

**Political Science 103 - Spring 2018**  
Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-12:15  
Bolton, B56

**Prof. Ivan Ascher**  
Office Hours: Tuesday 4-6pm & by appt  
640 Bolton, [ascher@uwm.edu](mailto:ascher@uwm.edu)

**Yunus Emre Orhan, T.A.**  
Office Hours: Wed. 11am-12pm; Thur, 12:15-1:15pm  
Bolton Hall  
[yeorhan@uwm.edu](mailto:yeorhan@uwm.edu)

## INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

(1/23/18 - Syllabus Subject to Revision)

As you'll have guessed from the title, this course is an introduction to political science. As such, it is an introduction to both politics and the systematic study thereof (that's where the 'science' part comes in). But what *is* politics, you ask, and how can it be studied? These are the questions we will begin with, before moving on to equally difficult questions, like: What is authority, and when is it legitimate? What is the state, and how unique is it among political formations? Is there such a thing as a free market? Is there is such a thing as liberal democracy, and if there is, what challenges might it be facing? And finally, what is the relation between the West and the rest, and what is its future?

These are not questions that admit of easy answers, nor should we expect to settle them over the course of one semester—if ever. But as we begin to address them together, hopefully, we will not only learn a few new things about the ways of the world, but also unlearn a few others. And with a little luck, will find ourselves better equipped to keep learning and thinking for ourselves as the “political animals” that Aristotle claims we are.

### Prerequisites and Course Rules

There are no prerequisites for this course, save for a willingness to come to class prepared, having done the reading and willing to discuss it with your colleagues. The readings will be made available on-line. We will begin each Thursday session with a basic question pertaining to the week's readings -- so make sure to have done the readings by Thursday. Your in-class answers will be graded pass/fail, and will count toward your participation grade. Participation accounts for 20% of the grade, as does each of the four take-home assignments. There is no final exam.

Note also that **at least once** over the course of the semester, you are expected to meet with the Professor during office hours (Tuesday 4-6, and by appointment). You are free to come to office hours more often than that, and you are also encouraged to meet with the TA as well, especially as you prepare to write your papers.

Note also that no laptops and no cell phones are to be used during class time.

### Time commitment

This course should require a total time commitment of approximately ten hours per week. Of this, students will spent two hours and forty minutes in class; they will spend the remaining time engaged in reading, study, and preparation.

## **UWM Policies and Procedures**

In this course, we will abide by the UWM policies and procedures as described in the following document. <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>

Students with disabilities should notify the instructor immediately so that we can make appropriate accommodations. We will follow university procedures as described in the following document. <http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/SACltr.pdf>

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (<https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/>) for support, including Emergency Grants. The UWM Food Center and Pantry (Union 384D) ([http://studentorgs.uwm.edu/org/sa/Projects\\_Food\\_Pantry](http://studentorgs.uwm.edu/org/sa/Projects_Food_Pantry)) will be open on the fourth Monday and Thursday of each month (January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30 from 9:00am to 1:30pm; February 22, March 15, April 26, May 17, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm)- or any weekday through the Inclusive Excellence Center (Union 119), the LGBT Resource Center, or the Dean of Students.

### **Religious observances**

Students who plan to observe religious holidays should notify the instructor immediately so that we can make appropriate accommodations. We will follow university procedures as described in the following document. <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>

### **Students called to active military duty**

Students who are called to active military duty should notify the instructor immediately so that we can make appropriate accommodations. We will follow university procedures as described in the following document.

[http://www4.uwm.edu/current\\_students/military\\_call\\_up.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm)

## Schedule of readings

(1/23/18)

The readings below will be made available on-line. We also recommend that you get a copy of *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*, by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. It will be useful as you learn to read and write academic prose, and will serve you in other courses as well.

### **Week 1. January 23 & 25. Introduction. The Rise of the Modern State**

Christopher Pierson, *The Modern State*, Chapters 1 and 2

### **Week 2. January 30 & February 1. Monopoly on Legitimate Violence**

Max Weber, *Politics as a Vocation*

### **Week 3. February 6 & 8. War-Making and State-Making**

Charles Tilly, *War-making and state-making as organized crime*

Vadim Volkov, *The political economy of coercion, economic growth, and the consolidation of the state*

### **Week 4. February 13 & 15. 'When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.'**

John Ford, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*

**1<sup>st</sup> Assignment due Thursday February 15**

### **Week 5. February 20 & 22. Human nature and the market**

Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, chapters 4, 5, 6

### **Week 6. February 27 & March 1. Freedom and the Market**

Rose and Milton Friedman, "The Power of the Market", pp.9-37

Karl Marx, "Estranged Labour", in Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 70-81

### **Week 7. March 6 & 8. Everything for Sale?**

Robert Kuttner, *The Limits of Markets*

Daniel Yergin and Joseph Stanislaw, *The Commanding Heights*

### **Week 8. March 13 & 15. Financialization and Neoliberalism**

Gerald Davis and Suntae Kim, *Financialization of the Economy*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Assignment due Thursday March 15**

(---Spring Break. March 20 & 22. No class meetings.---)

**Week 9. March 27 & 29. European Disunion?**

Wolfgang Streeck, *Why the Euro Divides Europe*

**Week 10. April 3 & 5. Liberal Democracy**

Frank Cunningham, *Theories of Democracy*, pp. 27-51  
Terry Lynn Karl, *What Democracy Is... And is Not*

**Week 11. April 10 & 12. Illiberal Democracy**

Fareed Zakaria, *Illiberal Democracy*  
Steve Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die*

**Week 12. April 17 & 19. Putin v. Pussy Riot**

Graeme Robertson and Samuel Greene, *How Putin Wins Support*  
Regyna Smyth and Irina Soboleva, *Looking beyond the economy: Pussy Riot and the Kremlin's voting coalition*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Assignment due April 19**

**Week 13. April 24 & 26. The West v. the Rest**

Stuart Hall, *The West v. the Rest*  
Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations*

**Week 14. May 1 & 2. Good Muslim/Bad Muslim**

Bernard Lewis, *The Roots of Muslim Rage*  
Mahmood Mamdani, *Good Muslim/Bad Muslim*

**Week 15. May 8 & 10. The Battle of Algiers**

Frantz Fanon, *On Violence*  
Gilo Pontecorvio, *The Battle of Algiers*

**4<sup>th</sup> Assignment due May 15**