**Introduction to Politics (MWF: 11:00 – 11:50)**

**Fall 2015**

**Course:** POLS 1000 Section 003  
**Instructor:** Dr. Sterling D. Recker  
**Office:** McGannon 126  
**Phone:** 314-977-3035  
**Email:** reckers@slu.edu  
**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday: 12:00 – 12:30 (and by appointment)

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the discipline and study of politics. Political Science is a discipline that teaches students how to understand and address issues of political development, economics, philosophy, war, and globalization. This course will introduce students to the various subfields of Political Science through an evaluation of theory, institutions, regional studies, and current issues such as globalization and social movements. By the end of the semester you will be able to identify your own beliefs and ideology within the context of the Political Science discipline.

**Required Course Materials**

*Additional readings will be assigned. These readings will be posted in Blackboard under Course Materials.*

**Course Requirements and Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1:</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam:</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual blogs:</td>
<td>100 pts (10 posts x 10 pts each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>250 pts</td>
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<td>Additional assignments TBA</td>
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**Course Objectives**

1) To better understand your own political ideology  
2) Develop the ability to objectively evaluate complex political events and ideas  
3) Develop a deeper understanding of domestic and global politics

**Exams**

There will be three, 50 Question multiple choice exams throughout the semester. The exams will include material from both the readings and the lectures.

**Blogs**

You will create a blog in Blackboard and publish 10 blog posts throughout the semester. It is up to you when to post a blog but you are only allowed a maximum of 1 post per week (Every 7 days) and the blog must address topics covered in class or in the readings. Each blog post will be 500 – 750 words in length. The blog is yours so the topic you address is entirely up to you as long as it is related to an issue of government and politics. The blog posts will be graded based on the following criteria:

* Clear and concise usage of language with proper application of key terms  
* Analyze important political topics and provide an informed opinion  
* Demonstrate an understanding of key issues using material from class lectures and readings  
* Proper citations (i.e. web links and APSA / Chicago Style format if citing books or journal articles)

**How to create a blog in Blackboard:** On the left side of the page:  
Go to Course Materials  
→ Click “Blogs”  
→ “Create Blog”  
→ Use your name and the date submitted for the Title (Last Name, First Name, i.e. Smith, John, 08/15/2013)  
→ Click “Submit”  
at bottom of Page.
Grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 70</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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In-Class Discussion
I will use current events that are related to the days lecture to encourage participation and offer students the opportunity to discuss and question real-world issues. This approach is designed to engage students in learning by allowing them to pose questions of their own and debate, in a polite manner, with one another. These discussion sessions will be somewhat informal and will only be a part of the semester if the primary content has been covered.

Writing Services
University Writing Services: I encourage you to take advantage of University Writing Services; getting feedback benefits all writers! Trained writing consultants can help with any writing, multimedia project, or oral presentation. During one-on-one consultations, you can work on everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. *These services do fill up*, so please make an appointment! Also, bring your assignment description, and a few goals, to the consultation! For more information, or to make an appointment, visit [www.slu.edu/writingservices.xml](http://www.slu.edu/writingservices.xml) or call 977-3484.

Disability Services
In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

**Course-level support** (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.

**University-level support** (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to [www.slu.edu/success](http://www.slu.edu/success).

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at [314-977-8885](tel:3149778885) or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Participation and Attendance
You will lose 2 points from your final grade for each missed class. Arriving more than 5 minutes late or leaving early will count as an absence. If you miss more than 6 classes, you will receive an F for the semester.

There are no excused absences except for: Jury duty, military service, or campus activities. To have an absence excused for one of these reasons you will need to provide documentation.

There are no make-up exams or assignments. If you miss an exam or assignment for any reason you will receive a 0.
Cell Phones and Technology
No computers or cell phones are allowed in class without special permission. If you consistently text
during class, you will lose 10 points from your final grade.

No recording of class lectures is allowed. This includes audio, image and video recording.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty
The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust
and integrity. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonesty such as soliciting, receiving, or providing
any unauthorized assistance in the completion of work submitted toward academic credit. While not all
forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, examples include copying from another student, copying
from a book or class notes during a closed book exam, submitting materials authored by or revised by
another person as the student’s own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source
without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other
academic work for another student, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination or quiz
without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, sharing or receiving the questions from an on-line quiz
with another student, taking an on-line quiz with the help of another student, and colluding with another
student or students to engage in academic dishonesty.

All clear violations of academic integrity will be met with appropriate sanctions. In this course, academic
dishonesty on an assignment will result in an automatic grade of 0 for that assignment and a report of
academic dishonesty sent to the Academic Honesty Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will receive an F for the assignment with no possibility to revise
and resubmit.

In the case of Class B violations, the Academic Honesty Committee may impose a larger sanction
including, but not limited to, assigning a failing grade in the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and
dismissal from the University.

Students should refer to the following SLU website for more information about Class A and B violations
and the procedures following a report of academic dishonesty: http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml

Respect
No student should feel intimidated when expressing their views, opinions, questions or comments in this
classroom. I will not tolerate personal attacks, violent language / statements or ridiculing someone for what
they say or believe. I firmly believe that a University classroom should be safe for students to express
themselves and all opinions and perspectives are welcome as long as they are expressed in a respectful and
intelligent manner.

Furthermore, disrespect towards the instructor will not be tolerated. If you become combative,
disrespectful, or disruptive to the classroom environment you will be asked to leave the room.

Course evaluations
At the end of the semester you will be required to complete a course evaluation. This evaluation is your
opportunity to provide feedback regarding the course content, the professor, and your overall impression of
how material was presented. The evaluations are anonymous and will not be seen by the professor until the
following semester.
Schedule of Topics (Subject to Revision)

Week 1 (August 24 – August 28): Course Orientation and Ch. 1 The Study of Politics

Week 2 and Week 3 (August 31 – September 11): Ch. 2 Ideologies and “isms”
**September 7: Labor Day (No class)

Week 4 (September 14 – September 18): Ch. 4 Constitutional Democracy

Week 5 (September 21 – September 25): Ch. 7 Parliamentary Democracy

September 28: FIRST EXAM

Week 6 and Week 7 (September 28 - October 9): Ch. 10 Political Socialization and Ch. 11 Political Participation

Week 8 (October 12 – October 16): Ch. 5 and Ch. 6 Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism

Week 9 (October 19 – October 23): Africa’s World War (Readings posted on Blackboard)
October 19: Fall Break (No class)
**Mahmood Mamdani: When Victims Become Killers
**Joseph Kony Arrest Warrant

Week 10 (October 26 – October 30): Ch. 8 States and Economies in Transition

Week 11 (November 2 – November 6): Ch. 17 World Politics

November 9: SECOND EXAM

Week 12 (November 9 – November 13): Ch. 9 Development: Myths and Realities
**Samuel Huntington: The Clash of Civilizations
**Robert Kaplan: The Coming Anarchy

Week 13 (November 16 – November 18): Ch. 18 International Organizations.
** No Class Friday, November 20, African Studies Association Conference

Week 14 (November 23 – November 27): In-class Group Assignment
**November 25 – November 28: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15 (November 30 – December 4): Chapter 15 War: Politics by Other Means

Week 16 (Monday December 7, Fall Classes End)

Final Exam (In-class): Friday, December 11 (8:00am – 9:50am)