

POLS 2310 Introduction to Politics
Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Taeko Hiroi

Office: Benedict Hall 312

Office Hours: M 1:30-2:30, W 1-2, and by appointment

E-mail: thiroi@utep.edu

Class Time/Location: MW 10:30-11:50/ UGLC 116

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*, 5th Edition. CQ Press.

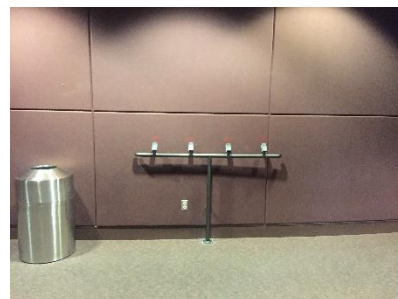
Course Requirements

Reading Assignments and Class Participation

You are required to come to every class and complete all assigned readings before coming to class. 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. Your attendance will be recorded up to 15 minutes before or after your class is scheduled to start.



Card readers

Exams

This course is divided into four parts with a section exam at the end of each section. These exams will be based on assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. I will drop your lowest exam score and count your three highest scores toward your course grade. The exams will be closed-book, closed-notes and will consist of multiple-choice questions. **You will need to bring a scantron, 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 semester, you will have various learning opportunities to earn bonus points for your exams. Points accumulated during each section may be added to the exam for that section only. For example, if you earn 6 bonus points during section 1, these 6 bonus points will be added to your section 1 exam, but not to other exams. In other words, bonus points are not transferable. These points may be earned only during class sessions, and you must be present to take advantage of these opportunities.

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

Exam Schedule

Exam	Date	Time
Exam 1	Wed., September 21	10:30-11:50
Exam 2	Wed., October 19	10:30-11:50
Exam 3	Mon., November 14	10:30-11:50
Exam 4	Wed., November 30	10:30-11:50

Grades

Course grades are determined as follows:

Assessment	Weight
First two exams (of the three best)	33% each
Last exam (of the three best)	34%

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 me ahead of time.
 - **Exception.** You may use your laptop or a tablet computer in class *exclusively for note taking*. However, chatting, texting, e-mailing, internet browsing, or any activity not explicitly permitted is prohibited. 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*.
- No chatting, napping, e-mailing, internet browsing, photographing, video- or voice-recording, or any activity not related to class is allowed during class hours. Those activities disturb other students who want to learn, so please refrain from those activities.
- 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 me. 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.

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 Dishonesty Policy

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Office of Student Life for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Refer to <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for further information.

Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally within the first two weeks to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) (formerly known as the Disabled Student Services Office) in 302 Union East within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/dsso/>

Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

E-Mail: dss@utep.edu

Fax: (915) 747-8712

Tentative Course Schedule

*The course schedule is subject to change as needed.

August 22: First Meeting—Course Overview

Part I: Politics and Political Science

August 24-31: Politics as a Game

- Reading: Chapter 1

Note: September 5 is Labor Day (University is closed)

September 7-12: Politics and Choice

- Reading: Chapter 2
- Reading: Khrushchev Letter to Kennedy, 26 Oct 1962 & 27 Oct 1962 (Blackboard)

September 14-19: Political Science as a Scientific Enterprise

- Reading: Chapters 3
- Reading: “President Discusses the Future of Iraq,” 26 Feb 2003 (Blackboard)

September 21: **Exam 1**

Part 2: Political Beliefs and Ideologies

September 26-October 3: Realism, Liberalism, and Conservatism

- Reading: Chapter 5

October 5-10: Liberal Democracy

- Reading: Chapter 6

October 12-17: Ideologies of the Left: Communism and Socialism

- Reading: Chapter 7

October 19: **Exam 2**

Part 3: Political Systems and Constitutions

October 24-31: Political Values, Public Goods, and States

- Reading: Chapters 8 & 15

November 2-7: Constitutional Structures

- Reading: Chapters 9-10

November 9: Electoral Systems

- Reading: Reread Chapter 9, pp. 263-267

November 14: **Exam 3**

Part 4: Issues in Politics and Political Science

November 16-21: International Peace and Conflict

- Reading: Chapters 11-12

November 23-28: Democratization

- Reading: Chapter 13

November 30: **Exam 4**