

Pol Sci 103
Introduction to Political Science
Online Course
October 23 to December 2, 2017

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IMPORTANT: Please remember that I will be sending everything to your UWM email account. If you don't regularly use that account, make sure you check it or forward it to an account you do use regularly.

This course is a board introduction to the study of politics, also known as political science. There are two general components to the course. First, you will find that the readings in the textbook expose you to many of the important concepts, theories, and building blocks necessary to understand contemporary politics. The second component is an exposure to political science as a discipline. Some of this is covered in the textbook and a few of the supplemental readings, as well as in some of the lecture notes I provide. As you will see early on, it is sometimes difficult to define exactly what we mean by "politics," or where politics begins and ends. Does politics have to involve interaction with government? You've probably heard the term "workplace politics." How is that different from what we usually think of as political? In some ways, the same can be said for defining what constitutes "political science" as a discipline. What makes the study of demographic characteristics and voting behavior the province of political science? Why not sociology? Geography? Even if you are no closer to nailing down these terms or answering these questions by the end of the semester, you will certainly know a lot more about both politics and political science after taking this course.

GER

This course fulfills the **Social Science General Education Requirement (GER)** through its focus on: a) the study of intrapersonal, interpersonal, and/or socio-cultural factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, or societal development. b) the study of human collectivities, organizations, institutions, and cultures, their infrastructures, and interrelationships.

This course meets these requirements through our examination of the varied personal, social, and cultural forces that shape individual and collective political behavior. We will also examine the

institutions and organizations on which political and governmental systems built and discuss the development of those systems.

Expected Time Commitment

This is a three-credit course, so the expected time commitment from students is approximately 135 hours over the next 6 weeks. The bulk of your time should be spent doing the course reading (textbook, supplemental readings, lecture notes, PowerPoint slides), but you should set aside plenty of time for exam preparation and the writing assignments.

How This Course Works

This is an online course, so it is incumbent on you to make sure you have reliable internet access, either at home or on campus. The syllabus, assignments, supplemental readings, lecture and chapter notes, and PowerPoint slides will all be available to you on the course D2L site. Exams will be taken online and your writing assignment will be turned in online via the D2L Dropbox.

Your grade will be determined by:

	Percent of Grade
Three Writing Assignments	25%
Three Exams	75%

The following scale will be used for assigning letter grades:

A	93-100	A-	89-92
B+	86-88	B	82-85
B-	78-81	C+	75-77
C	71-74	C-	67-70
D+	64-66	D	60-63
D-	56-59	F	0-55

Writing Assignments

Three short writing assignments are required, one before each exam. In these assignments you are required to respond issues related to the readings or lecture notes. These responses are expected to be serious, based on material you read for class, and should not make references to dictionary definitions, Wikipedia entries, or something you find by “googling” key terms. In addition, these assignments are should reflect ideas, facts, and concepts from the readings and notes, not your personal feelings. You need to show me that you have read the material, thought about it, and can provide a brief, coherent response that directly addresses the issues raised in the prompt.

Schedule for writing assignments:

Assignment 1 November 3
Assignment 2 November 17
Assignment 3 November 29

Exams

There will be three multiple-choice exams. Each of these exams have 50 questions, and you will have 75 minutes to complete the exam. The time limit is designed so that you will not be able to spend time searching the books or notes for answers—you must study for the quizzes and be ready to answer questions without the books or notes, just as you would if you were in the classroom. The exams are not cumulative and only cover material presented to you between exam periods.

The exams are open for you to take until 11:59 pm on the due dates. It is really important that you have a reliable, high speed internet connection when you take the exams and that you can set aside the allowed amount of time. Once you start an exam you must finish it, so make sure you are in a place where you can spend the time necessary to finish the exam.

You can take each exam *up to two times* anytime during the period it is available. Just to be clear, you may *take the exam up to two times*, and your highest score will be recorded as your exam score. If you are not happy with your first score, feel free to take the exam again. Although it is possible that you will get some repeat questions across the two attempts, most of the questions will be different, as they are randomly selected from a large set of questions (150+).

Readings

The main textbook for this course is:

Dooley, Kevin L, and Joseph Patten. 2015. *Why Politics Matters: An Introduction to Political Science*. 2nd ed. Cengage Learning.

You can purchase this book through the UWM/ecampus site or the [publisher's site](#):

There is **no reason to buy a brand new copy** if you can get a good used copy or if you are comfortable with a rental or an eBook.

We will go through the book pretty much in order.

There are also several supplemental readings, all of which will be listed in the reading schedule and are available on the D2L site. The exams will also cover the supplemental readings.

Supplemental Readings:

Grigsby, Ellen. "History of the Discipline." In *21st Century Political Science: a Reference Handbook*, Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications, Inc., pages 3–10.

Jencik, Alicia. "Qualitative Versus Quantitative Research." In *21st Century Political Science: a Reference Handbook*, Thousand Oaks California : SAGE Publications, Inc., pages 506–13.

Lim, Timothy C. 2010. *Doing Comparative Politics*. Lynne Rienner Pub., Chapter 1

Shepsle, Kenneth A. 2010. *Analyzing Politics*. W. W. Norton., Chapters 8, 10

Note: The reading load is a bit heavier at the beginning of the term than at the end.

Class Schedule

The schedule posted below provides information on the material that will be covered for each of the three exams. You should get started reading right away and make sure you do not fall behind.

	Book Reading	Supplemental Reading	Exams Available Until
Part I (October 23-November 5)	Chapters 1, 2, 3	Grigsby, Shepsle	November 5
Part II (November 6- 19)	Chapters 4,5, 6, 7	Lim, Jencik	November 19
Part III (November 20-Dec. 2)	Chapters 8,9,10,11		December 2

Study Resources

There are a number of resources available to help you study for exams and understand the material. Under "content" on D2L you will find PowerPoint slides for each chapter of the textbook. These slides are provided by the publisher and do a good job summarizing some of the important concepts and points from the chapters. I suggest that you read the chapters before you look at the slides, otherwise the slides might not make sense to you. In addition, under "links" on D2L you will find a link to some online resources for the textbook, including flashcards, crossword puzzles, and glossaries.

I will also provide separate chapter notes for the three different segments of the course, and instructor notes for the first two sections. The chapter notes are basically detailed outlines of the chapter contents. The instructor notes will overlap somewhat with the book material but will also cover additional topics that do not receive as much treatment in the textbook. You should review these notes, as they will be the basis for some of the exam questions.

Instructor Availability

You should feel free to contact me with any questions you have regarding the course. The best way to contact me is via email, during the day (9:00 am-4:30 pm), during the work week (Monday-Friday), or stop in during office hours. I will do my best to respond to your questions promptly but you may end up waiting until the following day, especially if you contact me late in the day. Hence, you should not wait until the end of the week to ask questions about assignments that are coming due, or about material that is relevant to upcoming quizzes, as I might not get back to you in time to be helpful.

Make-up Policy

As a general rule I do not allow students to make up missed assignments and exams or turn in late papers. I will make exceptions to this policy only in the most severe and rare circumstances (death in the family, severe illness, etc.). This means that it is better to turn in a partially completed assignment or paper and receive partial credit than to turn it in late and receive no credit.

Important Deadlines

Important deadlines are listed below, as well as elsewhere in this syllabus. Please take special note of the last day to drop this course, November 10. You will have a grade on your first exam and writing assignment by then and you should use this information to decide if you should stay in the course.

Component	Deadline
First Writing Assignment	November 3
First Exam	November 5
Last day to drop the course	November 10
Second Writing Assignment	November 17
Second Exam 2	November 19
Third Writing Assignment	November 29
Third Exam	December 2

University Policies (<http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf>)

1. *Students with disabilities*: Students with a learning or other disability that could interfere with their performance in the course should contact me right away. (See:<http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/SACltr.pdf>)

2. *Religious observances*: You should contact me during the first week of the semester if you know a religious observance will interfere with scheduled activities in this course. (See: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>)

3. *Students called to active military duty*: Accommodations will be made for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty. This does not include already schedule time commitments. (See: <http://www4.uwm.edu/academics/military.cfm>)

4. *Incompletes*: A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. (See: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf>)

5. *Discriminatory conduct*: Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. (See: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf>)

6. *Academic misconduct*: Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. (See: http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm)

7. *Complaint procedures*: Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. (See: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm>)

8. *Grade appeal procedures*: A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. (See: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm>)

9. *Firearms and dangerous weapons policy*: (See: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S24.5.pdf>)