Political Science 103:  
Introduction to Political Science  
Fall 2013  
Online Course

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Northwest Quad, Building B, Room 5541  
Office Hours (both online and in person): Wednesdays: 9:00-10:00 am; Thursdays: 2:00-3:00 pm; and by appointment  
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Course Description

This online course is designed to introduce students to the field of political science. A diverse field of study, this course presents basic concepts, theories, and questions. This is a survey course that covers a wide range of topics including concepts of political power and ideology as well as more specific theories regarding political behavior. We will also be covering political institutions, some comparative political systems, and international relations. Because this is a survey course, we may not be able to cover each topic in depth; however, the goal is for students to finish the course with a broad understanding of general topics in political science.

Required Text


The text is available at:  
People’s Books Cooperative (and Amazon.com)

Supplemental Text (excerpts provided on D2l)

**Online Resources**

Two primary websites can help you in this course. The first is the D2L site, which can be accessed directly from the UWM Homepage using the “Quick Links” section. The syllabus as well as other pertinent forms will be posted on the D2L site. The power point slides used in lecture will be posted before each lecture topic has been covered in class. It should be noted that the power point slides only represent an outline of what will be discussed in class and, by themselves, do not provide enough information to do well in the class. The second website that can be of help is the textbook’s website. The website contains some practice tests as well as additional information. The textbook’s website is in the textbook and it is linked on our D2L page.

**Expectations**

As your instructor you can expect the following from me:

- To treat you with respect, both in and out of the classroom.
- To give you advice and strategies to optimize your learning and performance in the class.
- To evaluate and grade your work fairly and impartially, and to return it within a reasonable period of time.
- To be available during office hours and other appointments we make.
- To follow university policy and procedures regarding any and all "special needs" circumstances.
- To treat you fairly, without showing partiality, favoritism, or any personal bias. To respond to your questions or requests for assistance in a timely manner.

As a student enrolled in this class I assume I can expect the following from you:

- To read, understand, and follow this syllabus, and ask questions if there is any uncertainty about its content.
• To appreciate the importance of exhibiting academic rigor, being motivated to learn, and of assuming responsibility for your own studying, reading, homework, and attendance.

• To ask early and often if you need additional assistance to succeed in this class.

• To treat faculty, staff, and fellow students with respect, and expect to be treated in a similar manner.

• To follow university policy with respect to academic honesty and "special needs" circumstances.

In addition to these expectations I would like to stress that it is essential that you complete all readings PRIOR to class. Late work will not be accepted without penalty nor will make-up exams be given without a legitimate, university-approved excuse. Any absence or late work that falls under the category of university-approved will require documentation. University-approved excuses may include illness (documented by a medical professional), religious observances, or military leave. In the latter two cases, please inform your instructor prior to the absence.

**Grade and Course Requirements**

The final grade for this class will be determined using the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam I</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Complete by Friday, October 18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam II</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Complete by Friday, November 22nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Complete by Friday, December 20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Exams**

There will be three exams for the course. The final exam will be held during final exam week but will be no longer than the first two exams. The final exam is not cumulative. As this is an online course, I naturally assume that the students enrolled have the kind of schedule that may prevent them from completing
coursework during traditional days and hours. For this reason, I will leave each exam open on D2L for one week. All the exams are technically open book, as you will complete them online. However, the exams will be timed, with the assumption that you are entirely prepared to complete the exam with little to no assistance from the textbook or notes. Once you have decided to open the exam you have one hour to complete it. The final exam must be completed prior to the end of the day, **December 20th**. All exams will be in multiple choice and True / False format. You will be provided with a review sheet posted on D2L the week prior to each exam. I will also open a discussion forum for each exam so that students may have the opportunity to work together to complete the review sheet and ask questions of their classmates in the event that they have trouble with any of the concepts from the review. If you have a valid **university approved** excuse for missing an exam, you must contact me immediately, preferably before the exam, to schedule an extension.

**Campaign Media Project**

Students will be required to complete one major media project during the semester. Basically, each student will work to construct a political campaign and put together a campaign ad for a candidate they are running. Everyone will be assigned a candidate from a specific party to run for a particular office. All other candidate traits and policy preferences are up to you to develop. Further instruction will be disseminated concerning the expectations for the assignment and on the resources students are required to use to put the project together. The finished product (the campaign ad) will need to be published on youtube and available for other students in the course to view.

**Quizzes**

The largest portion of the grade for this course consists of a series of quizzes designed to help keep students on track in the class. While the exams will test knowledge of the broader material in the course, the quizzes will evaluate your ability to critically analyze supplemental information included in and outside of the textbook. Three of the quizzes focus on the content of three documentaries you are assigned to watch (links to the documentaries will be provided on D2L). The second two quizzes will consist of questions on two or more case studies that are provided in the latter part of each chapter in your textbook. Unfortunately, many students tend to skip over this portion of the chapter and I find that these quizzes are a useful remedy to that problem. Each timed quiz will be open on D2L for one week.
If you do not take the quiz within the allotted time you will receive a zero for that particular quiz. Quizzes cannot be made up without a university approved excuse.

**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>100 – 93</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>77 – 73</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>92 – 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>89 – 88</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 – 83</td>
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<td>67 – 63</td>
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<tr>
<td>82 – 80</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>62 – 60</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>79 – 78</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>59 – 0</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Academic Integrity**

I take the possession of “intellectual property” extremely seriously, as does the University. As such, no form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Any student found cheating / plagiarizing or found in any other violation of academic integrity, depending on the severity of the situation, may be assigned an automatic grade of F in the course. “I didn’t know” will not be a valid excuse. See more info at: [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml). You can also visit [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html) for further details.

**Special Needs**

Any students with special needs should see the instructor as soon as possible. You can also visit [http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/index.html](http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/index.html) for more information. Every effort will be made to accommodate students with special needs.
Course Schedule

I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule if we get behind; however, if any readings / assignments are canceled from this list I will make sure that all students are informed via email, and on D2L, of the changes.

Part I. Introduction

Week 1 (9/2): Introduction-
   Read: Shively Chapter 1

Part II. The Individual and the State

Week 2 (9/9): Ideologies-
   Read: Shively Chapter 2
   Documentary: U.S. Politics of Religion

Week 3 (9/16): Political Theory
   Read: D2l excerpt
   DUE 9/20: Quiz #1

Week 4 (9/23): The State-
   Read: Shively Chapter 3
   & Shively Chapter 8

Part III. Types of Government

Week 5 (9/30): Democracy and Autocracy
   Read: Shively Chapter 7
   AND
   Parliament and Presidency-
   Read: Shively Chapter 14

Week 6 (10/7): Parliament and Presidency Continued
   Read: Shively Chapter 15
   DUE 10/11: Quiz #2
Week 7 (10/14): DUE 10/18: MIDTERM EXAM I

Part IV. Political Institutions

Week 8 (10/21): Constitutions
   Read: Shively Chapter 9
   & Janda et al. Chapter 2 (on D2l)
   AND
   Elections-
   Read: Shively Chapter 10
   & Janda et al. Selections from Chapter 5 & 6 (on D2l)

Week 9 (10/28): Parties-
   Read: Shively Chapter 11
   & Janda et al. Selections from Chapter 6 (on D2l)
   AND
   Legislatures-
   Read: Janda et al. Chapter 8 (on D2l)

Week 10: (11/4): Campaign Week-
   DUE 11/8: CAMPAIGN PROJECT

Week 11 (11/11): Courts-
   Read: Shively Chapter 17
   & Janda et al. Selections from Chapter 11 (on D2l)
   AND
   Interest groups-
   Read: Shively Chapter 12
   DUE 11/15: QUIZ #3

Week 12 (11/18): DUE 11/22: MIDTERM EXAM II

Part V. World Politics

Week 13 (11/25): Social movements-
Read: Shively Chapter 13
& Documentary: Revolution in Cairo

Week 14 (12/2): Policies of the State-
Read: Shively Chapter 4
AND
International politics and economy-
Read: Shively Chapter 5
& Shively Chapter 18
DUE 12/6: Quiz #4

Week 15 (12/9): Political Violence/Civil and International War
Readings: TBA
& Documentary: Women, War, and Peace
DUE 12/12: Quiz #5

FINAL EXAM: Friday, December 20th