

POL SCI 103-001

Introduction to Political Science

Spring 2017
M,W 2:00 – 3:15 PM
Bolton B56

Instructor: Nicholas R. Davis
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Office Hours: T,Th 2:00 – 3:00 PM
By appointment: <https://nrdavis.youcanbook.me>

Course Description

This course is a broad introduction to the systematic study of politics, also known as political science. Political science is an unusual discipline in that its divisions, or subfields, are fairly independent of one another and are usually introduced separately. Like most universities, UWM offers introductory courses in American politics (POLSCI 104), comparative government (POLSCI 106), and international relations (POLSCI 175), as well as more advanced courses on political philosophy.

Our task this semester is to explore the basics of political thought, American government, political institutions, and international relations. This 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, from the course readings and class discussion.

There are two general goals of this course. First, the readings in the textbook and the lectures I provide are intended to expose you to many of the important concepts, theories, and building blocks necessary to understand contemporary politics. Second, this course is aimed at being the first exposure to the discipline of political science for most students. This introduction to the discipline is covered in the textbook and a few of the supplemental readings, as well as in lectures throughout the semester. It is my sincere hope that the material in this class leads you to think differently about politics and ask the type of questions that can be further explored in other courses offered in political science.

Over the course of this semester, you will read and I will lecture about four general topics covered by political science. Unit 1 will cover ancient and modern political philosophy: the origins of politics, political order and justice, and the ideals of democratic governance. Unit 2 features comparisons between types of governments, authoritarian political systems, and an exploration of American politics and political institutions. Unit 3 covers comparative democratic political institutions, examining party systems, electoral rules, legislatures, ex-

ecutives, and judicial institutions in relative detail. The fourth and final unit covers theories of international relations, international conflict and international institutions, and nuclear politics. Time permitting, we will briefly cover a number of issues related to globalization such as terrorism and interdependence.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

This course fulfills the Social Science General Education Requirement (GER) through its focus on: a) the study of intrapersonal, interpersonal, and/or socio-cultural factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, or societal development; and b) the study of human collectivities, organizations, institutions, and cultures, their infrastructures, and interrelationships.

This course meets these requirements through our examination of the varied personal, social, and cultural forces that shape individual and collective political behavior. We will also examine the institutions and organizations on which political and governmental systems are built and discuss the development of those systems.

Course Requirements

In this course you will prepare for and attend lectures, take four exams, and complete three writing assignments. Details of these expectations are provided below. This three credit class meets twice weekly for 75 minutes, for a total of 38 hours of required lecture time including all exams. Required readings should take approximately 45 additional hours over the course of the semester, and the essays are expected to take approximately 24 hours in total. All told, this class is estimated to take at least 108 hours of your time.

D2L ACCESS

There is a companion website to the course available on D2L. I will use this site to disseminate information regarding the course such as reminders about exams and assigned tasks. I will also upload non-textbook readings on D2L, collect your writing assignments, and post grades. You may direct all questions regarding the performance of D2L to the University Help Desk (229-4040). I expect you to check the D2L course site often for announcements and other materials, and to be sure to check your UWM email as well.

You must complete a short quiz on D2L dealing with the content of this syllabus. The quiz can be attempted an unlimited number of times, cannot hurt your grade, and must be completed with a 100%. No content on D2L will unlock, nor will you be able to receive any grades until this quiz is completed. You will have access to the syllabus under the Overview tab of the Content section. The point of the quiz is to ensure that you understand the guidelines and requirements for the class so that there is no possibility for confusion later.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

I expect that you will prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned material from the textbook or supplemental materials on D2L. The textbook for this course is:

Dooley, Kevin L, and Joseph Patten. 2015. *Why Politics Matters: An Introduction to Political Science*. 2nd ed. Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-285-43764-4

You can purchase this book through the UWM/ecampus site, although I strongly urge you to explore rental options from Amazon or elsewhere. There is no reason to buy a brand new copy if you can get a good used copy or if you are comfortable with a rental or an ebook, which typically are as much as half the cost. You must have a copy of this book to succeed in the course, however. Access to the Cengage online resources for this book is not required.

There are also several short supplemental readings, all of which will be listed in the reading schedule at the end of the syllabus and will be available on the D2L site. Carefully note the required readings for each class meeting, as often you will only be asked to read specific pages rather than the entire chapter or article.

EXAMS

There are four exams in this course, each worth 15% of your final grade. Each exam will be 30 multiple choice questions, covering the material from the preceding unit. The first three exams will be taken in class at the end of each unit (see schedule below) and the fourth exam will be taken during the university-assigned final exam time: 12:30–2:00 PM, Tuesday May 16th. Please note that you will need to bring your student ID to each exam, as the testing center requires a valid student ID number for each exam in order to record your grade.

If you have a university-approved excuse for missing an exam, you have 24 hours to contact me in order to have the opportunity for a make-up exam. If you do not contact me within this time and provide documentation of your absence, you will not be allowed to make up the exam. If you tell me in advance, I will let you take a slightly different version of the exam *before* the rest of the class. This can be scheduled during a mutually agreeable time outside of class.

If you find the material difficult and/or would like assistance in preparing for exams, you can either set up a meeting with me, or get tutoring. Panther Academic Support Services (PASS) has a tutor for this class, and you can set up a meeting with PASS here: <http://uwm.edu/pass/make-an-appointment/>. Just follow the instructions to set up a tutoring appointment. Often students find PASS to be a good way to get help before coming in to office hours.

CRITICAL ESSAYS

There are three written assignments in this course, each worth 10% of your final grade. Each essay will be between 1.5 and 2 double-spaced pages. The purpose of these essays is to formulate an argument (thesis) and credibly defend your perspective by providing evidence from the readings. Being “right” is not important; being *clear*, *concise*, and *leveraging the readings* to argue a point is essential.

The guidelines document for formatting the essays and the rubric I use to grade them are posted on D2L. Failure to follow the formatting rules for will result in non-passing grade for the essay, as evidenced by the rubric. For the first essay, you will have the opportunity to restructure the document for full points **only after meeting with me**. For the other two essays you will not have this opportunity and the grade will be final. I am happy to meet with you prior to the deadline to read your essay and ensure you have done the assignment correctly.

Essays must be uploaded as a document to the appropriate D2L dropbox by 5:00 PM on Friday (due dates listed in the schedule below). The document must be one of the following file types: .doc, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf, .pdf – note that Apple Pages cannot be read by D2L. Unreadable files will receive no points. Grades will be assigned via a rubric, available on D2L. Late essay assignments can at most only earn the class average.

The UWM Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.uwm.edu>) provides peer tutoring to help students develop their writing skills. If you encounter difficulty with the written assignments in this course and would like to work with the Writing Center to revise and improve your work, we can create a structure for you to do so.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION

Attendance and participation counts for 10% of your final grade. Attendance is mandatory; I will take attendance each day either at the beginning or end of class. We have a great deal of material to cover this semester, and so missing even one class can put you at a disadvantage on the exams. For every two classes you miss unexcused, your participation grade will drop an entire letter grade.

You will need to set up a meeting with me during office hours or another mutually agreeable time before the first exam in order to get full points for participation this semester. This meeting will be just a few minutes, and allows you to ask any questions about the course and for me to learn a little about you as well. To set up a meeting time outside of office hours, you can use this link at any time during the semester: <https://nrdavis.youcanbook.me>

In a class this size, it is often difficult to sustain discussion and at the same time get through the required material. I would like students to try to ask at least one thoughtful question during each of the four units. If discussion gets in the way of the required lecture material, I will refer students to meet with me after or outside of class. I encourage you to reach out to me by email if you have questions that cannot be asked or answered in class due to time

constraints as well. However, I will not accept email correspondence as a substitute for class attendance/participation.

Grading Policies

Consistent with the above requirements, course grades will be calculated as follows: four exams at 15% each (60%), three essays at 10% each (30%), and attendance and participation for 10% (total 100%).

Final Grade Calculation

Four exams, 15% each	60%
Three essays, 10% each	30%
Attendance & Participation	10%
Total:	100%

Grades will appear on D2L, typically in three business days or less. All grades will be calculated using the scale below. Rounding and grade curves are at my discretion. You are responsible for ensuring that you have received grades for all completed work. If you do not see a grade for a completed exam or essay you should contact me immediately. After the last class meeting I will not entertain any questions about missing work or grades on work completed during the semester.

Grading Scale

100–93	A	87–83	B	77–73	C	67–63	D
92–90	A–	82–80	B–	72–70	C–	62–60	D–
89–88	B+	79–78	C+	69–68	D+	59– 0	F

PROFESSIONALISM

You will be expected to behave professionally in this class. That is to say, you will be expected to arrive on time and to attend all meetings. You will be prepared for each class and actively participate in discussion. I will not tolerate disruptive behavior, including, but not limited to: reading non-class material, conversing during lectures, insulting classmates or the instructor, or leaving early. I also will not tolerate students who do not put forth every effort.

During class you will not be allowed to use electronic devices for anything other than academic activities. This means no social media, Youtube, etc. It is disruptive to other students and rude to the instructor and will not be tolerated. Should I encounter

you misusing electronic devices during lecture, I reserve the right to take away your attendance/participation points for the day. If the behavior is distracting to other students you will be asked to surrender the device for the duration of the class or leave the room.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Any student who cheats or commits any other act of academic dishonesty will fail this course and be referred to the appropriate UWM authorities. The UWM policy on academic misconduct is available at http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm. **I take plagiarism and academic misconduct very seriously.** Not knowing that you were committing academic misconduct is not a valid defense; it is my understanding that you will learn the rules or ask me. Consider this your only warning.

Indiana University–Bloomington has an excellent resource for those who are unsure what constitutes plagiarism. I urge you to read through this web page and familiarize yourself with what is considered plagiarism: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>. Another useful resource is <http://www.plagiarism.org>, which has several resources, including a service to check your paper for plagiarism.

Keep these links handy and as you complete your writing assignments for this and any other course. If you are unsure if you might be plagiarizing, review the examples they provide, and if necessary ask me. As the Indiana web page instructs, you must give credit whenever you use the ideas, opinions, written or spoken words, facts, or materials generated by another person when that information is not public knowledge. This includes information from the textbook that you might want to use in an essay.

GRADE APPEAL PROCEDURES

A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm>

INCOMPLETES

A notation of “incomplete” may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student’s control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf>

Other University Policies

Information regarding several standing policies of UWM is available at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf> Some several relevant sections are detailed below.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student who needs special accommodations due to a documented disability should please contact me as soon as possible. Required forms are available at <http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/zforms.html>.

Please inform me within the first three weeks of class if there is a scheduling conflict between your sincerely held religious beliefs and taking an exam or meeting the academic requirements of this course. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>

Information regarding the policies of UWM on students called to active military duty may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/academics/military.cfm>

DISCRIMINATORY CONDUCT

Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated. It poisons our common work and learning environment and threatens the careers, educational experience, and wellbeing of students, faculty, and staff. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf>

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm>

Course Schedule

The topics covered and readings required for each class period appear on the next page. Readings from the textbook are marked by a chapter number and page numbers. When I list the page number on which you should stop, I intend for you to read through the end of

the section on that page. Often the next class day's reading will pick up on that page with a new section in the text. Readings not in the textbook are available on D2L.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

Cheibub, J. A., Gandhi, J., and Vreeland, J. R. (1996). "Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited." *Public Choice*, 143(1):67–101.

Dahl, R. A. (1971). *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press: New Haven, Connecticut.

Dahl, R. A. (2015). *A Preface to Democratic Theory*. University of Chicago Press: Chicago, Illinois. Expanded edition.

Declaration of Independence. (1776). U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html.

Farrell, D. M. (2011). *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*. Palgrave Macmillan: New York. Second Edition.

Hegre, H. (2014). "Democracy and Armed Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research*, 51(2): 159–172.

Madison, J. "Federalist No. 10: The Same Subject Continued: The Union as a Safeguard Against Domestic Faction and Insurrection." *New York Daily Advertiser*, November 22, 1787.

Hamilton, A. "Federalist No. 51: The Structure of the Government Must Furnish the Proper Checks and Balances Between the Different Departments." *New York Independent Journal*, February 6, 1788.

Huntington, S. P. (1968). *Political Order in Changing Societies*. Yale University Press: New Haven, Connecticut.

Naím, M. (2003). "The Five Wars of Globalization." *Foreign Policy*, 134(January/February): 28–37.

Pettitt, R. T. (2014). *Contemporary Party Politics*. Palgrave Macmillan Press: New York.

Przeworski, A. (1991). *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. Cambridge University Press: New York.

Rousseau, J. (1762). *The Social Contract*. Annotated by Jonathan Bennett. Available at <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/authors/rousseau>.

Sagan, S. D. and Waltz, K. N. (2010). "The Great Debate." *National Interest*, 109(September/October): 88–96.

van der Eijk, C. and Franklin, M. N. (2009). *Elections and Voters*. Palgrave Macmillan: New York. Second Edition.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
M 1/23	Course Introduction	Review syllabus
	<i>I. Political theory</i>	
W 1/25	Politics and political science	Chapter 1, entire
M 1/30	Ancient political thought	Chapter 2, entire
W 2/01	Modern political thought: order	Chapter 3, pp 52–72
M 2/06	Modern political thought: justice	Chapter 3, pp 73–82; Rousseau
W 2/08	What makes a democracy?	Dahl (1971); Dahl (2015)
M 2/13	EXAM 1	
	<i>II. Comparative politics: regime types</i>	
W 2/15	Types of government, transitions	Cheibub et al. (2010) sections 1, 2, & 4; Przeworski (1991) pp. 51–71
M 2/20	Authoritarian politics (theory)	Chapter 8, pp 215–227; Huntington (1968), pp 1–8
W 2/22	Authoritarian politics (cases)	Chapter 8, pp 227–248
F 2/24	Essay 1 due on D2L	
M 2/27	American democracy	Chapter 4, pp 83–92; <i>Declaration</i>
W 3/01	American political institutions	Chapter 4, pp 92–104; <i>Federalist 51</i>
M 3/06	American political behavior	Chapter 4, pp 105–119; <i>Federalist 10</i>
W 3/08	EXAM 2	
	<i>III. Comparative politics: institutions</i>	
M 3/13	Party Systems	Pettitt (2014), pp 1–42
W 3/15	Voting and Elections	Farrell (2011); van der Eijk and Franklin
	M 3/20 – W 3/22 No Class (<i>SPRING BREAK</i>)	
M 3/27	Legislatures I	Chapter 5, pp 120–144
W 3/29	Legislatures II	Chapter 5, pp 145–161
M 4/03	Executives I	Chapter 6, pp 162–177
W 4/05	Executives II	Chapter 6, pp 177–185
F 4/07	Essay 2 due on D2L	
M 4/10	Judicial I	Chapter 7, pp 186–205
W 4/12	Judicial II	Chapter 7, pp 206–214
M 4/17	EXAM 3	
	<i>IV. International relations</i>	
W 4/19	IR Theories I	Chapter 9, pp 249–270

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Course Schedule, *Continued*

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
M 4/24	IR Theories II	Chapter 9, pp 270–284
W 4/26	War and Peace	Chapter 10, pp entire
M 5/01	Nuclear politics	Chapter 11, pp 311–317, 327–328; Sagan and Waltz
W 5/03	MOVIE: <i>Dr. Strangelove</i>	
F 5/05	Essay 3 due on D2L	
M 5/08	Civil War and Terrorism	Chapter 11, pp 323–327; Hegre (2014)
W 5/10	Globalization	Chapter 11, pp 327–336; Naím (2003)
T 5/16	EXAM 4 (Final) at 12:30 PM in Bolton B56	
