor’s feedback will be given within one week of the submission. More details will be provided through separate guideline.

2. **Field Notes or Interview-Based Essay (200 points)**

You have to choose either field observation or interview for this assignment.

Field notes: Each student will choose a research site that will serve as the location for completing the filed assignments. The site can be any public place that interests you—indoors or outdoors. Each student will be required to keep and turn in field notes during the course. The field observation should be at least one hour each time. The field notes should be a record of your research activities and observations. Beginning this activity before you have any practical knowledge of how to conduct this kind of research will allow you to see how the quality of your observations change as you learn more. You may spend more time by either going to your site more often or staying longer than one hour on a given day. You will have opportunities to share your observation with your classmates through our class discussions. You may submit excerpts or your field notes to the class for comment and discussion. You will complete at least three observations and submit the field notes.

Interview-based Essay: Each student will conduct a 20-30 minute interview on a topic of your choice. You will learn various interview techniques from the readings, course discussion, and examples. You may decide which type of interview you conduct (i.e. open-ended, structured, semi-structured). You should decide general research questions before the interview. You will use the interview experience and the data to write a 5-page essay that analyzes the data and reflects on the interview experience (for example, what you learned in the interview and how it matters in terms of your research topic). You should also discuss the problems and benefits associated with using interviews for research.

3. **Research Paper Proposal (300 points)**
You will write 5-pages short proposal for the research paper. You will submit three drafts focusing on different stages of proposal writing. Instructor’s feedback will be given within one week of the submission. More details will be announced later in the semester.

4. Class Discussion and Other Participation (200 points)

Online discussion guide including the discussion rubric will be provided. More details will be announced later in the semester.

5. Extra Credit

Two extra credit chances will be given during the semester. If you submit 300 words response paper after attending events, watching videos, and reading extra reading materials directly relevant to the issues in this class, you can maximum 10-point extra credit for each. Students who want to have better grade can submit response papers. The papers should include short summary, an analysis of the arguments, and significance of the relevant issues.

6. Reading Assignments

All readings will be available in electronic form. (Check the resource section on Laulima.) Students are expected to keep up with each week’s readings.

Important Note:

1. This is an on-line course, which means regular work is a key to successfully pass this course. Please keep this in mind, and understand that skipping readings and failing to turn in assignments on time will hurt your final grade. (You need to work at least 5 hours a week.)

2. Your active involvement in class discussion as well as general communication with your instructor is critical. If you have any concerns regarding your performance in this course, please email me as soon as possible. Communicating with your instructor (If possible, do it in advance.) is the best way to solve your problems.

3. All writing assignments should be double-spaced, with 1–inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right), and in a font no smaller than Times New Roman 11. They should follow the general rules of academic writing including the rules of grammar and spelling.
4. Students are expected to submit all assignments by the due dates. Unless accompanied by a legitimate and documented excuse (A problem with your computer or with the internet access is not a valid excuse for late submission.), one full letter grade will be docked every 24 hours past the deadline.

5. All paper assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course. (There is no incomplete.) The instructor’s comments on written assignments will be given within one week of their submission.

**Grading Scale**

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**Academic Integrity**

UHM website on academic dishonesty and related issues is available at:

>&lt;The University of Hawaii Student Conduct Code&gt;
>http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code
>&lt;The University of Hawaii at Manoa Campus Policies&gt;
>http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm

All such matters will be referred to the department chair.

**Kokua Program**

If you need reasonable accommodations because of the impact of a disability, please contact the Kokua Program at Room 013 of the Queen Liliʻuokalani Center for Student Services, Tel: 808 956 7511, 808 956 7612, E-mail: kokua@hawaii.edu. You can also speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. I will be happy to work with you and the Kokua Program to meet your access needs related to your documented disability. (http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/)
Course Schedule

Week 1  Introduction to Political Science and Scientific Methods in Studying Politics

Why not Politics but Political Science?

Discussion Questions:

Why is political science called as political “science” rather than just politics?

Discuss hypothesis formation, operationalization, independent variables, dependent variables, and indicators as elements of the process of studying politics scientifically.

Political scientists use the scientific method of empirical data collection in various ways such as case studies, survey research, experiments and indirect quantitative analysis. What are the strengths and weakness of those methods?

How can the emphasis on the “scientific” methods be connected to ethical issues?

Readings:

Roskin, Michael G. and et al. 2014. Political Science: An Introduction. 13th ed. (Pearson). Chapter 1. (pp. 2-17)

Key Concepts in Political Science

Discussion Questions:

What is power? Identify and define the different types of power.

What is a state? How does it differ from a nation? Do all nations possess their own states?

Define sovereignty and legitimacy. Why are these concepts important to consider when analyzing states?

Readings:


* Possible Research Topic/ Discussion Leader Schedule due on June 10 (Sunday).

Week 2  Research in Political Science

Research Methods 1- Access to Academic Sources
Discussion Questions:

What are the major ethical issues raised in social science research?

Why is it important to properly use academic research tools?

What kinds of sources are available?

How do you use research tools and sources for your own research?

Readings:

No readings.

Research Methods 2 – Qualitative & Quantitative

Readings:


Ethics in Social Science Research

Discussion Questions:

Are there any universal ethical standards in academic research?

How can “five questions to resolve moral issue (Velasquez et al)” be applied to your choice of research methods?

Readings:


* Research Topic due on March June 15 (Friday).

** Response Paper 1 due on June 17 (Sunday).

Week 3  Political Ideologies & Political System I

The Origins of Political Ideologies

Discussion Questions:
How does Machiavelli describe effective states?

What is the purpose of the state according to Hobbes? How does his answer to this question relate to his understanding of human nature?

Compare and contrast Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau’s ideas on a state.

What does Locke teach about economic inequality?

Are “the five approaches to deal with moral issues (Velasquez et al)” reflected in Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau’s ideas on a state? If not, discuss the reason.

Readings:


Liberalism & Conservatism

Discussion Questions:

Compare and contrast classical and modern liberalism on matters of liberty (nature of human beings) and the role of government.

Compare and contrast classical liberal conservatives and Burkean traditional conservatives.

How do these two ideologies reflect moral standards on humanity?

Readings:


*Field Sites or Interview Plan Report due on June 22 (Friday).

Week 4  Governmental System -Democracy & Non-Democracy

Discussion Questions:

What is the definition of democracy? What is implied by this definition? (What does democracy presuppose?)
What is the definition of a non-democratic government? Identify and discuss five components of non-democracy. Give an example of a country illustrating each component.

How can various ethics be improved in different political systems?

If there are conflicts between different ethical approaches, how can we make our decision?

Does democratic society develop and reflect ethical standards better?

Readings:


Video Clip:

Why democracy matters by Rory Stewart from TED
http://www.ted.com/talks/rory_stewart_how_to_rebuild_democracy.html

Capitalism will eat democracy — unless we speak up by Yanis Varoufakis from TED
https://www.ted.com/talks/yanis_varoufakis_capitalism_will_eat_democracy_unless_we_speak_up

* Research Outline & Literature List due on June 29 (Friday).

** Response paper 2 due on July 1 (Sunday).

Week 5  **Political Ideologies & Political System II**

**Marxism/ Leninism**

Discussion Questions:

Why did Marx believe that capitalism necessarily generated class conflict? What role did government play in this conflict?

Did Marx see anything positive in capitalism?

How do Marxist-Leninists and social democrats differ in their application of socialist ideology?

Readings:


Video Clip:

A tale of two political system By Eric X. Li from TED
Fascism/ Authoritarianism/ Totalitarianism

Discussion Questions:

What is the connection between fascism and totalitarianism?

Compare and contrast the fascism of Mussolini and Hitler.

Explain fascism’s critique of (a) individualism, (b) civil institutions such as the family, and (c) pacifism.

Readings:


* Research proposal 1st draft (research topic and possible method) due on July 6 (Friday)

Week 6  Interest Groups, Political Parties, and Elections

Discussion Questions:

Compare and contrast interest groups and political parties.

Compare and contrast SMP, PR, and STV election systems.

How are ethical thoughts linked to political activities?

How do domestic politics affect global ethic?

Readings:


Video Clip:

Who would the rest of the world vote for in your country’s election? By Simon Anholt from TED

[https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_anholt_how_would_the_rest_of_the_world_vote_in_your_country_s_election](https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_anholt_how_would_the_rest_of_the_world_vote_in_your_country_s_election)

Global ethic vs. national interest by Gordon Brown from TEDGlobal
**Response paper 3 due on July 13 (Friday).**

**Field Notes/ Interview Essay due on July 15 (Sunday).**

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### Week 7  
**Topics in Comparative Politics & International relations**

**Protecting Global Human Rights**

**Discussion Questions:**

- How does humanity fare? Is there any tendency of global discrimination?
- Does human development and human security improve a lot in the age of globalization? How can we measure them?

**Readings:**


- Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, “The True Clash of Civilizations,” *Foreign Policy,* March/April 2003, pp. 63-70

**What is Nation? Imagined Communities?**

**Discussion Questions:**

- What is nation? Who are the ethnic minorities?
- How does the notion of “us” create injustice and discrimination against “others”?
- How is the concept of nationalism defined differently in America and other countries?
- Please share your experiences on nationalism in the U.S. and other countries.

**Readings:**


**Video Clip:**

- Maps the future of countries by Parag Khana from TED
* Research proposal 2\textsuperscript{nd} draft (outline) due on July 20.

Week 8  \textbf{Political Culture & Civil Society}

\textbf{Reading:}  


\textbf{Video Clip:}  

What does it mean to be a citizen of the world? By Hugh Evans from TED  

https://www.ted.com/talks/hugh_evans_what_does_it_mean_to_be_a_citizen_of_the_world

* Field Notes/ Interview Essay due on July 27 (Final Submission).

Week 9  \textbf{Writing Your Research Paper Workshop}

Presentation on designing research paper

\textbf{Discussion:}  

How do you prepare your papers? Where do you start? How do you design your paper? One requirement of this course is to learn how to write your research paper focusing on a question of contemporary interest in political science. The writing assignments are intended to provide the opportunity for students to read others’ articles and see how they apply both abstract concepts and various methods to actual case. Through your writing assignments, you will have opportunities to think about elements of good research paper and important aspects of the research process.

Week 10  \textbf{Studying Political Science: Critical Views}

Presentation on Political Science, Politics, and POLS 110

*Final Research Proposal due on August 10 (Friday).