

**POLS 2310 Introduction to Politics
Maymester 2017**

Instructor: Dr. Taeko Hiroi

Office: Benedict Hall 312

Office Hours: During class breaks and by appointment

E-mail: thiroi@utep.edu

Class Time/Location: M-F 1-6 pm / College of Business Admin 302

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. I do not recommend older editions of this text. Earlier editions have different content and chapter organizations. 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 Attendance

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.

You have signed up for a Maymester class, which covers 16-week materials in only two weeks. Each day covers approximately two-week worth of materials. 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 19 at 1-3:20 pm. Exam 2 will be given on Friday, May 26 at 1-3:20 pm.** 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 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:

Course Requirement	Weight
Exam 1	50%
Exam 2	50%

Final 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, recorders, 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.
- **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 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 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 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. 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. Make-up exams may have content and style that are different from the original exams.
- 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.

Accommodations and Support Services

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally by the first day of class 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.

May 15	First Meeting—Course Overview
	Politics as a Game
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 1
May 16	Politics and Choice
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Khrushchev Letter to Kennedy, 26 Oct 1962 & 27 Oct 1962 (Blackboard)
	Political Science as a Scientific Enterprise
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: “President Discusses the Future of Iraq,” 26 Feb 2003 (Blackboard)
May 17	Realism, Liberalism, and Conservatism
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 5
	Liberal Democracy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 6
May 18	Liberal Democracy cont’d
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 6
	Ideologies of the Left: Communism and Socialism
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 7
May 19	Exam 1: 1-3:20 pm
May 22	Political Values, Public Goods, and States
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapters 8 & 15
May 23	Constitutional Structures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapters 9-10
	Electoral Systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 9, pp. 263-267
May 24	Democratization
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 13
May 25	International Peace and Conflict
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapters 11-12
May 26	Exam 1: 1-3:20 pm