

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics, Law and Economics PPLE
SEP-2023 IPS-PP.1.S.A**

Area Comparative Politics

Number of sessions: 30

Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: FIRST

Number of credits: 6.0

Semester: 1º

Category: BASIC

Language: English

Professor: **FRANCISCO SEIJO MACEIRAS**

E-mail: fseijo@faculty.ie.edu

FRANCISCO SEIJO MACEIRAS

Professor of Practice in Environmental Politics

Professor Seijo, PHD in political science, Columbia University. I have been researching environmental politics and policy as related, in particular, to the politics of climate change and its feedbacks with the global fire cycle for the past 20 years. I teach political science and environmental politics in IE, NYU, Boston University, the Universidad Carlos III as well as other educational institutions. My work has appeared in numerous specialized professional journals as well as the media. In addition to my academic activity I work as a development consultant for various international governmental and non-governmental organizations and am currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Association for Fire Ecology.

fseijo@faculty.ie.edu

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

The course introduces students to the main concepts, methods and topics of contemporary political studies. It aims to show that politics can be observed and studied “scientifically”; that is, that political reality can be analyzed in a systematic way through a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methods based on empirical observation or theoretical modelization of all dimensions of human political behavior.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the origins of politics as an academic endeavor its main theories and subject matter.
- Apply the basic concepts and theories of politics to the study and analysis of the modern nation-state, political regimes, institutions, ideologies, social movements, etc.
- Analyze the underlying cultural, economic and social drivers that feedback with the political system.
- Apply the analytical skills acquired in the course to the analysis of political issues that may be of interest to students as aspiring political analysts or theorists.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor's main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as the following:

Learning Activity	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	13.33 %	20.0 hours
Discussions	13.33 %	20.0 hours
Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work	20.0 %	30.0 hours
Group work	20.0 %	30.0 hours
Individual studying	33.33 %	50.0 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150.0 hours

PROGRAM

SESSION 1 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

What is politics?

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 1 "Introduction: The nature of politics and political analysis" (See Bibliography)

SESSION 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

What is politics?

Book Chapters: Chapter 3. Machiavelli: Rethinking decentralization's role in environmental political theory, in Engaging Nature Eds. Peter Cannavo and Joseph Lane; Boston: MIT Press. (ced)
Article: Power and weakness (Policy Review, June-July 2002)

SESSION 3 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Basic concepts and dominant theoretical approaches

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 3 "Political power, authority and the state" (See Bibliography)

Article: "Systems theory: The skeleton of science" (Management Science , Apr., 1956, Vol. 2, No. 3 (Apr., 1956), pp. 197-208) (ced)

SESSION 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Basic concepts and dominant theoretical approaches

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 17 "Traditional theories in global politics" (See Bibliography)

BBC VIDEO: "All watched over by machines of loving grace Part 2". Systems theory.

SESSION 5 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Writing Workshop Session 1: Defining a topic, an analytical research question and a thesis statement

SESSION 6 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Political culture

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 9 "Political culture and non western political ideas" (See Bibliography)

SESSION 7 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Political culture

Article: Ronald Inglehart: The renaissance of political culture, American Political Science Review (American Political Science Review. 82 (4)) (ced)

Article: Jackman, Robert W. and Miller, Ross A.: A renaissance of political culture? (Faculty Publications: Political Science. 50.(1996)) (ced)

SESSION 8 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Democratization

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 4 "Democracy and political obligation" (See Bibliography)

Article: Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan: Towards consolidated democracies. Journal of Democracy (Journal of Democracy 7.2 (1996) 14-33) (ced)

SESSION 9 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Non-democratic regimes

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 15 "Democracies, democratization and authoritarian regimes" (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way: The rise of competitive authoritarianism. Competitive Authoritarianism, p.1-19 (ced)

Article: The end of the transitions paradigm (Journal of Democracy Volume 13, Number 1 January 2002) (ced)

PBS VIDEO: China: Power and Prosperity.

SESSION 10 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Writing Workshop Session 2: Carrying out a literature review

SESSION 11 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Politics and the state

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 2 "Politics and the state" (See Bibliography)

SESSION 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Institutional design and elections

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 11 "Votes, elections, legislatures and legislators" (See Bibliography)

SESSION 13 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Political economy

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 22 "Global political economy" (See Bibliography)

SESSION 14 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Midterm Exam

SESSION 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Ideologies, social movements, framing

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter "Traditional ideologies" (See Bibliography)

Article: Benford and Snow: Framing processes and social movements. Annual Review of Sociology (Annu. Rev. Sociol. 2000. 26:611–39) (ced)

SESSION 16 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Ideologies, social movements, framing

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 14 "Civil society, interest groups and the media" (See Bibliography)

SESSION 17 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Writing Workshop Session 3: Methods

SESSION 18 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Ideologies, social movements, framing

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 7 "Challenges to traditional ideologies" (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: BENEDICT ANDERSON: Imagined Communities; Verso; UK: 6 Meard Street,

London, 2006 (IE Library)

SESSION 19 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Party systems

Technical note: Introduction to politics. Chapter 12 "Political parties" (See Bibliography)

SESSION 20 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Writing Workshop Session 4: Results

SESSION 21 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Global politics

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 23 "Towards a globalizing, post western dominated world" (See Bibliography)

Article: Fukuyama: The End of history. The National Interest (The National Interest Summer 1989) (ced)

SESSION 22 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Global politics

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 21 "international organizations in global politics" (See Bibliography)

Article: Kriesi: Globalization and the transformation of the national political space. European Journal of Political Research (European Journal of Political Research 45: 921–956, 2006) (ced)

SESSION 23 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Writing Workshop Session 5: Discussion and interpretation of results

SESSION 24 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Globalization and its critics

Article: Stiglitz: Globalism's discontents. American Prospects (American Prospect January 14, 2002) (ced)

Book Chapters: Introduction to politics. Chapter 17 "Traditional theories in global politics" (See Bibliography)

SESSION 25 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The global political situation today: DEBATE

BBC VIDEO: "All watched over by machines of loving grace Part 1".

SESSION 26 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Environmental politics and climate change

Other / Complementary Documentation: IPCC Report. (2014). Executive Summary.

SESSION 27 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Environmental politics and climate change

Other / Complementary Documentation: Big oil's real agenda on climate change (Influence Map)

SESSION 28 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Left and right in the 21st century

Technical note: Introduction to politics. Chapter 7 "Challenges to traditional ideologies" (See Bibliography)

SESSION 29 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Left and right in the 21st century

Multimedia Material: Video: The Power of Nightmares (Youtube)

SESSION 30 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Final exam

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Midterm exam (30%)
- Final exam (30%)
- Writing workgroups (25%)
- Participation (15%)

criteria	percentage	Learning Objectives	Comments
Examen Final	30 %		
Intermediate Tests	30 %		
Group Presentation	25 %		
Class Participation	15 %		

RE-SIT / RE-TAKE POLICY

Retake policy

Any student whose weighted final grade is below 5 will be required to sit for the retake exam to pass the course (except those not complying with the attendance rules, whom are banned from this possibility). Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

- The retakes will consist of a comprehensive exam.
- The grade will depend only on the performance on this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account.
- The exam will be designed bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8 out of 10.
- The third attempt will require the student to complete any written assignment(s) required by the instructor and a final exam. This is also applicable to students who do not have required attendance, e.g. sickness.
- Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course. Students whose final average grade is below 5 do not pass the class. As well students whose final exam grade is below 5 will not pass the class (Unplugged and elective classes exempt from this rule). In these cases, students will be required to take the extraordinary retake exam. The retake exam will be scheduled in and the date/time is not subject to change. The exam should be comprehensive (cover the entire course), and the passing grade is 5/10 with a max grade of 8/10.

Students must attend at least 70% of the sessions. Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance rule will receive a 0.0 on their first and second attempts and go directly to the third one (they will need to enroll in this course again the following academic year).

Students who are in the third or fourth attempt should contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory at IE University, as it is an essential factor of IE's learning methodology. Each student may miss up to 30% of the sessions within a given course and still maintain the possibility of passing that given course. This 30% "buffer" is to be used for any absences, such as: illnesses, personal emergencies, commitments, official/governmental matters, business and/or medical appointments, family situations, etc. Students should manage their various needs, and situations that may arise, within that 30% buffer. If a student is absent to more than the allowed 30% of the sessions (regardless of the reason), s/he will obtain a 0.0 grade for that course in both the ordinary and extraordinary calls of the current academic year, and s/he will have to retake the course during the following academic year. Having established the rule, we strongly discourage to use this buffer as granted, we highly recommend to attend 100% of the classes as it will improve your learning outcomes, it will increase the class performance, and improve your participation grade. Extreme cases involving emergencies such as: extended hospitalizations, accidents, serious illnesses and other contexts involving force majeure, are to be consulted with the Program Management team for assessment of the situation and corresponding documentation, so that Program Management can support and guide each student optimally.

PLAGIARISM / ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is the dishonest act of presenting another person's ideas, texts or words as your own. This includes in order of seriousness of the offense:

- providing faulty sources;
- copy-pasting material from your own past assignments (self-plagiarism) without the instructor's permission;
- copy-pasting material from external sources even while citing them;
- using verbatim translations from sources in other languages without citing them;
- copy-pasting material from external sources without citing them;
- and buying or commissioning essays from other parties.
- receiving excessive and/or unreported help from personal tutors.

IEU students must contact the professor if they don't know whether the use of a document constitutes plagiarism. The professor will advise the student on how to present said material. All written assignments have to be submitted through Turnitin, which produces a similarity report and detects cases of plagiarism. Professors are required to check each student's academic work in order to guarantee its originality. Students using external tutorial support should report it to the professor and the BIR Program from the moment they began receiving this support.

If the originality of the academic work is not clear, the professor will contact the student in order to clarify any doubts. In the event that the meeting with the student fails to clarify the originality of the academic work, the professor will inform the Director of the Bachelor Program about the case, who will then decide whether to bring the case forward to the BIR Academic Review Panel. Very high similarity scores will be automatically flagged and forwarded to the Academic Review Panel. Plagiarism constitutes a very serious offense and may carry penalties ranging from getting a zero for the assignment to expulsion from the university depending on the severity of the case and the number of times the student has committed plagiarism in the past.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compulsory

- Garner, R., Ferdinand, P., & Lawson, S.. (2023). *Introduction to politics*. 5th edition. Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780192847713 (Printed)

This is the required textbook for the class.

BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ETHICAL POLICY

Please, check the University's Ethics Code [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.