

POLS 190 – Scope of Political Science

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Freshman, Sophomore or Junior standing.
Seniors require consent of the instructor.

Summer Session I, June 17 – August 7, 2014

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class, we will explore the scope of political science as a field of inquiry. Politics is the process by which a group of people make decisions that are binding on everyone in the group – in practice, this can become very complicated. The goal of this course is to give you a sense of the broad range of questions and problems that arise in politics and the ways in which we study them.

The course is divided into three topic areas: (1) power and markets, (2) law and institutions and (3) culture and identity. What does political science say about each topic area? We will learn that the scope of political science includes controversial subjects—for example: the role of government and markets, the role of religion and other values in politics. In each section, we will cover concrete problems that the political process must address, and whether it succeeds or fails in doing so.

COURSE MATERIALS

Blackboard

All required readings will be available on Blackboard in the Required Readings folder or passed out in class. Please let me know if you have any trouble accessing the site or any content therein.

COURSE POLICIES

This class carries special expectations: mandatory attendance, full preparation prior to class, and active participation in class. You are expected to come to class prepared – having read all necessary assignments and prepared to engage in discussion.

Behavior that is distracting or disruptive is unacceptable – I have a zero tolerance policy for texting in class – your phone should be put away and on vibrate/silent so as to not disturb class. You are allowed to use a laptop for taking notes, and only for that reason – not for facebook, watching movies, online shopping, g-chat, etc. Laptop privileges will be revoked for the entire class if this becomes a problem.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grade Breakdown:

Readings Guide/Weekly Presenter:	35%
Thursday Quizzes	20%
Final Paper	30%
Attendance/Participation:	15%

Readings Guide/Weekly Presenter: Each class (beginning with the second week) one of you will be responsible for helping to lead discussion. You can make handouts, play a video/clip that is relevant, or simply have notes and be prepared to help guide discussion. Your guided discussion/presentation should focus on a specific reading of your choice that you tie into the other readings. In other words, you should pick a topic within that week's readings that interests you, and come to class prepared to lead discussion on that topic – this means engaging the class in discussion, asking your fellow classmates questions, bringing up interesting points or questions to ponder.

We will set the presentation schedule on the first day of class. You will be graded on your efforts – I need to see that you have read the readings for that class, and that you are able to present them analytically and engage the class in discussion.

Thursday Quizzes: At the beginning of each Thursday class, there will be a short-answer quiz to test your knowledge of the readings for that week.

Final Paper: Your final paper should be 7-10 pages long, in Times New Roman 12pt font, double spaced. Details will be provided at a later date, in class.

Attendance/Participation: Attendance is mandatory and will count for 15% of your course grade. If you plan to be absent, please notify me ahead of time and be prepared

to present a doctor's note, etc. Attendance does not mean simply showing up to class – it means being an active participant in class discussion. You need to have read the assigned readings before each class, and come prepared with questions and to discuss. Make sure to bring your readings with you (either in paper or electronic format) as we will be referencing them in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

Part I: Law and Institutions

- June 17: Course Introduction – What is Political Science? What does political science try to do? What's political, and what is not?
Bertell – *What is Political Science? What Should it Be?*
Sartori – *What is "Politics"*
- June 19: Politics and the People
James Madison – *Federalist Papers 10, 47, 48, 49, 51 (available online)*
Bayat – *Un-civil Society: the Politics of the 'informal people'*
Smulovitz, et al. – *Societal Accountability in Latin America*
- June 24: Menand – *The Unpolitical Animal: How Political Science Understands Voters.*
Denver & Hands – *Does Studying Politics Make a Difference? The Political Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions of School Students*
Collins – *The Beatles' Politics*
- June 26: Law and Political Institutions
Fuller – *The Problem of the Grudge Informer*
Lepore – *Benched*
Toobin – *Bench Press*
Fukuyama – *The Decline of American Political Institutions*
- July 1: Forms of Government
Montesquieu – *The Spirit of the Laws, Book III*
Schmitter & Karl – *What Democracy Is...and Is Not.*
Weeden – *Acting 'As If': Symbolic Politics and Social Control in Syria.*
Epstein, et al. – *Democratic Transitions*
- July 3: Riley – *Africa's 'New Wind of Change'*

Kuron – *Overcoming Totalitarianism*
Turner – *In Defence of Monarchy*
Self – *Why the Monarchy Must Go*

Part II: Markets and Power

- July 8: Do Politics Impact Economics and Vice Versa?
Adam Smith – *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*,
pp. 25-30
Karl Polanyi – *The Great Transformation*, Chapters 4-6
Friedrich Hayek – *Equality, Value and Merit*, pp. 80-94
- July 10: Gladwell – *Million Dollar Murray*
Sandel – *What Money Can't Buy*, pp. 3-15, 107-114
Rahman – *Conceptualizing the Economic Role of the State: Laissez-Faire,
Technocracy, and the Democratic Alternative*
Jezer, et al. – *Building a Democracy Movement: People or Corporations?*
- July 15: Nation-State Power – What is the Nation? Where does its legitimacy and
power come from?
Karlsson – *What is a Nation?*
Weinstein – *From Colonial Nation to World Power*
Barkin & Cronin – *The State and the Nation: Changing Norms and the Rules of
Sovereignty in International Relations*
Ochoa & Jimenez – *Police Force Crisis and State Legitimacy in Mexico*
- July 17: Film in Class: *V for Vendetta*

Part III: Culture and Identity

- July 22: Nationalism and Political Membership
Kaldor – *Nationalism and Globalization*
Larsen – *Refugees, Nationalism, and Political Membership*
Pletsch – *Class, Nationalism and Identity Politics*
- July 24: Race and Identity
Huntington – *The Hispanic Challenge*
Hill-Collins – *All in the Family: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation*
Bennet & Reed – *The New Face of Urban Renewal*
Bogira – *A Dream Unrealized*

- July 29: Gender Roles
 _Kantor & Greenberg – *Wall Street Mothers, Stay at Home Fathers*
 Greenhouse – *Recession Drives Women Back to the Work Force*
 Rosin – *The New American Matriarchy (End of Men, Chapter 3)*
- July 31: Religion and Politics
 Veterli & Bryner – *In Search of the Republic: Civil Religion and Republican Government*
 Kinnvall – *Globalization and Religious Nationalism: Self, Identity and the Search for Ontological Security*
- August 5: Film in Class: *Last King of Scotland*
- August 7: TBD
- August 11: Final paper due via email at 5pm

UIC RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your college advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus. You can get a referral to the right place, or help on the spot, from an advisor in the Undergraduate Success Center (USC) at usc@uic.edu.

The Writing Center, located in Grant Hall 105, offers one-on-one consultation with student writers who need help developing ideas, or need advice, guidance or additional instruction on any aspects of writing in any class. Tutors are prepared to spend fifty minutes per appointment, and there is no limit to the number of tutoring sessions you can have each semester. Make an appointment and be on time! Bring the paper on which you're working, as well as any related drafts or notes, and information about the assignment. For an appointment, call the Writing Center at (312) 413-2206, or stop by room 105 of Grant Hall. Visit the Writing Center website at www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing for more information.

Counseling Services are available for all UIC students. You may seek free and confidential services from the Counseling Center <www.counseling.uic.edu>. The Counseling Center is located in the Student Services Building; you may contact them at (312) 996-3490. In addition to offering counseling services, the Counseling Center also operates the InTouch Crisis Hotline from 6:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. They offer support and referrals to callers, as well as telephone crisis interventions; please call (312) 996-5535.

Academic Integrity Policy

As an academic community, UIC is committed to providing an environment in which research, learning, and scholarship can flourish and in which all endeavors are guided by academic and professional integrity. All members of the campus community—students, staff, faculty, and administrators—share the responsibility of insuring that these standards are upheld so that such an environment exists. Instances of academic misconduct by students will be handled pursuant to the Student Disciplinary Policy:

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/studentconduct.html>

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the faculty member by the tenth day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the student shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The faculty member shall make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure.

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/oe/docs/ReligiousHolidaysFY20122014.pdf>

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome, but must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). You may contact DRC at 312-413-2183 (v) or 312-413-0123 (TTY) and consult the following:

http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaa/disability_resources/faq/accommodations.html.