

POLS 1000: Introduction to Politics

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Semester: Fall 2018
Class Location: Xavier Hall, G08
Class Time: MWF 11-11:50 A.M.

Everyone has opinions about politics. But can we move beyond ideological opinions and partisan allegiances to say something meaningful about political activity? And can we do so in ways that disclose truths about everyday political life rather than abstract from it? Charting a middle course between unreflective convention and unrealistic aspirations to scientific precision, in this course we will explore the basic aims and challenges of political science across four subfields: political theory, comparative politics, international relations and U.S. politics. Since SLU is a Jesuit and Catholic university, we will also be mindful of how political science can aid in our *cura personalis* as human beings and citizens.

Readings

- I. Grigsby, Ellen. *Analyzing Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*, 6th ed., Cengage Learning (2015).
- II. Primary texts available online or on Blackboard.

Students should bring to class and be prepared to discuss the week's assigned readings.

Assignments

- Attendance: 10% of grade
- Participation: 10% grade
- Office hour visit: 5% (by 28 September)
- Quizzes: 15%
- Three exams: 45% (15% each)
- 1 In-class essay: 15%

Attendance is critical to your success in this class, and will be checked regularly. Active participation is also highly valued and will be graded based upon quantity and quality. Please do not confuse participation with attendance: if you come to class and say nothing, that will earn you attendance credit but no participation credit. I realize that some people struggle to speak in class, but an introductory course like ours is a wonderful opportunity to confront that struggle. Please talk with me if you find it difficult to speak in class.

Periodic unannounced quizzes will be easy if you have done the reading. Quizzes cannot be made up, but I will drop your two lowest quiz grades. The three exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions.

I also require every student to visit my office hours by 28 September. Feel free to come with questions about the readings or the class, or just to chat about your interests and background.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-70
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	below 60
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

Learning objectives

Students will be able to distinguish among the diversity of traditions in the political science discipline. Students will be able to use their knowledge of political systems to engage effectively in political and social life. More generally, students will acquire conceptual tools and methodologies to analyze and understand their social world. With these tools, they will become more effective agents for positive and intelligent change. Students will be able to think and write critically about human behavior and community. They will become aware of the various methodological approaches used by social scientists. Most importantly, students will learn to think reflectively upon what they think they know and believe about politics.

E-mail

Please check your SLU e-mail daily. The University communicates all official messages through e-mail, and I will do the same.

Office Hours

Office hours are for your benefit. Professors have set this time aside specifically to listen to your questions and concerns and respond to them. Take advantage of that. Make a habit of going to office hours early on in each course you take, particularly if you are interested in the material, think that you might have difficulties in the course, or if the professor might later write letters of recommendation for you. Do not be shy about asking to set up an appointment with a professor if the scheduled office hours conflict with your schedule. And do not be afraid to bring up subjects not related to the class in office hours.

Electronics

Consider this class a digital vacation. Laptops are forbidden from the class, unless we have assigned online readings that day; please speak to me if think you should be exempt from this rule. All other electronic devices, including cell phones, tablets, Blackberries, PDAs and Tamagotchis, should be turned off and stowed before the beginning of class.

Student Success Center

The Student Success Center assists students with academic and career related services, is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite 331) and the School of Nursing (Suite 114).

Disability Services Academic Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please contact Disability Services, located within the Student Success Center, at disability_services@slu.edu or 314-977-3484 to schedule an appointment.

Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about

academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor's course roster.

While I am very happy to work with students with academic accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to contact instructors to discuss how academic accommodations can best be implemented in each class. If a student does not do so, I will assume that the student does not want to use his or her accommodations in my class.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service through which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern. The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed here:

<https://www.slu.edu/the-office-of-the-provost/academic-affairs-policies>. All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals.

Title IX (of the United States Education Amendments of 1972)

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX coordinator, Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, room 36; akratky@slu.edu; 314.977.3886) and share the basic facts of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus. If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314.977.TALK. View SLU's sexual misconduct policy:

<http://www.slu.edu/general-counsel-home/office-of-institutional-equity-and-diversity/sexual-misconduct-policy>

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

“AP” refers to our textbook, *Analyzing Politics*. “BB” refers to “Readings” folder on Blackboard.

I. Introduction: Politics & Political Science

Week 1 (27 Aug): Syllabus / Jesuit Education / Political Literacy Quiz

No class on Monday, 3 Sept (Labor Day)

Week 2 (5 Sept): What is Politics?

AP, Ch. 1

Preamble of US Constitution (BB)

Week 3 (10 Sept): What is Political Science?

AP, Ch. 2

Week 4 (17 Sept): Political Science: Key Concepts

AP, Ch. 3

Exam 1: Friday, 21 September

II. Political Theory

Week 5 (24 Sept): Political Theory & Philosophy

AP, Ch. 4

Week 6 (1 Oct): Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism

AP, Ch. 5

Week 7 (8 Oct): Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism - Part II

Levin, “Conservatism in an Age of Alienation” (BB)

In-Class Essay: Monday, 15 October

III. International Relations (IR)

Week 8 (15 Oct): Models of IR analysis

AP, Ch. 11

No class on Monday, 22 Oct (Fall Break)

Week 9 (24 Oct): Issues in IR

AP, Ch. 12

Week 10 (29 Oct): IR & Religion

Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” (BB)

Philpott, “Explaining the Political Ambivalence of Religion” (BB)

Exam 2: Monday, 5 November

IV. Comparative Politics

Week 11 (5 Nov): Democracy
AP, Ch. 8

Week 12 (12 Nov): Interests & Electoral Institutions
AP, Ch. 9

Week 13 (19 Nov): Governing Institutions
AP, Ch. 10

No class on Wed-Fri, 21-23 Nov (Thanksgiving)

Week 14 (26 Nov): Governing Institutions - II
Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism" (BB)

Week 15 (3 Dec): Summary of themes

Exam 3: Friday, 7 December