

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLS-1000-02 Intro to Political Science
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2018

Dr. Emmanuel Uwalaka
TR: 12:45-02:00 pm
Classroom: McG 262

Office: McG 150
Phone: 977-3035/3039
Hours: TR: 2:15 – 3:15
Wed. 10:00-11:00 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. 12th 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.

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

Illustrate the role of politics in their everyday lives

Identify the characteristics of developed and developing nations, and

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

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

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually. Students are required to sign the roll at each session, and a record of attendance will be maintained. This instructor allows only two unexcused and undocumented class absences. The sanction for a breach of this rule is a reduction in class participation points. 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 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 not allowed.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

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. 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>

Student learning, disability statement:

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](tel: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.

University Writing Services

We encourage you 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, call 314-977-3484 or visit the [University of Writing Services website](#)

English Language Center (ELC)

I encourage you to take advantage of the writing services available to you in the English Language Center, where consultants are trained to help writers with second-language concerns. In one-on-one consultations, you can develop strategies to improve your writing at any stage. Consultants can help you with skills from brainstorming, developing, and organizing your ideas to writing clear sentences, documenting sources, and polishing the final document. You will find the ELC's help most effective if you schedule an appointment with sufficient time to revise your work before the assignment is due. To make an appointment, log on to <http://myslu.slu.edu>, click the "Tools" tab, and select the "SLU Appointment" icon.

V1. **EVALUATION**

A. **Methods**

Writing assignments, 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 Assignments15%
2. Mid-Semester Exam 35%
3. Final Exam 35%
4. Class Participation15%

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 65 = F			

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

VII. COURSE OUTLINE

Jan. 16 Course Overview

INTRODUCTION: THE STUDY OF POLITICS

Readings: Magstadt, Preface, viii – xi

Jan. 18 1. Towards a definition of Politics

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 1, p. 4

Jan. 23, 25 2. Key Political Science Concepts: Power, Authority, Legitimacy, States, Nations, Political system, etc

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 1, 4-13

Jan. 30, Feb. 1 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)

COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Models and Theories

Feb. 6 UTOPIAS: MODEL STATES

What are Utopias? Politics, the art of the possible

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

- Feb. 8** UTOPIA: MODEL STATES (Contd)
1. Plato's *Republic*
 2. Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis*

Readings: Madstadt, pp. 52-56

- Feb. 13** Karl Marx's Classless Society
- Readings: Magstadt, 56-59

- Feb. 15** B. F. Skinner's Walden Two: Psychology is the Answer & Utopia Revisited
- Reading: Magstadt, Chap. 3, pp. 59-67

- Feb. 20** CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY: A POPULARALTERNATIVE
1. Democratic Constitutions
 2. Democracy as Responsive Government
 3. Democracy as Limited Government
 4. Democracy as Effective Government

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 4

- Feb. 22** AUTHORITARIAN STATES: TRADITIONAL RULE
1. Basic Types of Non-democratic Government
 2. Characteristics
 3. Authoritarian Governments & Politics
 4. Myths

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 5

- Feb. 27, Mar. 1, 6** 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

Mar. 8 MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Mar. 13, 15 SPRING BREAK

- Mar. 20, 22** 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

Mar. 29-Apr.2 EASTER BREAK

Mar. 27, Apr. 3, 5, 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

Apr. 10

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

Apr. 12

Public Opinion & Measurement

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

Apr. 17, 19

Electoral systems & Who Participates for What, When, and Why?

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

Apr. 24

Participation and Interest Groups

Readings: Magstadt, Chap. 11, pp. 341-352

Apr. 26, May 1

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

May 3

REVIEW

May 10

FINAL EXAM

12:00-1:50