

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
POLS-1000-03 Intro to Politics  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 2019

Dr. Emmanuel Uwalaka  
MWF: 1:10 -2:00 pm  
Classroom: McG 211

Office: McG 150  
Phone: 977-3035/**3039**  
Hours: MWR: 9-10 am  
And by appointment.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to introduce beginning students in Political Science to the fundamental concepts, data and processes of politics, and selected methods of political analysis. Students will be introduced to the subfields of political science and the political systems of developed and developing countries.

II. REQUIRED BOOK(S) READINGS

Magstadt, Thomas M. Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions, and Issues. 12<sup>th</sup> Edition. Thompson and Wadsworth. 2017.

Daily reading of a major newspaper: The New York Times, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, etc.

Additional reading assignments will be placed in the reserve collection of the University Library, if the need arises.

This syllabus is subject to revision where necessary.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. To introduce the student to the basic concepts and methods of Political Science as a discipline;
2. To provide the student with the necessary background and skills for a better understanding of the intricacies of government and politics;
3. To discuss the essential elements in the governing process through illustrations from various political systems; and
4. To provide the necessary foundation for advanced courses in Political Science.

#### IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES

After taking this course, students will be able to:

Explain differences in the normative and scientific approaches to political analysis

Recognize and apply major concepts in the study of political science

Students will be able to use their knowledge of political systems to engage effectively in political and social life

Identify the characteristics of developed and developing nations, and

Students will be able to distinguish among the diversity of traditions in the discipline

#### V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## Attendance (An University policy on Attendance has been copied here)

Students must meet course objectives and attendance policies as outlined in the course syllabus.

In cases where absences prevent students from meeting course objectives, students may be required to drop the course or be administratively dropped or withdrawn.

Additionally, students are responsible for:

1. Being on time and attending all class meetings for courses in which they are registered.
2. Making every effort to schedule classes that will minimize conflicts caused by foreseeable activities and related travel.
3. Monitoring their attendance and absences throughout the term.
4. Reviewing course syllabi with regard to the instructor's policy on absences and consulting the instructor if any portion of the attendance policy outlined in the syllabus is not understood.

In regard to absences, whether excused as an authorized activity or at the instructor's discretion, students are responsible for:

1. All material covered in class and must work with each individual instructor to complete any required work and obtain any class notes or other course material missed due to these absences.
2. Coordinating with instructors prior to any examination or presentation in order to explore the impact of the missed assignments and options.
3. Providing written notification, as outlined below, of all other absences as soon as possible, for events not foreseen at the beginning of the semester. (See [Authorized Absence Activities](#) below and the [Bereavement Policy](#) for additional information)

## Absences

In addition to authorized absences, instructors have the authority to excuse absences for other reasons.

Documentation for short-term absences may be required at the instructor's discretion.

In the event that several classes have been missed and students are unable to meet course objectives they should consult with the instructor and academic advisor about course extensions (see the [Incomplete Course](#) policy) or a course withdrawal (see [Course Withdrawal](#) policy).

Medical documentation may be required in cases of serious illness or medical conditions which impact a student's ability to participate in courses for an extended period.

In the event of a chronic medical condition or disability, students are strongly advised to contact the Dean of Students and/or the Office of Disability Services to explore potential accommodations.

## Authorized Absence Activities

As previously stated, in the event that several classes have been missed and students are unable to meet course objectives they should consult with the instructor and academic advisor about course extensions (see the [Incomplete Course](#) policy) or a course withdrawal (see [Course Withdrawal](#) policy).

Each instructor will excuse students from class for authorized activities (see below) and provide an opportunity to complete missed exams, quizzes, and other required work.

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with each individual instructor as soon as they return to complete any required work.

Missed required work may be replaced by alternative assignments at the instructor's discretion.

Authorized activities and required documentation are defined as:

Participation in Division 1 athletic games and associated travel (excluding practices);  
Appearances required as part of a Saint Louis University investigation/hearing;  
Short-term service with the military and/or First Responder (see the Military Policy for additional information and notification timeline)  
Legal obligation (e.g jury duty, required court appearance);

Official notification of required appearance.

Religious Holiday Observance

4. The Office of the Provost, in consultation with Campus Ministry and the Office of the University Registrar, will publish a list of religious holidays likely to affect students.

5. Students must notify instructors in writing by the end of the first week of the semester of all religious holidays they observe that conflict with their course meetings and activities

6. Instructors will notify students promptly if these absences will prevent the student from meeting the course objectives so that the student may drop the course during the add/drop period.

**Bereavement**

Official notification from the Dean of Students or Academic Dean.

Upon request to and approval by the Dean of Students Office, students shall be given up to five (5) consecutive days (not including weekends or holidays) of excused absence for bereavement.

In addition, this instructor requires students to sign the roll at each session, and a record of attendance will be maintained. Students will be expected to complete assigned readings before the next day's class, participate in class discussions and prepare for case studies. Students should be aware of how politics affects their everyday lives. Most of the time, the instructor will begin class by asking "what is the latest?" The idea is to allow you express yourself on what you have observed or read about politics at the local, state, national or international level. Your participation efforts at this level will be recorded toward class participation points. During class, **cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate mode**. If you need to respond to a call, please step outside the room. Use of laptop computers during class is only allowed to take lecture notes.

**As part of class participation, during the last week of the semester students will be reminded to complete an on-line course evaluation. Students will be notified when screens will be accessible for students to submit the evaluation.**

**Students are reminded that this document is subject to revision(s) where necessary.**

## VI. EVALUATION

### A. Methods

Writing assignment, class participation, midterm and final examinations will be used in evaluating the performance of students.

1. Students will be required to take the mid-semester and the final examinations.
2. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled. Exams are primarily short answers and essays; some problems may be included. Exams are not cumulative, that is, only the material since the last exam is included.

B. Grading Scale and Distribution of Percentages

1. Writing Assignment ..... 5%
2. Mid-Semester Exam . . . . 40%
3. Final Exam . . . . . 40%
4. Class Participation .....15%

The numerical equivalents of letter grades are:

93-100 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	
87-89 = B+		77-79 = C+	60-69 = D
Below 60 = F			

NOTE: Final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
POLICIES**

**TITL IX**

1. 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; [anna.kratky@slu.edu](mailto:anna.kratky@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.

2. If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK. To view SLU's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the [Office of the General Counsel](#).

## **Disability Services**

3. Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact [Disability Services](#) to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course.

7. Please contact Disability Services, located within the Student Success Center, at [Disability\\_services@slu.edu](mailto:Disability_services@slu.edu) or 314-977-3484 to schedule an appointment. Confidentiality will be

observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor's course roster.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

## Academic Integrity

8. 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 via 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.

9. The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: [https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy\\_academic-integrity\\_6-26-2015.pdf](https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf).

10. Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites. All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Dean/Director of the College, School or Center in which your program is housed.

## Student Success Center

11. 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. The Student Success Center assists students with academic-related services and is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331). Students can visit the [Student Success Center](#) to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

## University Writing Services

12. Students are encouraged to take advantage of University Writing Services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit the [Student Success Center](#) or call the Student Success Center at 314-977-3484.

## Basic Needs Security

13. Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources, and who believe this may affect their

performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office ([deanofstudents@slu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@slu.edu) or 314-977-9378) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so, as this will enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need

## VII. COURSE OUTLINE

**Aug. 26** Course Overview

**Aug. 28** WHY STUDY POLITICS? & SUB-FIELDS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

1. Self-interest
2. Self-improvement
3. Self-knowledge

Reading: Magstadt, Chap. 1, pp. 3-4, & 17-21

INTRODUCTION: THE STUDY OF POLITICS

Readings: Magstadt, Preface, viii – xi

**Aug. 30** 1. Towards a definition of Politics

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 1, p. 4

**Sept. 4, 6** 2. Key Political Science Concepts: Power, Authority, Legitimacy, States, Nations, Political system, etc

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 1, 4-13

**Sept. 9, 11, 13** THE STUDY OF POLITICS

How Politics is studied? Traditionalism, Behavioralism, and Post-Behavioralism

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 1, pp. 13-17

Argyle, Nolan J., “Methods, “Science,” and Politics: Modes of Analysis in Political Science” (will be sent to students via email)

**Sept. 16** Is Political Science Really a “Science”?

Readings: Same as Sept. 13, 15, 18

COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Models and Theories

**Sept. 18** UTOPIAS: MODEL STATES

What are Utopias? Politics, the art of the possible

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 3, pp. 50-51

**Sept. 20, 23** UTOPIA: MODEL STATES (Contd)

1. Plato’s *Republic*
2. Francis Bacon’s *New Atlantis*

Readings: Madstadt, pp. 52-56

**Sept. 25, 27** Karl Marx’s Classless Society

Readings: Magstadt, 56-59

- Sept. 30** B. F. Skinner's Walden Two: Psychology is the Answer & Utopia Revisited  
Reading: Magstadt, Chap. 3, pp. 59-67
- Oct. 2, 4** CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY: A POPULAR ALTERNATIVE  
 1. Democratic Constitutions  
 2. Democracy as Responsive Government  
 3. Democracy as Limited Government  
 4. Democracy as Effective Government  
Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 4
- Oct. 7, 9** AUTHORITARIAN STATES: TRADITIONAL RULE  
 1. Basic Types of Non-democratic Government  
 2. Characteristics  
 3. Authoritarian Governments & Politics  
 4. Myths  
Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 5
- Oct. 11, 14,** TOTALITARIAN STATES: FAILED UTOPIAS  
 1. The Essence of Totalitarianism  
 2. The Revolutionary State of Totalitarianism  
 3. The consolidation of Power  
 4. The Transformation of Society  
 5. The Human Cost of Totalitarianism  
 6. The Faces of Totalitarianism  
 7. The Longevity of Totalitarian Regimes  
 Reading: Magstadt, Chap. 6
- Oct. 16** **Review for the Mid -Term Examination**  
**Oct. 18** **MID-TERM EXAMINATION**
- Oct. 21** **FALL BREAK**
- Oct. 23, 25, 28** CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL SYSTEMS  
 FORMS OF DEMOCRACY: THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN  
 1. Democratic Institutions: an American Perspective  
 2. The American Model  
 3. The British Model: Why is the Prime Minister regarded as *Primus Inter Pares* (First among Equals)?  
 4. American & British Systems Compared  
 5. Strengths & Weaknesses  
Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 7
- Oct. 30** VIDEO: (THE MAGNIFICENT AFRICAN CAKE)
- Nov. 1, 4, 6** DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: DEMOCRACY OR DICTATORSHIP?  
 1. Developing Countries: The Third World  
 2. Developing Nations & Historical Perspective

VIDEO: □THE MAGNIFICENT AFRICAN CAKE□

3. Challenges to Political Development
4. Motives for Development
5. Social, Economic, and Psychological Barriers to Development
6. Obstacles to Economic Development

Reading: Magstadt, Chap. 9

## **POLITICS BY CIVIL MEANS: CITIZENS, LEADERS, AND POLICIES**

**Nov. 8, 11**

### **POLITICAL CULTURE**

1. Definitions
2. The Civic Culture

### **POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION: BECOMING A CITIZEN**

1. Definition
2. Agents

Reading: Magstadt, Chap. 10

### **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: THE LIMITS OF DEMOCRACY**

**Nov. 13, 15**

### **Public Opinion & Measurement**

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 11, pp. 318-322

**Nov. 18, 20, 22** Electoral systems & Who Participates for What, When, and Why?

Readings: Magstadt: Chap. 11, pp. 322-341

Nov. 25

**CLASS DISCUSSION:** Topic will be provided a week before class

**Nov. 27, 29**

### **THANKSGIVING**

**Dec. 2,4, 6,**

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 1**

1. Models of Analysis
2. The Classical Multipolar System: 1648 to 1945
3. The Cold War Bipolar System: 1945-1991
4. Post-Cold War: The Return to Multipolarity?
5. International Security Questions

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 17, pp. 526-539

**Dec. 9**

### **LAST DAY OF CLASSES: REVIEW**

**Dec. 13**

**FINAL EXAM**

**12:00-1:50**