

# POL SCI 103-202

## Introduction to Political Science

Spring 2017

ONLINE

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### 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 lecture notes 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 provide lecture notes 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 legislatures, executives, and

judicial institutions in relative detail. The fourth and final unit covers theories of international relations, international conflict and international institutions, and nuclear politics. This unit will also 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**

This is an online course, and so it is necessary that you have a reliable internet connection for the duration of the semester. All course materials (with the exception of the textbook) are available online. All graded assignments, including exams or quizzes will be taken online through D2L.

In this course you will complete weekly reading assignments, take 13 short quizzes on the weekly readings, write five discussion posts, and complete three writing assignments. Details of these expectations are provided below. This three credit class is expected to include weekly preparation and completion of quizzes, taking about 38 hours. 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 107 hours of your time.

## **D2L ACCESS**

This class runs off a companion website available on D2L. I will use this site to disseminate information regarding the course such as reminders about assignments and lecture notes. 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). It is important to note that due to this being an online-only course, lack of access to D2L is NOT an acceptable excuse for failure to complete the required work. If you

have problems with access, you must contact me immediately and include your Help Desk ticket number or verification of D2L service outage. 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 weekly quiz by reading the lecture notes, assigned material from the textbook and/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. These readings are included to present examples of political science writing as well as supplement the book for topics which are not included. 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.

## QUIZZES

Beginning in the second week you will be required to take a quiz on the material covered each week. There are thirteen (13) total quizzes, each worth five points. The quizzes are taken through the D2L “Quizzes” tab. These quizzes have a time limit, and although you may use notes, be sure to finish the quiz before the timer runs out. There is one quiz for each chapter in the text book (11) plus a quiz for the two weeks of material that rely on non-textbook readings. You are required to take all of these quizzes, and your lowest grade will automatically be dropped. This means that since the quizzes are worth five points each, all together the 12 quizzes that are not dropped are worth 60% of your final grade in the course.

Each quiz will have ten (10) questions drawn at random from a question bank on D2L. This means that it is possible that each student will take a slightly different quiz in the same week. This is to discourage cheating. Each question is worth one point, meaning that if you get five or more questions incorrect, you have failed the quiz. The weekly quizzes cannot be retaken - remember that your lowest grade is dropped at the end of the semester. You should spend some time studying the material before taking the quizzes to give yourself the best possible chance to get a good grade.

Questions for the quizzes will come directly from one of three locations (with the possibility of appearing in more than one location). First, I create most of the questions from the material in the book, such as definitions or important ideas. Two, I create questions from my lecture notes, which are available to you on D2L, and must be opened before that week's quiz can be accessed. Underlined terms are good candidates for definitional questions, and I try to include a question on the "big ideas" of the week where possible. Three, I create questions from the non-textbook readings for weeks where such readings are required. This is to ensure you read; you can expect that if there is a required non-textbook reading there will be at minimum one of these questions on the quiz for that week.

## 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 discussing it with me**. For the other two essays you will NOT have this opportunity and the grade will be final. I am happy to communicate with you prior to the deadline, and 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.

## PARTICIPATION POSTS

Participation in class discussions is also required. You will complete five discussion posts over the semester, each due by 5:00 PM on Friday (due dates listed in the schedule below). For each post, I will start a thread under the “Discussions” tab in D2L. In order to get your participation points for a post, you will need to answer the question I pose by posting a reply on the thread I started. You may either reply to my original post directly or to another student’s post on the thread; just make sure that you are contributing to the discussion by answering *my* question when you write your post.

Each discussion post is worth two participation points. You will be graded on content and impact, and can receive half-point intervals ranging between 0 and 2 points. One point will be awarded for content - your direct answer to my question using material from the readings, lecture notes, or textbook. You will receive an additional point for impact - how well the post fits the discussion and brings to light interesting aspects of the material. It is important to note that material outside that presented in class (text/readings/lecture notes) is not required. If you include outside information, **it must be from a respectable source and include a citation**. Failure to cite outside material will result in a loss of all points for that post.

There is a thread under the “Discussions” tab on D2L where you can post general questions for either me or your classmates to answer. I will check in on that thread periodically, but for faster responses I encourage you to reach out to me by email. However, note I will not accept email correspondence as a substitute for class participation.

## Grading Policies

Consistent with the above requirements, course grades will be calculated as follows: twelve quizzes at 5% each (60%), three essays at 10% each (30%), and five 2% participation posts for the remaining 10% (total 100%).

### Final Grade Calculation

Twelve quizzes, 5% each	60%
Three essays, 10% each	30%
Five participation posts 2% each	10%
Total:	100%

Grades will appear on D2L, typically in three business days or less. Course 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 quiz 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.

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 Grading Scale
 

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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

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## PROFESSIONALISM

Unfortunately, it is necessary for me to mention that when you communicate with me, other students, and/or write your discussion posts you must be civil and professional. Posts which are not written in complete sentences will be downgraded, but posts which are abusive, profane, or a personal attack on another student ***will not be tolerated***. If this occurs, you will lose participation points for the post and be warned. If it occurs again, you will lose all participation points and I will report you to the Dean of Students. Discussion posts are a chance for you to show how smart and engaged you are with the course. No trolls allowed.

## 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](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 week appear below. Unlike some online courses, the material in this class will unlock at 6:00 AM on Monday of each week. This means that if you need to access the material and quiz before it unlocks, you must ask for special permission. Readings from the textbook are marked by a chapter number and page numbers. Readings not in the textbook are available on D2L. The “Course Schedule” feature (under “Content”) in D2L will contain most of the deadlines for the course as well.

## 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](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html). Accessed July 21, 2016.

Madison, James. “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, Alexander, or James Madison. “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.

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.

### Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
1/23 – 1/27	Politics and political science <b>Post 1 due Friday 1/27 by 5pm</b> <i>I. Political theory</i>	Chapter 1, entire
1/30 – 2/03	Ancient political thought	Chapter 2, entire
2/06 – 2/10	Modern political thought	Chapter 3, entire; Rousseau
2/13 – 2/17	What makes a democracy? <b>Post 2 due Friday 2/17 by 5pm</b>	Dahl (1971); Dahl (2015)
	<i>II. Comparative politics: regime types</i>	
2/20 – 2/24	Types of government, transitions	Cheibub et al. (2010) sections 1, 2, 4; Przeworski (1991) pp. 51–71
2/27 – 3/03	Authoritarian politics <b>Essay 1 due Friday 3/03 by 5pm</b>	Chapter 8, entire; Huntington (1968), pp 1–8
3/06 – 3/10	Origins of American democracy	Chapter 4, pp 83–92; <i>Declaration</i>
3/13 – 3/17	American politics <b>Post 3 due Friday 3/17 by 5pm</b>	Chapter 4, pp 92–119; <i>Federalist 10, 51</i>
3/20 – 3/24	NO CLASS (Spring Break) <i>III. Comparative politics: institutions</i>	
3/27 – 3/31	Legislatures <b>Essay 2 due Friday 3/31 by 5pm</b>	Chapter 5, entire
4/03 – 4/07	Executives	Chapter 6, entire
4/10 – 4/14	Judiciaries <b>Post 4 due Friday 4/14 by 5pm</b>	Chapter 7, entire
	<i>IV. International relations</i>	
4/17 – 4/21	IR Theories	Chapter 9, entire
4/24 – 4/28	War and Peace <b>Essay 3 due Friday 4/28 by 5pm</b>	Chapter 10, entire
5/01 – 5/05	Nuclear politics	Chapter 11, pp 311–317, 327–328; Sagan and Waltz
5/08 – 5/11	Globalization <b>Post 5 due Friday 5/11 by 5pm</b>	Chapter 11, pp 317–336; Naím (2003)