AIMS OF THE COURSE:

This course is an introduction to the field of political science, and more broadly to the systematic study of political phenomena. To some degree, this class will also incorporate some discussion of policy development and analysis. Political science is an unusual discipline in that its divisions, or subfields, are fairly independent of one another and are usually introduced separately. Like most universities, UWM offers introductory courses in American politics (POLSCI 104), comparative government (POLSCI 106), and international relations (POLSCI 175), as well as a course in political philosophy (POLSCI 281).

This course is designed to provide a broad overview of the political science discipline. Unfortunately, we will not have the luxury of examining any one discipline in great detail; however you will be introduced to the basic tenets of each discipline in an attempt to help you 1) better understand the field, and 2) examine some key questions about governance and governing.

This course assumes no prior familiarity with the field of political science. The first step to success in this course is your willingness to engage the material, your peers, and me in a thoughtful way.

REQUIRED TEXTS

You are required to acquire the textbook for this course:


This text can be found online, as well as at the UWM Bookstore. You must have a copy of this book to succeed in this course.

CLASS CONDUCT

I encourage class discussion. We will be talking about politics from numerous perspectives and within numerous contexts. As such, this will require that we discuss some potentially sensitive issues. I expect that you will come prepared to talk about these issues, as they relate to the readings, and that you do so in a respectful way. There is no room for disrespect and I will not tolerate it.
Additionally, you are expected to meet deadlines as they are assigned. I will not accept any late work unless you have a valid, documented reason for missing a deadline. This also applies to missing an exam. You are expected to notify me IN ADVANCE AND PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION if you are going to miss an exam, unless it is an emergency. In the case of emergency, you will need to provide adequate documentation the next time you are in class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this class. Anyone found guilty of cheating or plagiarism or of any other violation of academic integrity will be assigned an automatic grade of F IN THE COURSE and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent through University channels. Notes on plagiarism can be found here [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml). UWM’s policy can be found here: [http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm). Be sure you know the definition and know how to avoid it. I am absolutely serious about this policy. It is indeed plagiarism to copy someone’s words without citation or attribution or to copy the summary of a speech, book, article, or reading found on the web or any other source. I will notice the plagiarism and you will fail the course. Consider this your ONLY warning.

READINGS, PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE

You are expected to do the readings for each week prior to class and come prepared to talk about them. It may be beneficial to come with some questions and comments to stimulate discussion. This course is designed to be equally reliant on discussion as it is on lecture. Your attendance will be taken and there will be opportunities for participation grading, as well. This means that it will not be enough to come to class and remain silent for the entire semester.

EXAMS

There will be two exams in the course: one midterm and a final. We will discuss the format of these exams as the dates for each draw nearer.

PAPER PROJECT

You will be expected to turn in one paper project this semester that meets the following guideline(s):

In six pages, tell me what field of political science most interests you. Find and cite two scholarly articles that speak to, and present research in, the political science field you are interested in. Tell me what the article is about and what the article’s research is telling us. Make sure to talk specifically about what area of political science (American, Comparative, International Relations, Theory, etc), as well as the subfield you are interested in (i.e., the courts, voting, representation, Senate, elections, public opinion, war, policy, etc). Finally, close your paper by telling me one research idea that you have in your area of interest, and a little bit about how you would go about conducting the research.
These papers will be due in class Dec 11. Please follow standard formatting for your papers: 12 point font, double spaced, Times New Roman.

**GRADES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADING SCALE**

The grading scale is as follows*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 – 93</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92 – 90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 – 88</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 – 83</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82 – 80</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 – 78</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 – 73</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 – 70</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 – 68</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 – 63</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62 – 60</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 – 0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The instructor reserves the right to curve grades, should the need present itself.

**STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS**

Any students with special needs due to a physical or learning disability should see me as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. See [www.sac.uwm.edu](http://www.sac.uwm.edu) for more information.

**TOPIC AND READING SCHEDULE**

**Week One**

Sep 4: Introduction

Sep 9: Why Politics Matters (Chap 1)

Sep 11: Cont’d

**Week Two**

Sep 16: Political Theory (Chap 2)

Sep 18: **NO CLASS**
Sep 23: **NO CLASS**

Sep 25: Cont’d

**Week Three**

Sep 30: Modern Political Theory (Chap 3)

Oct 2: Cont’d

**Week Four**

Oct 7: American Government (Chap 4)

Oct 9: Cont’d

**Week Five**

Oct 14: American Congress (Chap 5)

Oct 16: Cont’d

**Week Six**

Oct 21: American Presidency (Chap 6)

Oct 23: Cont’d

**Week Seven**

Oct 28: American Judiciary (Chap 7)

Oct 30: **Midterm** (*Material through Chap 7*)

**Week Eight**

Nov 4: Comparative Politics (Chap 8)

Nov 6: Cont’d

**Week Nine**

Nov 11: Understanding Democracies (Chap 9)

Nov 13: Cont’d
**Week Ten**

Nov 18: Authoritarian States (Chap 10)

Nov 20: Cont’d

**Week Eleven**

Nov 25: Understanding International Relations (Chap 11)

Nov 27: **NO CLASS**

**Week Twelve**

Dec 2: War Diplomacy, and the Beginning of International Relations (Chap 12)

Dec 4: Cont’d

**Week Thirteen**

Dec 9: The Cold War and Beyond (Chap 13)

Dec 11: Cont’d; **PAPERS DUE**

**FINAL EXAM:** 12:30-2:30PM Saturday, Dec 14th (in Bolton B60)