**POLITICAL SCIENCE 102**

**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Spring 2012**

Instructor: Rebecca Shafer

Class Hours: Section 009 - Tuesday/Thursday - 2:10-3:25 (JHB 243)

 Section 010 - Tuesday/Thursday - 3:40-4:55 (JHB 413)

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday – 11:30-1:00 (McClung Tower – Room 1017), or by appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides a broad overview of the study of politics, drawing from the four sub-fields in political science: comparative politics, American politics, international relations, and political theory. As a field, political science is incredibly interdisciplinary in nature, drawing on a number of disciplines to understand and analyze the distribution of power and authority across a diversity of political systems around the world. The field therefore encompasses a diverse array of topics, from competing forms of democracy to the nature of economic development. In this course, we will explore the foundations of political science, paying particular attention to the structural and procedural elements of politics. Along the way, we’ll consider authoritarianism and democracy, unitary and federalism, presidential and parliamentary systems. We’ll also examine a number of contemporary issues, including political violence, competing economic systems, and the problem of declining voter turnout.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

* Define key concepts in the study of political systems, including power, authority, legitimacy, state, and nation.
* Compare and contrast the basic features of political systems from around the world.
* Use the key theoretical tools and approaches in political science to analyze contemporary global political developments.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

* James Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 10th edition. (New York: Pearson Longman).

**Graded Assignments and Course Requirements**

Quizzes (top 3 of 4) – 15%

Current Events – 15%

Chapter Questions/Discussion – 20%

Midterm – 25%

Final Exam – 25%

CURRENT EVENTS: Students will be required to submit 3 current event assignments during the semester. The assignment needs to be about one page in length and follow the format that will be discussed in class and listed on blackboard. Further details about the rules of this assignment will be given in class.

CHAPTER QUESTIONS: For each chapter, I will post 4 questions on blackboard that are geared to help students think about the topics discussed in the chapter and to help facilitate discussion in class. Students will have until 11am on the day the SYLLABUS specifies that we will START the specific chapter to turn in their answers. Each student is required to answer ALL 4 questions for each of the 4 chapters they will be assigned over the course of the semester. Each question should be answered in about one paragraph or 150 words (1/2 page), and should be typed, double spaced and submitted via blackboard. Students are also responsible to help guide discussion on their particular chapter; therefore points will be deducted if the student is not in attendance for their assigned chapter discussion. Further details about the rules of this assignment will be given in class.

EXAMS: There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. The exams are designed to test your familiarity with the lecture material, reading assignments, and your independent ability to apply what you have learned.

**GRADING SCALE**

A 93-100%; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F 0-59.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The University of Tennessee expects students to attend all scheduled instructional sessions. Due to the importance of class lectures and discussions, and their relevance to exams along with other assignments, students are urged strongly to be present for and participate in all regularly scheduled meetings outlined in this syllabus

**MAKEUP AND LATE WORK**

The scheduled dates of all exams and written assignments are clearly indicated in this syllabus. No make-up exams or late papers will be accepted without **prior approval** of the instructor.

**Accommodation of Persons with Disabilities**

Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss his or her specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 2227 Dunford Hall, 865-974-6087 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities.

**Plagiarism*:***

Students shall not plagiarize. Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else’s words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the University.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class Date** | **Class Topic** | **Textbook Readings** |
| January 12 (R) | **No Class** | **Instructor at Conference** |
| January 17 (T) | Introduction to Course |  |
| January 19 (R) | Political Knowledge | Chapter 1 |
| January 24 (T) | Political Theory | Chapter 2 |
| January 26 (R) | Political Actions | Chapter 3 |
| January 30 (T) | Influences on Beliefs and Actions | Chapter 4 |
| February 2 (R) | States and Nations | Chapter 5 |
| February 7 (T) | States and Nations | Chapter 5**Current Event #1 Due** |
| February 9 (R) | Political Institutions | Chapters 6  |
| February 14 (T) | Political Institutions | Chapters 7 |
| February 16 (R) | Political Economy | Chapter 8 |
| February 21 (T) | Political Economy | Chapter 8QUIZ #2 |
| February 23 (R) | ***Review For Mid-Term*** | *------------------------------------------ -* |
| February 28 (T) | **Mid-Term** | ------------------------------------------ |
| March 1 (R) | Public Policy | Chapter 9 |
| March 6 (T) | Public Policy | Chapter 9 |
| March 8 (R) | Change and Development | Chapter 10  |
| March 13 (T) | Change and Development | Chapter 10**Current Event #2 Due** |
| March 15 (R) | International Politics | Chapter 11 |
| March 20 (T)  | **No Class** | **Spring Break** |
| March 22 (R)  | **No Class** | **Spring Break** |
| March 27 (T) | International Politics | Chapter 11 |
| March 29 (R) | Political Violence | Chapter 12 |
| April 3 (T) | Political Violence | Chapter 12 |
| April 5 (R) | The Developed Countries | Chapter 13 |
| April 10 (T) | The Developed Countries | Chapter 13 |
| April 12 (R) | **No Class** | **Instructor at Conference**  |
| April 17 (T) | The Developing Countries | Chapter 14**Current Event #3 Due** |
| April 19 (R) | The Transitional Countries | Chapter 15 |
| April 24 (T) | The Transitional Countries | Chapter 15 |
| April 26 (R) | ***Review for Final*** | *------------------------------------------* |
| May 1 (T) | **Final Exam - 2:45-4:45** | *(For 3:40-4:55 Class)* |
| May 3 (R) | **Final Exam - 2:45-4:45** | *(For 2:10-3:25 Class)* |

*Please Note: Syllabus may be revised if circumstances warrant*