

**POLS 2310 Introduction to Politics**  
**Fall 2017 (7-Week Accelerated Course)**

**Instructor: Dr. Taeko Hiroi**

Office: Benedict Hall 312

Office Hours: M 4:20-5:00, W11:15-12:00, and by appointment

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**Course Duration:** Aug 28, 2017 - Oct 14, 2017

**Class Time/Location:** MW 1:30 - 4:20 pm/ UGLC 126

**Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce you to major concepts, principles, and questions in the study of politics. Politics affects how society is organized. Politics affects why certain policies are adopted while many seemingly important issues are not even discussed by policymakers. In essence, politics affects every citizen; it affects your everyday life. In a globalized world, moreover, your decisions and actions may affect people living in distant countries; conversely, politics in other countries also impact your life. In order to become an effective citizen of the global community, you therefore need to understand the basics of politics. This course provides an introduction to politics and political science, with an emphasis on learning how to understand political events, political institutions, and political discourse in the United States and around the world.

**Course Objectives**

Upon the successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- 1) define key concepts and principles in political science;
- 2) apply these concepts and theories to real-world problems;
- 3) evaluate different perspectives in politics; and
- 4) describe and evaluate alternative political institutions.

**Required Textbook**

The following book is a required textbook for the course. Additional readings are available on the course's webpage (Blackboard).

Neal Riemer, Douglas W. Simon, and Joseph Romance. 2015. *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. CQ Press.

**A Special Note on This Class**

This is an intensive short course which condenses 16-week material into seven (7) weeks. Each class covers content that is equivalent to appropriately the volume covered in two weeks or more in a regular semester-long class. Do not miss class, and do not get behind in readings. It will be very difficult to catch up. From my experience, despite the amount of work required in a relatively short period of time, many students do like, and do well in, accelerated classes. Nevertheless, I want you to be aware that if you sign up for this class, you need to be prepared to

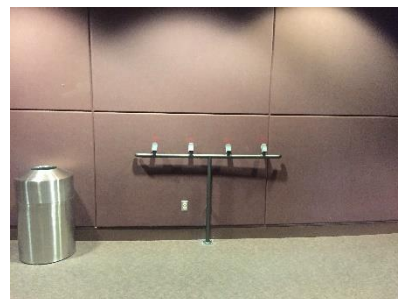
complete all the lectures and assignments that require significantly more work per week than you would do in a typical semester-long course.

## Course Requirements

### Reading Assignments and Class Participation

You are required to come to every class, complete all assigned readings *before* coming to class, and actively participate in class discussions. Assigned readings are listed on the course schedule at the end of this syllabus. Many studies have repeatedly demonstrated that students who regularly attend class and complete assigned readings are more likely to do well in the course. Some of the questions on the exams will be from materials covered in class, which may not be covered in the textbook. Some questions will be from assigned readings, which may not be discussed in class. Therefore, both class participation and assigned readings are mandatory and essential for your success in this course.

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting using UTEP student ID cards. Card readers are located at the entrance of the classroom. When you enter class, simply hold your student ID card against the reader. It may not be necessary to remove the card from your wallet or purse. If the light on the device turns green, your card has been read properly and your attendance has been recorded. If the light remains red, the device was unable to read your card; please present it again gently until the green light appears. If you do not see the green light, you may need to remove your card from your wallet or purse in order to ensure that it is detected.



Card readers

Your attendance will be recorded up to 15 minutes before or after your class is scheduled to start. If you forget to bring your ID or are late to class more than 15 minutes, your attendance will not be recorded. If you have any questions regarding the card readers or how your attendance information is used by the University, please contact Trinidad Morales (tmorales1@utep.edu) in the Office of the Provost.

Class participation is evaluated through various class activities. Attendance taken using the card readers will not be used for grading purpose.

### Exams

There will be two exams. The exams will be closed-book and closed-notes, and will consist of multiple-choice questions. You need to bring a **scantron sheet, pencils, and a picture ID** to take the exams. **Please do not be late.** Students arriving late is quite disruptive to other students who wish to concentrate on the exam. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you will not be allowed to enter the exam room.

Throughout the term, you will have various opportunities to earn bonus points for your exams through class activities. Points earned before Exam 1 will be added to Exam 1. Points earned after Exam 1 will be added to Exam 2. These points may be earned only during a class, and you must be present to take advantage of these opportunities.

Your exam grades will be posted on Blackboard's grade center. The exam grades will be the sum of the exam score on the scantron sheet and your bonus points.

### Exam Schedule

Exam	Date
Exam 1	Wed., September 20
Exam 2	Wed., October 11

### Grades

Course grades are determined as follows:

Assessment	Weight
Exam 1	50%
Exam 2	50%
Class participation	Added to the appropriate exam in the form of bonus points

Course Grade Scale	
90% ≤	A
80% ≤ & < 90%	B
67% ≤ & < 80%	C
57% ≤ & < 67%	D
<57%	F

### Course Policy

Please comply with the following policies to maintain an effective and pleasant learning environment for everyone.

- **No electronic devices are allowed during the class.** This includes, but not limited to, cell phones, laptops, and tablet computers. If you bring them to class, they must be turned off and stored in your bag at all times. If you need to keep your cell phone on for emergency, please notify the professor *and* TAs ahead of time.
  - **Exception.** You may use your laptop or a tablet computer in class *exclusively for note taking*. You may not use a cell phone to take notes. All laptop and tablet users will need to sit *in a designated area in the front of the classroom*.

- **Please maintain respectful and appropriate behavior within and outside the classroom.** Meaningful and constructive dialogue is encouraged in this class, which requires mutual respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view. Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be maintained at all times. One's words and use of language should be temperate and within acceptable bounds of civility and decency. Disruptive behaviors, including excessive talking, arriving late to class, leaving class early, sleeping, reading newspapers or books, and using unauthorized electronic devices (including taking pictures or video- or voice-recording) during class, are not permitted. Repetitive and/or seriously disruptive behavior, including, but not limited to, fighting, using profanity, personal or physical threats or insults, displaying hostility or rudeness towards other students, TAs, or the professor, and damaging property, may result in your removal from class, and reporting to the Dean of Students and/or police. Expectation of respectful and appropriate behavior extends beyond the physical classroom.
- Please also be aware that no food or drink is allowed in the UGLC classrooms.
- Please check the course's Blackboard page often. I may distribute handouts and make announcements on Blackboard as well as in class.
- **Arrive early on the exam days. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you will not be allowed to enter the exam room unless prior arrangements are made with the professor.** Anticipate potential problems. Traffic and parking are constant problems in El Paso and at UTEP. Tardiness will not be a valid justification for a make-up exam.
- **Make-up exams are considered only with a timely presentation of proper documentation indicating the nature of the emergency, and the make-up exam, if granted, must be taken no later than one week from the date of the missed exam.** Valid emergencies include an unexpected emergency room visit due to illness, death in your immediate family, etc. Regular, scheduled appointments with your doctors are not considered emergencies. No make-up exams will be given for missing an exam due to tardiness. If you miss an exam without a valid documented emergency, please do not request a make-up exam. Due to university policy and fairness to other students, it will not be granted.
- As discussed before, throughout the semester, you will have various opportunities to earn bonus points towards your exams. Therefore, please do not ask for additional extra credit opportunities.
- You are welcome to email me if you have questions or need to make an appointment. Please use your UTEP email and provide your name, your UTEP ID number, and the class to which you are referring. Please do not call to inquire about your class performance. Due to confidentiality, I will not be able to discuss these matters over the phone.

## Course Materials

Course materials are intended for your personal use only. An unauthorized use, dissemination, distribution, publication or replication of course materials is strictly prohibited. Course materials refer to those made available to you for this course by me and teaching assistants. They include, but are not limited to, materials made available on Blackboard (such as power point slides, review materials, lecture outlines, and supplementary readings) and exams.

## Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is NEVER tolerated by UTEP or the Department of Political Science. All cases are reported to the Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action. All work submitted must be original and your own; students may not submit graded work from another course. Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. **Cheating** may involve communicating with another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Falsifying research data, reports, or academic work offered for credit is also a form of cheating. **Collusion** involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. One example of collusion is preparing a discussion post for another person or having someone prepare a discussion post for you. **Plagiarism** involves the presentation of another person's work as your own, whether you mean to or not. For example, if you copy parts of or whole papers off the Internet without proper citation of the sources, it is a form of plagiarism. Lack of proper citation of sources is considered plagiarism even if borrowed ideas are paraphrased.

## Accommodations

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

### Tentative Course Schedule

\*The course schedule is subject to change as needed.

August 28	First Meeting—Course Overview
August 30	Politics as a Game
	• Reading: Chapter 1
September 4	Labor Day—University is closed
September 6	Politics and Choice
	• Reading: Chapter 2
	• Reading: Khrushchev Letter to Kennedy, 26 Oct 1962 & 27 Oct 1962 (Blackboard)
	Political Science as a Scientific Enterprise
	• Reading: Chapter 3
	• Reading: “President Discusses the Future of Iraq,” 26 Feb 2003 (Blackboard)
September 11	Realism, Liberalism, and Conservatism
	• Reading: Chapter 5
September 13	Liberal Democracy
	• Reading: Chapter 6
September 18	Ideologies of the Left: Communism and Socialism
	• Reading: Chapter 7
September 20	<b>Exam 1</b>
September 25	Political Values, Public Goods, and States
	• Reading: Chapters 8 & 15
September 27	Constitutional Structures
	• Reading: Chapters 9-10
October 2	Electoral Systems
	• Reading: Chapter 9, pp. 263-267
October 4	Democratization
	• Reading: Chapter 13
October 9	International Peace and Conflict
	• Reading: Chapters 11-12
October 11	<b>Exam 2</b>