

PS 100: Introduction to Political Science

Fall 2022

Instructor: Jaeseok Cho

Class Hours: M/W/F 11-11:50 am

Class Room: 331 Gregory Hall

Instructor E-mail: jcho52@illinois.edu

Office Hours: M/W 9:30-10:30 am via zoom and by appointment

Office: 316 Armory

Course Description

Why do voters choose to vote for a certain political party? What are the similarity and differences between the political institutions of the US and other countries? What are the causes of interstate war? These are some questions of the academic discipline of political science. This course provides analytical tools and theoretical and historical foundations which are necessary for students to understand and critically analyze political phenomena. To do that, this course 1) provides an overview of political science by introducing four traditional sub-disciplines of political science: Political theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. Also, this course 2) introduces the basics of social scientific research and practices on how to analyze real-world political phenomena. After taking this course, students should feel more comfortable taking specialized courses in the four sub-disciplines of political science and analyzing real-world political phenomena.

Required Materials

There is one required textbook for this course. Douglas W. Simon, et al. (eds.), *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*, CQ Press, 2019 (6th edition). Additional readings are available on the course web page. Students may use other editions, but please be aware that contents and page numbers can be different.

Course Objectives

1. To understand the basic concepts and theories of political science
2. To prepare for taking advanced and specialized political science courses

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3. To be able to apply critical analytical tools in understanding political phenomena
 4. To improve students' written communication skills through analytic writing assignments

Grade and Requirements

Course Requirements and Grading Scale

Grade	Percent
A+	98 - 100
A	93 - 97
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

- Essay I: 15%
- Essay II: 15%
- Essay III: 15%
- Essay IV: 15%
- Class Participation: 15%
- Final Paper: 25%

Essays

There will be four short analytical writing assignments and one final paper for this class. The purpose of this writing assignment is 1) to apply analytical tools and theories we learned from this class and also 2) to learn to improve analytical writing skills. The word count of the four short analytical writing assignments should be between 500 and 600. The prompt for essay assignments will be provided at least a week before the due date.

Final Paper

The final paper is a longer version of the short essays. The word count of the final paper should be between 1100 and 1200. The prompt for the final paper will be provided approximately 10 days before the due date. The grade of the final paper is 25% of your final grade.

However, if your final paper grade is higher than one of your short essays, I will replace the final paper grade with your lowest grade short essay. In that case, the grade of the final paper will be 40% of your final grade.

Class Participation and Attendance

Attendance for the class session is mandatory, and attendance will be recorded starting 8/29. Attendance is mandatory, and an absence will not be excused unless you have health problems, family emergency, and attend university-sponsored activities (for instance, athletic competitions and conferences) and supporting documents. Students should notify the instructor about their absences and bring supporting documents.

Student Code of class attendance applies to lectures of this class (Student Code 1-501): <https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part5/1-501/> I will provide reasonable accommodations for students who are infected with COVID-19 and Monkeypox.

Also, please do not be late for the class. I understand that you can be late for class once. However, being late for class continuously disrupts the in-class discussion, and that is unacceptable. Failure to correct this behavior will result in a low participation grade.

Class participation will count for 15% of your grade in this course. I expect you to engage in class discussions actively. By actively engaging, I do not mean just talking a lot. I want you to contribute to the discussion by helping other students understand the class materials better.

Extra Credit

Participating in the political science subject pool will offer an extra credit opportunity. Successfully participating and finishing the activity is worth 2 points for the final grade. Details about this opportunity will be provided in class.

Course Webpage

You can find the syllabus, readings, and assignments, and check your course grades from canvas (<https://canvas.illinois.edu>)

Course Policies

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted, but the penalty for a late assignment is five points per day.

Copy Rights

Lecture materials are copyrighted to Jaeseok Cho. Students may not record class lectures or in-class discussions. This is to ensure open and free discussion of class materials. Selling and posting lecture materials, including power-point slides, are prohibited. In addition to this, selling the course materials is prohibited following the Student Code of Rules of Conduct. (Student Code 1-302): <https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part3/1-302/>

Email Policy

I regularly check my emails and will try my best to get back to you within 24 hours. However, if you do not receive any response from me after 24 hours, that means the email was not delivered to me. In that case, please send me another email.

Academic Integrity

Students should follow university rules for academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please review the university rules for your reference. (<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-402/>)

Students with Disabilities

If students with disabilities need accommodations for class, please let me know. I have attached the information regarding academic support and accommodations for your reference.

(<https://www.disability.illinois.edu/academic-supports-and-accommodations>)

Class Schedule and Readings

Part A: Tools of Analysis and Theories

Week 1: Introduction/ Tools

Announcements

- On Monday, we will review the syllabus and introduce each other

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Introduction and Chapter 3*

Week 2: The Quest for the Good Political Life

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 5*

Week 3: Liberal Democracy

Announcements

- On Monday, we will have a writing workshop
- Prompt for the first writing assignment will be available

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 6*

Week 4: Communism and Social Democracy

Announcements

- Writing assignment I is due on Friday by 11:55 pm

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 7*

Week 5: Social Democracy (Continue)

Announcements

- On Wednesday and Friday, we will watch the movie 'Modern Times'

Readings

- *No readings*

Week 6: Authoritarianism

Announcements

- Prompt for the second writing assignment will be available

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 10, 264-270 (Authoritarian Government)*

Part B: American Politics and Comparative Politics

Week 7: Key Dilemmas: Political Form, Culture, and Values

Announcements

- Writing assignment II is due on Friday by 11:55 pm

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 8, pp. 189-197 and 204-223*

Week 8: Constitutional features

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 8, pp. 197 - 204*
- *James Madison, Federalist Papers, No. 47*

Week 9: American Politics

Announcements

- Prompt for the third writing assignment will be available

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 9*
- *Fred Greenstein, The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Barack Obama, Chapter 15: "Lessons from the Modern Presidency"*

Week 10: Comparative Politics

Announcements

- Writing assignment III is due on Friday by 11:55 pm

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 10, pp. 258-264 (Parliamentary Government) and pp. 270 - 276 (Mixed Political System)*

Part C: International Relations

Week 11: Theories of International Relations

Readings

- *Hans Morgenthau, Politics among Nations, Chapter 1*

Week 12: Interstate Conflicts

Announcements

- Prompt for the fourth writing assignment will be available

Readings

- Bremer, S. A. (1992). *Dangerous dyads: Conditions affecting the likelihood of interstate war, 1816-1965*. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 36(2), 309-341

Week 13: Civil War

Announcements

- Writing assignment IV is due on Friday by 11:55 pm
- No class on Friday (ISA Midwest)

Readings

- Kalyvas, Stathis (2007). *Civil Wars*. In *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (pp. 416-34). Oxford University Press.

Week 14: Fall Break

Announcements

- No class

Week 15: International Political Economy

Announcements

- Prompt for the final paper assignment will be available

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 14, pp. 373-381 (Economic Well-being and Ethical and Empirical Factors)*

Week 16: Environmental Politics

Announcements

- Wednesday (December 7) is the last day of instruction
- Thursday (December 8) is Reading day, and there will be no class on Friday
- Final Paper is due on Friday by 11:55 pm

Readings

- *The Challenge of Politics, Chapter 15*