Course Description

Provides an overview of the political science discipline by introducing students to the major concepts, principles, and methodologies in the study of politics, government, and society and the relationships between the various political forces, such as ideologies, in contemporary societies.

Course Textbook


Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the ideologies and political philosophies that shape political science.
2. Explain the major concepts of political science.
3. Describe the development and role of the modern nation-state.
4. Explain the role of political and economic policies in the modern state.
5. Examine the differences between democratic and non-democratic states.
6. Assess the place of political culture in shaping a nation’s political institutions.
7. Explain how political attitudes can influence governance.
8. Describe the basic functions of a nation’s political and social institutions.
9. Analyze group interactions within a state, including political parties and elections.
10. Analyze international relations between various actors in the international community.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Outcomes:** Each unit contains Learning Outcomes that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Unit Lesson:** Each unit contains a Unit Lesson, which discusses unit material.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook. Chapter presentations are provided in each unit study guide as Suggested Reading to aid students in their course of study.
4. **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** These non-graded Learning Activities are provided in each unit to aid students in their course of study.
5. **Unit Assessments:** This course contains six Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of Units I-VI. Assessments are composed of multiple-choice questions and written response questions.
6. **Unit Assignments:** Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in Units VI and VII. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below. Grading rubrics are included with the Unit VI and VII Assignments. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.
7. **Final Exam (Proctored):** Students are to complete a Final Exam in Unit VIII. All Final Exams are proctored—see below for additional information. You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam in the presence of your approved proctor. This is an open-book exam. Only course textbooks and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams. The Final Exam is composed of multiple-choice and written response questions.
8. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

9. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

**CSU Online Library**

The CSU Online Library is available to support your courses and programs. The online library includes databases, journals, e-books, and research guides. These resources are always accessible and can be reached through the library webpage. To access the library, log into the myCSU Student Portal, and click on “CSU Online Library.” You can also access the CSU Online Library from the “My Library” button on the course menu for each course in Blackboard.

The CSU Online Library offers several reference services. E-mail (library@columbiasouthern.edu) and telephone (1.877.268.8046) assistance is available Monday – Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. The library’s chat reference service, *Ask a Librarian*, is available 24/7; look for the chat box on the online library page.

Librarians can help you develop your research plan or assist you in finding relevant, appropriate, and timely information. Reference requests can include customized keyword search strategies, links to articles, database help, and other services.

**Unit Assignments**

**Unit VI Case Study**

**Social Movements**

Select one of the case study examples presented at the end of Chapter 13 in our textbook (either “The Battle for Seattle,” pp. 310-311 or “The ‘Orange Revolution’ in Ukraine,” pp. 311-313).

- Briefly summarize the events of the case study.
- The social movement in each case study contained both informal and formal organizational traits. Provide examples of both the informal and formal organization of the social movement in the case study.
- Describe the specific strategies utilized by the social movement in the case study. What were the advantages and disadvantages of utilizing these strategies?
- Which strategies were effective, and which were not effective? Why?

**Requirements:** The paper should be a minimum of 750 words. Students are expected to incorporate material from the textbook to support their arguments. All sources used, including the textbook, must be referenced; paraphrased and quoted material must have accompanying citations. All references and citations used must be in APA style.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit VII Case Study**

**Parliamentary-Presidential**

This assignment allows students to learn about the fundamental differences between a parliamentary system of government and a presidential system of government by comparing case examples of each system.

Select one of the case study parliamentary examples presented at the end of Chapter 14 in our textbook (either “Parliamentary Government in India,” pp. 331-334 or “Parliamentary Government in Germany,” pp. 334-336), and compare it to either the “Presidential Government in Mexico” located on pages 358-360, or use the United States as the presidential system case example. Address the following questions in your analysis of the two case study examples:

- Briefly describe the parliamentary system of the case study you have selected.
- Describe the key characteristics and functions of the country’s parliament.
- Describe some of the strengths and weaknesses of the country’s parliament. How do these strengths and weaknesses align with the advantages and disadvantages of a parliamentary system described in our textbook?
- Briefly describe the presidential system of the case study you have selected.
- Describe the key characteristics and functions of the country’s presidential system.
Describe some of the strengths and weaknesses of the country’s presidential system. How do these strengths and weaknesses align with the advantages and disadvantages of a presidential system described in our textbook?

Conclude the case study comparison by identifying the system (parliamentary system or presidential system), which you prefer, and indicate why.

You will also need to conduct some research outside of the textbook. You are required to use at least two outside sources besides the textbook. One must be from the CSU Online Library. Your second source may be from the Internet. You are permitted to use the resources listed under “Learning Activities,” but the use of these sources is not a requirement.

Formatting requirements: The paper should be a minimum of 1,200 words and formatted according to APA style. All sources used, including the textbook, must be referenced; paraphrased and quoted material must have accompanying citations. All references and citations used must be in APA style.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**APA Guidelines**

The application of the APA writing style shall be practical, functional, and appropriate to each academic level, with the primary purpose being the documentation (citation) of sources. CSU requires that students use APA style for certain papers and projects. Students should always carefully read and follow assignment directions and review the associated grading rubric when available. Students can find CSU’s Citation Guide in the myCSU Student Portal by clicking on the “Citation Resources” link in the “Learning Resources” area. This document includes examples and sample papers and provides information on how to contact the CSU Success Center.

**Grading Rubrics**

This course utilizes analytic grading rubrics as tools for your professor in assigning grades for all learning activities. Each rubric serves as a guide that communicates the expectations of the learning activity and describes the criteria for each level of achievement. In addition, a rubric is a reference tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of that learning activity. It is imperative for you to familiarize yourself with these rubrics because these are the primary tools your professor uses for assessing learning activities.

Rubric categories include: (1) Assessment (Written Response) and (2) Assignment. However, it is possible that not all of the listed rubric types will be used in a single course (e.g., some courses may not have Assessments).

The Assessment (Written Response) rubric can be found embedded in a link within the directions for each Unit Assessment. However, these rubrics will only be used when written-response questions appear within the Assessment.

Each Assignment type (e.g., article critique, case study, research paper) will have its own rubric. The Assignment rubrics are built into Blackboard, allowing students to review them prior to beginning the Assignment and again once the Assignment has been scored. This rubric can be accessed via the Assignment link located within the unit where it is to be submitted. Students may also access the rubric through the course menu by selecting “Tools” and then “My Grades.”

Again, it is vitally important for you to become familiar with these rubrics because their application to your Assessments and Assignments is the method by which your instructor assigns all grades.

**Final Examination Guidelines**

Final Exams are to be administered to students by an approved Proctor. CSU approves two, flexible proctoring options: a standard Proctor, who is chosen by the student and approved by the university, or Remote Proctor Now (RP Now), an on-demand, third-party testing service that proctors examinations for a small fee.

Students choosing RP Now must have an operational webcam/video with audio, a high-speed Internet connection, and the appropriate system rights required to download and install software.

To review the complete Examination Proctor Policy, including a list of acceptable Proctors, Proctor responsibilities, Proctor approval procedures, and the Proctor Agreement Form, go to the myCSU Student Portal from the link below.
You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam in the presence of your approved Proctor. This is an open book exam. Only course textbooks, writing utensils, and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams. Other materials are not permitted unless specified in the examination instructions and only the sources identified in the instructions may be used as source material.

**Communication Forums**

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

**Once you have completed Unit VIII, you MUST unsubscribe from the forum; otherwise, you will continue to receive e-mail updates from the forum. You will not be able to unsubscribe after your course end date.**

[Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.](#)

**Ask the Professor**

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

**Student Break Room**

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

**Grading**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Assessments (6 @ 8%)</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit VI Case Study</td>
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<td>Unit VII Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)**

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

### Unit I  An Introduction to the Study of Political Science

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Chapter 1:** Politics: Setting the Stage
- **Chapter 2:** Modern Ideologies and Political Philosophy
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- Assessment

**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit II  The Modern State and its Policies

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Chapter 3:** The Modern State
- **Chapter 4:** Policies of the State
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- Assessment
- **Proctor Approval Form**

**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit III  Economics and Justice in the Modern State

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Chapter 5:** Economic Policy of the State
- **Chapter 6:** What Lies Behind Policy: Questions of Justice and Effectiveness
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- Assessment

**Notes/Goals:**
## PS 2000, Introduction to Political Science
### Course Schedule

### Unit IV
**Internal Dynamics of Nations**

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Chapter 7:** Democracies and Authoritarian Systems
- **Chapter 8:** Political Culture and Political Socialization
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- **Assessment**

**Notes/Goals:**

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### Unit V
**The Constitution and the Electoral Process of States**

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Chapter 9:** Constitutions and the Design of Government
- **Chapter 10:** Elections
- **Chapter 11:** Parties: A Linking and Leading Mechanism in Politics
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- **Assessment**

**Notes/Goals:**

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### Unit VI
**Interest Groups and Social Movements**

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- **Chapter 12:** Structured Conflict: Interest Groups and Politics
- **Chapter 13:** Social Movements and Contentious Politics
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Submit:**
- **Assessment**
- **Case Study**

**Notes/Goals:**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit VII</th>
<th>Parliamentary and Presidential Governmental Systems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review:</strong></td>
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<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
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<td><strong>Learning Activities (Non-Graded):</strong> See Study Guide</td>
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<td><strong>Submit:</strong></td>
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<td>Case Study</td>
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<td>Request to take Final Exam</td>
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**Notes/Goals:**

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<th>Unit VIII</th>
<th>Public Administration, Law and the Courts, and Global Politics</th>
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<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 16: Bureaucracy and the Public Sector</td>
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<td>Chapter 17: Law and the Courts</td>
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<td>Chapter 18: Global Politics: Politics among States (and Others)</td>
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<td><strong>Submit:</strong></td>
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