

**POLS 2310 Introduction to Politics  
Maymester 2015**

**Instructor: Dr. Taeko Hiroi**

Office: Benedict Hall 312

Office Hours: by appointment

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**Class Time/Location: M-F 1-6 pm / LART 319**

**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 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. 2014. *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. CQ Press.

**Course Requirements**

**Reading Assignments and Class Attendance**

You are required to come to every class having completed all readings assigned for the 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 on the exams. 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 doing assigned readings are mandatory and essential for your success in this course.

You have signed up for a Maymester class, which covers 15-week materials in only two weeks. Do not miss a class, and do not get behind in readings. It will be very difficult to catch up.

### Exams

There will be two exams. **Exam 1 will be given on Friday, May 22 at 1-3:30 pm. Exam 2 will be given on Friday, May 29 at 2:00-4:30.** 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. Each exam is worth 50 percent of your course grade.

Throughout the term, you will have various opportunities to earn bonus points you 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.

### **Grades**

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

<b>Course Requirement</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Exam 1	50%
Exam 2	50%

<b>Final Grade Scale</b>	
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, netbooks, and tablet computers. If you bring them to class, they must be turned off and stored in your bag all the time. If you need to keep your cell phone on for emergency, please notify me ahead of time.
- No chatting, napping, e-mailing, internet browsing, eating, or any activity not related to class is allowed during class hours. Those activities disturb other students who want to learn. If you need to do these things, please leave the classroom.
- Please check Blackboard often. I may distribute handouts and make announcements on Blackboard as well as in class.
- **Arrive early on the exam days.** No student will be allowed to enter the classroom after 10 minutes past the beginning of the scheduled exam time unless prior arrangements are made with me for valid documented reasons. 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 immediately.** 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.
- 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 through this course. They include, but not limited to, materials made available on Blackboard (such as power point slides, lecture outlines, and supplementary readings), study guides, 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 at the beginning of the term. 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](mailto:dss@utep.edu)  
Fax: (915) 747-8712

### Tentative Course Schedule

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

May 18	First Meeting—Course Overview
	Politics as a Game
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapter 1</li> </ul>
May 19	Politics and Choice
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapter 2</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Khrushchev Letter to Kennedy, 26 Oct 1962 &amp; 27 Oct 1962 (Bring to class) (Blackboard)</li> </ul>
	Political Science as a Scientific Enterprise
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapter 3</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: “President Discusses the Future of Iraq,” 26 Feb 2003 (Blackboard)</li> </ul>
May 20	Realism, Liberalism, and Conservatism
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapter 5</li> </ul>
	Liberal Democracy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapter 6</li> </ul>
May 21	Liberal Democracy cont’d
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapter 6</li> </ul>
	Ideologies of the Left: Communism and Socialism
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapter 7</li> </ul>
May 22	<b>Exam 1: 1-3:30 pm</b>
	<b>***Return to Class after Exam***</b>
	Political Groups, Political Values, and Public Goods
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapters 9 &amp; 16</li> </ul>
May 25	<b>Memorial Day—University Closed</b>
May 26	Political Groups, Political Values, and Public Goods con’d
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapters 9 &amp; 16</li> </ul>
	Constitutional Structures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapters 10-11</li> </ul>
May 27	Electoral Systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Re-Read Chapter 10</li> </ul>
	Democratization
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapter 14</li> </ul>
May 28	International Peace and Conflict
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Chapters 12-13</li> </ul>
May 29	Wrap up
	<b>Exam 2: 2:00-4:30</b>