

# **Introduction to Political Science (1000.01) Spring 2017**

Rev. Richard Quirk, Ph. D.

Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 – 9:50 AM  
McGannon Hall 262

E-mail: quirkrj@slu.edu

Hours: By appointment

*Text (Required):* Analyzing Politics: An Introduction to Political Science 6<sup>th</sup> Edition,  
(2015)  
By Ella Grigsby, Cengage Learning

## **Course Description**

Webster's dictionary states that political science is the science of the principles, organization, and methods of government. Sounds pretty straight forward. Hence, if I know something about – principles, organization and methods – I should be able to call myself a political scientist. Well, not just yet.

This course is an introduction to a field of study that is anything but intellectually simple and easily comprehend. This is an introduction to broadly defined and experimentally nuanced sub-disciplines of the overall field: political theory, comparative politics, international relations, scientific methods.

Most aspects of our daily lives are influenced by political decisions made on local, state, and national governmental levels (with or without the consent of "we the people"). We will examine the systems and processes that lead to these political decisions. We will learn how to analytically determine – who wins and who loses and why. Resulting in the just or unjust distribution of political largess.

Class discussions and lectures will enable political science majors and non-majors to be familiar with various strategic approaches that produce differing political outcomes. All of the methods used in class will encourage students to fine-tune your critical thinking and analytical skills in regards to political concepts and convictions. Learning how to write coherently about political issues and research will also be addressed.

The semester will include spending time understanding the importance of religious fundamentalism, income inequality, and civil disobedience as important political science issues.

## **Political Science Department Learning Outcomes**

*(Adopted February 2013)*

### **Graduates will understand how knowledge is created and shared across forms and contexts.**

Graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate contextual understand and sufficient factual and historical background to assess political science theories and concepts.
- Recognize and apply major concepts and approaches in the study of American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political thought.
- Present arguments and evidence clearly in written form, with increasing sophistication as they move through the major.
- Read carefully and comprehend theoretical texts.

Graduates will demonstrate a strong work ethic.

### **Graduates will understand inquiry as sustained engagement with increasingly complex questions.**

Graduates will be able to:

- Critique and access scholarly writing.
- Construct and write clear, well-reasoned, and persuasive theoretical arguments.
- Correctly identify underlying assumptions and conceptual categories.
- Critically evaluate and incorporate information and its sources.
- Adjudicate between competing theories or arguments, giving credit to perspectives other than their own.
- Evaluate evidence to test theories and to make persuasive arguments.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches.
- Frame meaningful questions and devise strategies to answer them.
- Develop, plan, and defend a research project, and write up the results in the appropriate style.

### **Graduates will understand themselves in solidarity with and for others locally, nationally, and globally.**

Graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate increased interest in political phenomena, leading to greater engagement with the community and the world.
- Discern the ethical consequences of decisions, actions, and inaction.
- Demonstrate awareness of the complex identities of themselves and others.

In 100 and 200 level courses, students are expected to make progress on all of these outcomes. In 300 and 400 level courses, they are expected to demonstrate a degree of proficiency.

### **Grading/Assignments**

To help you monitor your progress in this class, there will be a Mid-Term and a Final Exam. Your final grade will be the average of the two tests. When employing numeric values, the following numeric scale will be applied:

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

Both exams will form 80 % of your grade. The other 20% will be based on level of class participation.

### **Reading Assignment**

In addition to the following reading assignments from the text, from time to time handouts will be provided, which are also to be considered required reading for this course.

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Reading and Writing Assignments</u></b>
<b>Week 1</b>	January 18,20	Introduction, Administration, General Discussion, Political Science Overview

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Reading and Writing Assignments</u></b>
<b>Week 2</b>	January 23,25,27	Introductions, Trumps Inaugural Address, Reactions to New Political Stage
<b>Week 3</b>	January 30	February 1,3 - Chapter 2 - Scientific Methods
<b>Week 4</b>	February 6,8,10 –	Chapter 3 –Important Concepts
<b>Week 5</b>	February 13,15,17	Chapter 4 -Theory and Ethics
<b>Week 6</b>	February 20,22,24	Chapter 5 –Ideologies-1
<b>Week 7</b>	February 7,1,3	Chapter 6- Ideologies - 2
<b>Week 8</b>	March 6,8,10	<b>Mid-Term Week – In-class Mid-Term Examination</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	March 13,15,17	<b>NO CLASS – Spring Break</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	March 20,22,24	Chapter 7- Ideologies -3
<b>Week 11</b>	March 27,29,31	Chapter 8- Democracy & non-Democracy structures

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Reading Assignment</u></b>
<b>Week 12</b>	April 3,5,7	Chapter 9- Influences on Power
<b>Week 13</b>	April 10,12, April 14	Chapter 10- Comparing Systems  NO CLASS
<b>Week 14</b>	April 17  April 19,21	NO CLASS  <i>International Relations</i>
<b>Week 15</b>	April 24,26,28	Chapter 12 –Contemporary Issues
<b>Week 16</b>	May 1,3,5	Handouts on Myths, religion, culture
<b>Week 17</b>	<b>May 8</b>	<b>LAST CLASS DAY</b> <b>Overview</b>

**Final Exam Schedule**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2017**  
**8:00 – 9:50 AM**  
**In-classroom**

## **University Syllabus Information**

*Spring 2017*

I will attempt to respond to your e-mails generally within 24 hours.

### **Title IX Statement**

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 fact of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all 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. To view SLU's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address:

<http://www.slu.edu/general-counsel-home/office-of-institutional-equity-and-diversity/sexual-misconduct-policy> and [www.slu.edu/here4you](http://www.slu.edu/here4you).

### **Student Success Center 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. The Student Success Center, a one-stop shop, which assists students with academic and career related services, is in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331) and the School of Nursing (Suite, 114). 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 services, university writing services, disability services, academic coaching, career services, and/or facets of curriculum planning) by visiting the Student Success Center or by going to [www.slu.edu/success](http://www.slu.edu/success).

### **Disability Services Academic Accommodations Statement**

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](mailto: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.

### **Statement on 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 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.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at:

[http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic\\_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%2006-26-15.pdf](http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%2006-26-15.pdf).

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.

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 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/or dismissal from the University.

Students should refer to the SLU website for more information about Class A and B violations and the procedures following a report of academic dishonesty:  
<http://www.slu.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences-home/undergraduate-education/academic-honesty>.

### **Attendance Policy – Reprinted with Permission**

**Class attendance is highly recommended.** When you register for this class, you make a commitment to put forth your best effort. Attending class is a significant step towards achieving this goal. Although a syllabus and textbook are provided, reading the textbook is not an adequate substitute for attending class. The textbook is meant to supplement what happens in class, not replace it. Additionally, lectures will often include material either not covered in the textbook or covered from a different perspective than the material in the textbook. If you try to learn the material on your own, you will waste a lot of time and miss out on the opportunity to ask questions as the material is discussed. Absences will be understood but repeated absences will be noted and will negatively affect your grades

Of course, you may need to miss a class a couple of times during the semester, but it is to your benefit to keep the number of absences as low as possible. If unavoidable circumstances necessitate an extended absence, please plan with me as soon as possible, preferably in advance.

### **University Writing Services**

I encourage you to take advantage of the 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.

## **Cell Phones**

Please turn off cell phones before class. There is no cell phone use or text messaging allowed during class. Also, no use of a PDA, Blackberry, Bluetooth, iPod, iPhone/iTouch, or any 3G or 4G network devices. Not appropriate for class.

## **Laptops**

Use of laptop computers for any purpose other than note taking is not allowed.

## **Weather Policy**

In cases of extreme weather, call 314.977.SNOW (314.977.7669) for more information.

## **Evaluation**

Toward the end of the semester you will be encouraged to evaluate the class on-line or in the classroom. Please do so! It is an important element of the classroom experience.

**NOTE:** I reserve the right to modify the syllabus and provide you with notice. All of these items and other concerns are subject to the discretion of the institutor. My sincere hope is that class will be an enjoyable learning experience for all.

January,13 2016