Introduction to Politics: Fall 2014 (Monday and Wednesday: 2:10 – 3:25, 122 McGannon Hall)  
**Course:** POLS 100 Section 001  
**Instructor:** Dr. Sterling D. Recker  
**Office:** McGannon 126  
**Email:** reckers@slu.edu  
**Phone:** 314-977-3035  
**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday: 1:30 – 2:00 (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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1:</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam:</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Essays:</td>
<td>30 pts (3 x 10 pts each = 30 Points total)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance:</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Grade:</td>
<td>Add Total Points Earned and Divide by Total Points Possible (230)</td>
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**Course Objectives**  
Students will be expected to participate in discussions and will be assessed using three exams and three short essays. Grades will be determined based on comprehension of readings and lectures. Class discussions will be a guided question and answer format where the lectures serve to explain concepts and ideas presented in the weekly readings. Class periods will be a combination of lecture and discussion of relevant current events related to the assigned topic each week.

**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.

**Short Essays**  
There will be 3 Short Essays due throughout the semester worth 10 points each. You will select a reading from the Assignments tab in Blackboard and summarize the main points, provide analysis, and critique the reading in a 2 – 3 page essay. You will email the essay as a Word attachment to: reckers@slu.edu by **5:00 on the due date.** No late assignments will be accepted. Only emailed assignments will be accepted, hard copies will not be graded.

Due Dates:  
Wednesday September 24  
Wednesday November 5  
Wednesday December 3
Participation and Attendance
You are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken on a regular basis. The exams will contain questions from both the book and from lecture, so attendance is necessary to do well on the exams. If you miss more than 2 consecutive classes without contacting the Instructor you will be automatically dropped from the course. If you miss more than 6 classes during the semester you will receive a “NP” or “W” for your final grade regardless of whether or not you completed all assignments.

Grading scale
A = 95 – 100
A- = 90 – 94
B = 85 – 89
B- = 80 – 84
C = 75 – 79
C- = 70 – 74
D = 60 – 70
F = below 60

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 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.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 314-977-8885 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.
Cell Phones and Technology
Turn your phone off before class to avoid interrupting the lecture or discussion. If you are expecting an emergency call set your phone to Vibrate. If you MUST take a call be considerate and step outside the room before answering it. Texting during class will not be tolerated. You will lose 1 point from your final grade for each time the instructor sees you texting in class.

No recording devices will be allowed unless there is a documented justification through the Disability Office or prior arrangement with the Instructor.

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 25 – August 27): Course Orientation and Ch. 1 The Study of Politics

Week 2 and Week 3 (September 1 – September 10): Ch. 2 Ideologies and “isms”
  **September 1: Labor Day (No class)

Week 4 (September 15 – September 17): Ch. 4 Constitutional Democracy

Week 5 (September 22 – September 24): Ch. 7 Parliamentary Democracy
  **First Short Essay due by 5:00 on Wednesday September 24

September 29: FIRST EXAM

Week 6 and Week 7 (September 29 - October 8): Ch. 10 Political Socialization and Ch. 11 Political Participation

Week 8 (October 13 – October 15): Ch. 5 and Ch. 6 Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism

Week 9 (October 20 – October 22): Africa’s World War (Readings posted on Blackboard)
  October 20: Fall Break (No class)
  **Mahmood Mamdani: When Victims Become Killers
  **Joseph Kony Arrest Warrant

Week 10 (October 27 – October 29): Ch. 8 States and Economies in Transition

Week 11 (November 3 – November 5): Ch. 17 World Politics
  **Second Short Essay due by 5:00 on Wednesday November 5

November 10: SECOND EXAM

Week 12 (November 10 – November 12): Ch. 9 Development: Myths and Realities
  **Samuel Huntington: The Clash of Civilizations
  **Robert Kaplan: The Coming Anarchy

Week 13 (November 17 – November 19): Ch. 18 International Organizations.

Week 14 (November 24 – November 26): Thanksgiving

Week 15 (December 1 – December 3): Chapter 15 War: Politics by Other Means
  **Third Short Essay due by 5:00 on Wednesday December 3

Week 16 (December 8 – December 10): Monday December 8, Fall Classes End

Final Exam: Monday December 15, 2:00 – 3:50