Political Science 3
Introduction to Principles and Methods of Political Science
El Camino College, Fall 2015

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Office Hours (ARTB 320): Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 am – 9:00 am, or by appointment.

Course Time & Location:

Section 2761: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 – 10:55 am (SOCS 201)

Course Description:

This course focuses on analysis of the basic concepts, political theories and subfields of political science. Major topics include a description of the methodology and research techniques employed by contemporary political scientists. Major political theories of the individual and the state, and the impact of these themes on modern political ideologies will also be examined.

Course Methodology:

This course will consist of two in-class lectures per week running for an hour and twenty-five minutes. Each lecture will focus on a selected reading. Students will be expected to complete the readings before lecture. Twenty of our course lectures will focus on readings from our course textbook, Politics, by Andrew Heywood. Additional lectures will focus on classic articles and essays of political science and political philosophy chosen to illustrate an important course theme or topic. In addition to the readings, students will be expected to attend all lectures and participate. Course assignments will include a midterm and final exam as well as a research paper on a topic provided by the instructor. Also, there will be quizzes on the Key Concepts from the course textbook as well as discussion questions.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students should have an understanding of (1) the major political ideologies found among contemporary political systems; (2) the differences between presidential and parliamentary systems found in democracies today; and (3) the different approaches to Constitutional Jurisprudence.

Specifically, it is the objective of the course that students will by completion be able to:

1. Examine the scope of the political science discipline in terms of its major subfields.
2. Distinguish between the differences among various methodological techniques such as statistical analysis and public opinion surveys.
3. Explain the relationships between political science and other disciplines.
4. Identify the most common structural characteristics and common functions of different types of governments.
5. Evaluate the major concepts of the political process.
6. Compare and contrast unitary and federal systems of democracy.
7. Evaluate theories of law and justice.
8. Contrast various types of legal systems.
9. Analyze the major ideas and contributions of selected political philosophers.
10. Compare and contrast the assumptions and tenets of major political ideologies.

Course Requirements and Assignments:

GRADING BREAKDOWN
- Class participation – 10%
- Quizzes – 20%
- Midterm Exam – 25%
- Research Paper – 20%
- Final Exam – 25%

CLASS PARTICIPATION
Eight lectures of the semester will be devoted to discussion of an influential political science essays and article (which will be emailed to students) related to the political concepts and institutions as introduced by our course textbook. Participation grades will be based on the completion of discussion questions DUE THAT DAY in class. Responses to the discussion questions can be printed or hand-written (provided you write legibly). Late submissions will not be accepted unless as a result of an excused absence (e.g. doctor’s appointment, work or job interview – you must provide a note from your doctor or employer).

QUIZZES
There will be 19 in-class quizzes during the course on the Key Concepts on each chapter in our textbook. Quizzes will be given at the end of class. You will NOT be able to make up quizzes unless you miss the quiz as a result of an excused absence.

MIDTERM & FINAL EXAMS
The course exams will consist of three sections: (1) a set of 25 multiple-choice questions pertaining to the Key Concepts of the course; (2) a set of five short-answer questions requiring students to briefly elaborate on the major themes and issues of the course, answers should be roughly one paragraph long (students will receive a study-guide with 15 possible short-answer questions before the exam; five will be chosen for the exam); (3) two essay questions of which the students will SELECT ONE to respond to (students will receive a study guide with three possible essay questions before the exam; two will be chosen for the exam). Exams require a BLUEBOOK and will be closed book and no notes.
RESEARCH PAPER

Students will write one 5-6 page (double spaced) paper addressing a question concerning the themes and issues introduced during the course. Students will be assigned the paper topic on Wednesday, November 4. Papers will be due at the start of class on Wednesday, November 18. Papers will be evaluated on the degree to which they adequately respond to the assigned question, the accuracy and force of their arguments and the clarity of their writing.

EXTRA CREDIT

Various extra credit assignments and projects may be given throughout the course at the instructor’s discretion.

Course Texts:

- REQUIRED: Andrew Heywood (2013) Politics, fourth edition (Palgrave). Listed as Politics in the Course Schedule (This text will also be on reserve at the campus library).

Course Schedule

Please complete the reading for the lecture BEFORE each class.

Week 1

LECTURE 1: Monday, August 24
Course Introduction
Reading: Politics, chapter 1.

LECTURE 2: Wednesday, August 26
Political Ideas and Ideologies
Reading: Politics, chapter 2.

Week 2

LECTURE 3: Monday, August 31
DISCUSSION: Communist Ideology
Reading: Arthur Koestler’s contribution to The God that Failed (via email).

LECTURE 4: Wednesday, September 2
Politics and the State
Reading: Politics, chapter 3.

Week 3

Monday, September 7
Labor Day Holiday
LECTURE 5: Wednesday, September 9
Democracy and Legitimacy
Reading: Politics, chapter 4.

Week 4

LECTURE 6: Monday, September 14
Nations and Nationalism
Reading: Politics, chapter 5.

LECTURE 7: Wednesday, September 16
Political Economy
Reading: Politics, chapter 6.

Week 5

LECTURE 8: Monday, September 21
Politics, Society and Identity
Reading: Politics, chapter 7.

LECTURE 9: Wednesday, September 23
DISCUSSION: Race in America
Reading: James Baldwin, “Notes on a Native Son” (via email).

Week 6

LECTURE 10: Monday, September 28
Political Culture and the Media
Reading: Politics, chapter 8.

LECTURE 11: Wednesday, September 30
DISCUSSION: Social Capital
Reading: Robert Putnam, “Bowling Alone” (via email).

Week 7

LECTURE 12: Monday, October 5
Representation, Elections and Voting
Reading: Politics, chapter 9.

LECTURE 13: Wednesday, October 7
Parties and the Party System
Reading: Politics, chapter 10.

Week 8

Monday, October 12
MIDTERM EXAM
LECTURE 14: Wednesday, October 14
Groups, Interest, and Movements Reading: Politics, chapter 11.

Week 9

LECTURE 15: Monday, October 19
Governments, Systems and Regimes Reading: Politics, chapter 12.

Wednesday, October 21

Week 10

LECTURE 16: Monday, October 26
Political Executives and Leadership Reading: Politics, chapter 13.

LECTURE 17: Wednesday, October 28
Assemblies Reading: Politics, chapter 14.

Week 11

LECTURE 18: Monday, November 2
Constitutions, Law and Judges Reading: Politics, chapter 15.

LECTURE 19: Wednesday, November 4
Papers Assigned Reading: George Orwell, “Politics and the English Language” (via email).

Week 12

LECTURE 20: Monday, November 9
Public Policy and the Bureaucracy Reading: Politics, chapter 16.

Wednesday, November 11
Veterans Day Holiday

Week 13

LECTURE 21: Monday, November 16
Multilevel Politics Reading: Politics, chapter 17.
LECTURE 22:  Wednesday, November 18  
**Security: Domestic and International**  
**Reading:** Politics, debate 18. Papers Due Today

**Week 14**

LECTURE 23:  Monday, November 23  
**DISCUSSION:** Policing Tactics  
**Reading:** James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling, “Broken Windows” (via email).

LECTURE 24:  Wednesday, November 25  
**World Order and Global Governance**  
**Reading:** Politics, chapter 19.

**Week 15**

LECTURE 25:  Monday, November 30  
**DISCUSSION:** Global Conflict  
**Reading:** Samuel P. Huntington, “Clash of Civilizations?” (via email).

LECTURE 26:  Wednesday, December 2  
**A Crisis in Politics?**  
**Reading:** Politics, chapter 20.

**Week 16**

LECTURE 27:  Monday, December 7  
**DISCUSSION:** Political Judgment  
**Reading:** Weber, “Politics as a Vocation” (via email).

Wednesday, December 9  
**FINAL EXAM**

**Course Policies and Suggestions:**

1. You will do well on your exams if you read and re-read the texts carefully, attend class and participate, and ask for help if you feel yourself getting confused or behind.

2. Large classes are not ideal, but many studies have shown that students learn well in them if everybody works together carefully. To be specific: (a) please put away non-class reading material during lecture; (b) please silence or preferably turn off all cellphones during lecture; (c) while taking notes on laptop computers or tablet devices is acceptable, please refrain from visiting websites unrelated to the course or lecture (e.g. Facebook, etc.); (d) finally, please do not talk in class unless called upon. This as well as the other rules are important. Please be considerate of your fellow students.
3. Please bring the readings to class each day. Frequent references will be made to the text and reading along will be immensely useful to you later when you are preparing for exams.

4. Please take advantage of office hours. Lecturers enjoying talking with and getting to know their students. It is especially important that you contact your instructor if you feel confused or if you are falling behind. Instructors are here to help.

5. Students are encouraged to ask questions in class. While the last portion of class will be set aside for this specific purpose, questions during the lecture are also welcome, even if they are only for clarification or repetition. Every question is useful, and if you feel confused it is likely that other people do as well.

6. Please arrive to class on time. Important announcements (deadlines, discussion of paper topics and exams and so on) frequently come in the first five to ten minutes of class. If you arrive late you risk missing important information.

7. The course paper is due at the beginning of class on the day stipulated in the course schedule. Late papers lose three marks per day (e.g. a 100% paper becomes a 97% paper) unless a verifiable doctor’s note is provided.

8. Please bring pen or pencil and a bluebook for both the midterm and the final exams.

9. Make sure that your correct and current email address is registered with the college so that you can receive course emails. The instructor will occasionally send out class emails regarding additions or updates to the course readings as well as other matters relating to the course material. Check your email often.

10. If you have any questions about this course, its assignments, quizzes, exams, readings or other requirements, please feel free contact me by email or talk to me before or after class or during office hours: I am here to help.

Accessibility (ADA) Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. Students with a disability who would like to request an academic accommodation are responsible for identifying themselves both to the instructor and to the Special Resources Center. For arrangements for academic accommodations, such as more time for course exams, please contact the Special Resources center at (310) 660-3295.