

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

IE University

Professor: **NIKOLINA ZIDEK**

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Academic year: 20-21

Degree course: FIRST

Semester: 1^o

Category: BASIC

Number of credits: 6.0

Language: English

PREREQUISITES

There are no mandatory prerequisites.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the study of politics through a study of key concepts, basic theories, ideologies and approaches to the enduring questions that motivate political research. The objective of the course is to prepare the students for the further coursework in political science and international relations. The first part of the course will focus on defining core concepts within the field, such as power, states and nations, democracy, as well as the main ideologies of the 20th and 21st century. In the second part of the course the students will use these concepts to compare states on a number of different aspects and institutional dimensions, including: political culture and socialization, party systems and elections, judicial systems, executive-legislative relations and civil society. The last part of the course will cover the gender perspective in politics, and it will finally introduce students to the study of international relations and globalization.

OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

- Get to know key issues, concepts and ideologies in political science
- Develop an understanding of key issues of democracy, state formation, nationalism and political culture with an ultimate goal of a better understanding of contemporary politics
- Understand the functioning of different electoral and party systems
- See interconnections between various aspects of politics and learn to apply these issues to contemporary cases in democratic societies
- Acquire the ability to explain the purpose of institutions and why they are important for studying politics
- Identify and control problems of inference among two or more countries and explain how international institutions facilitate cooperation among sovereign states with diverse interests
- Think critically and independently about world politics and its actors
- Develop the ability to be an informed and critical citizen and gain the tools for active engagement in the political life of his/her country of origin or choice

METHODOLOGY

The course will be conducted in a hybrid format: it will include lectures recorded by the professor and lectures slides with videos and online quizzes, face to face lectures, and seminar discussions both on scholarly readings and on students' work.

The students will present case studies assigned to them in the previous class or will engage in live and online group discussions on current topics from the field.

Teaching methodology	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	20.0 %	30 hours
Discussions	20.0 %	30 hours
Exercises	13.33 %	20 hours
Group work	20.0 %	30 hours
Other individual studying	26.67 %	40 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150 hours

PROGRAM

SESSIONS 1 - 2 (FACE TO FACE)

COURSE INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

B.C.: Chapter 1 (Political Science: An Introduction) (s-c)

SESSIONS 3 - 4 (FACE TO FACE)

KEY CONCEPTS: POWER, AUTHORITY, STATES AND NATIONS

T.N.: Chapter 3 (Political Science: An Introduction) (Book)

SESSION 5 (FACE TO FACE)

IDEOLOGIES:

LIBERALISM, CONSERVATISM, SOCIALISM, FASCISM, FEMINISM, ENVIRONMENTALISM, POPULISM, PLURALISM, ELITISM

B.C.: Chapter 3 The Oxford handbook of political ideologies

R.A.: In the theater of political style: Touches of populism, pluralism and elitism in speeches of politicians. Discourse & Society, 28(6), 657-676. (s-c) (s-c)

In this face to face session we will get familiarized with the main ideologies and ideological styles, and discuss the examples from contemporary politics.

SESSION 6 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

IDEOLOGIES:

LIBERALISM, CONSERVATISM, SOCIALISM, FASCISM, FEMINISM
ENVIRONMENTALISM, POPULISM, PLURALISM, ELITISM

B.C.: Chapter 3 The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies

SESSION 7 (FACE TO FACE)

REGIME TYPES: DEMOCRACY, NON-DEMOCRATIC AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

B.C.: Chapter 5 (Political Science: An Introduction) (Book)

R.A.: Philippe C Schmitter, Terry Lynn Karl: What democracy is... and is not (s-c) (s-c)

R.A.: Robert A. Dahl: What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require? (s-c)

SESSION 8 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

REGIME TYPES: DEMOCRACY, NON-DEMOCRATIC AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

Case studies: Egypt in and after the Arab Spring, Theocracy in Iran, Putin's Russia, etc.

SESSION 9 (FACE TO FACE)

DEMOCRATIZATION, DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS, TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

R.A.: Samuel P. Huntington: How countries democratize, Political Science Quarterly v124 n1 (2009 08 25): 31-69 (s-c)

B.C.: Chapter 1 (An Introduction to Transitional Justice) (s-c)

SESSION 10 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

DEMOCRATIZATION, DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS, TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Case studies: South Africa, Rwanda, Lybia, Egypt, Colombia

SESSION 11 (FACE TO FACE)

POLITICAL CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION

B.C.: Chapter 6 (Political Science: An Introduction) (Book)

SESSION 12 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

POLITICAL CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION

SESSIONS 13 - 14 (FACE TO FACE)

POLICIES OF THE STATE, JUSTICE AND EFFECTIVENESS

B.C.: Power & choice: an introduction to political science Chapters 3,4 and 5 (e-Book)

SESSIONS 15 - 16 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

MID-TERM EXAM (Asynchronous)

The mid-term exam will consist of asynchronous group presentations and a written exam with essay- type questions.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

GUIDELINES FOR GROUP PRESENTATIONS:

1. Good presentations are concise, have an introduction of the main issue, show several case studies/real-life examples, and draw a conclusion. All the group members participate in the presentation.
2. The purpose is to see that you understood the concept of the task you are given and that you are able to apply it to the examples from real life- case studies
3. Be sure to get to the point, to be able to explain the main features of every concept, and then go to the examples, and finally draw some conclusion- i.e. why is it important, how it works, what are the drawbacks or risks etc. Distribute the tasks among yourselves.
4. The general structure should be: Introduction-case study/studies- conclusion.
5. You should not read the text from the slides nor try to follow the exact wording as in the textbook- explain the phenomenon with your own words.
6. At group presentations you are evaluated as a group, so the performance of each one of you can affect the grade of the group as a whole. Bear that in mind.
7. The presentations last 12-15 minutes, meaning that each of you should speak for 2-3 minutes. So, prepare well for your part and don't read the text.
8. Those of you who are not very fluent in English, practice more, if necessary learn your part by heart.
9. Those of you who are very fluent in English, don't rely only on your fluency, but prepare yourselves for the presentation.
10. Manage your group, know your strengths and weaknesses. Have a guiding thread of your presentation, don't just saturate it with examples that are not mutually coherent. Tell a story.

SESSIONS 17 - 18 (FACE TO FACE)

INSTITUTIONS: EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATURES AND JUDICIARIES

B.C.: Chapters 12, 13 and 14 (Political Science: An Introduction) (Book)

SESSION 19 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS

The video material and quiz will be available in the campus online (see Folder Session 19), while the reading material can be found in the syllabus.

B.C.: Chapter 10 (Political Science: An Introduction) (Book)

SESSION 20 (FACE TO FACE)

POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS - Case of study

SESSION 21 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

The video material and quiz/discussion will be available in the campus online (see Folder Session 21), while the reading material can be found in the syllabus.

B.C.: Chapter 11 (Political Science: An Introduction) (Book)

B.C.: Chapter 10 (Power & choice: an introduction to political science) (Book)

SESSION 22 (FACE TO FACE)

ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS - case studies

SESSION 23 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

INTEREST GROUPS & LOBBYING

The video material and quiz/discussion will be available in the campus online (see Folder Session 23), while the reading material can be found in the syllabus.

B.C.: Chapter 9 (Political Science: An Introduction) (Book)

W.P.: Captured states: when EU governments are a channel for corporate interests

SESSION 24 (FACE TO FACE)

INTEREST GROUPS & LOBBYING

SESSION 25 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS. GENDER PERSPECTIVE.

B.C.: Chapter 18 (Power & choice: an introduction to political science) (Book)

R.A.: Engendering political science: An immodest proposal. Politics & Gender, 1(1), 141-156 (s-c)(s-c)

R.A.: Exploring gender differences in support for rightist parties: The role of party and gender ideology. Politics & Gender, 14(1), 80-105 (s-c)

R.A.: Strength, stamina, and sexism in the 2016 presidential race. Politics & Gender, 14(1), 116-121 (s-c)

SESSION 26 (FACE TO FACE)

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS. GENDER PERSPECTIVE. - case studies and discussion

SESSIONS 27 - 28 (FACE TO FACE)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. GLOBALIZATION.

B.C.: Chapter 17 (Political Science: An Introduction) (Book)

B.C.: Chapter 1 - Globalization : The Essentials (s-c)

SESSIONS 29 - 30 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

FINAL EXAM (Asynchronous)

The mid-term exam will consist of asynchronous group presentations and a written exam with essay- type questions.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compulsory

- Michael G Roskin, Robert L Cord, James A Medeiros, Walter S Jones.. (2016). *Political Science: An Introduction*. 14th. Harlow, United Kingdom: Pearson Edition Canada. ISBN 9781292156286 (Electronic)

- W. Phillips Shively. (2018). *Power & choice: an introduction to political science*.. 15th. Lanham, Maryland : Rowman & Littlefield. ISBN 9781538114131 (Electronic)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Due to the nature of the topics treated, apart from the readings for each session, audio-visual material will be used in asynchronous sessions and as part of the preparation of both in-class synchronous and asynchronous presentations.

The readings and the lectures for the sessions will be used as basis for 2 group projects (presentations) and exam consisting of essay-type questions during the semester - mid-term and final exam.

Students will be graded for their team's performance in group presentations and individually for their performance in the midterm and final exam. Finally, there will be a participation grade based on in-class presentations and assignments, class behaviour and etiquette (punctuality), and contributions to class discussions.

Your final grade in the course will be based on both individual and group work of different characteristics that will be weighted in the following way:

Criteria	Percentage	Comments
Class Participation	15 %	
Group Presentation	25 %	an average of 2 presentations at mid-term and final exam
Intermediate Tests	20 %	the written exam will be an average of 2 tests taken at mid-term and final exam
Examen Final	20 %	the written exam will be an average of 2 tests taken at mid-term and final exam
Work in asynchronous sessions (quizzes and discussions)	20 %	

A. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Three main criteria will be used in reaching judgment about your class participation:

·Depth and Quality of Contribution: The most important dimension of participation concerns what it is that you are saying. A high quality comment reveals depth of insight, rigorous use of case evidence, consistency of argument, and realism.

·Moving Your Peers' Understanding Forward: Great ideas can be lost through poor presentation. A high quality presentation of ideas must consider the relevance and timing of comments, and the flow and content of the ensuing class discussion. It demands comments that are concise and clear, and that are conveyed with a spirit of involvement in the discussion at hand.

·Frequency: Frequency refers to the attainment of a threshold quantity of contributions that is sufficient for making a reliable assessment of comment quality. The logic is simple: if contributions are too few, one cannot reliably assess the quality of your remarks. However, once threshold quantity has been achieved, simply increasing the number of times you talk does not automatically improve your evaluation. Beyond the threshold, it is the quality of your comments that must improve. In particular, one must be especially careful that in claiming more than a fair share of "airtime", quality is not sacrificed for quantity. Finally, your attempts at participation should not be such that the instructor has to "go looking for you". You should be attempting to get into the debate on a regular basis.

NOTE: As a sign of respect toward the person presenting the lecture (the teacher as well as fellow students), side conversations are not allowed.

B. GROUP PRESENTATIONS

During the course the students will do two graded group presentations on the main issues of the topics seen in previous sessions and case studies chosen by them related to these topics. The groups will not always be composed of the same members. The presentations are going to be in Power-Point format with an upper time limit of 12-15 minutes. There will also be in-class group presentations of country case studies.

The objective of this process it to give you practice in presenting and understanding relevant issues in political science. It also strengthens teamwork and good use of strong and weak points of its members.

Good presentations are concise, have an introduction of the main issue, show several case studies/real-life examples, and draw a conclusion. All the group members participate in the presentation.

GUIDELINES FOR GROUP PRESENTATIONS:

1. Good presentations are concise, have an introduction of the main issue, show several case studies/real-life examples, and draw a conclusion. All the group members participate in the presentation.
2. The purpose is to see that you understood the concept of the task you are given and that you are able to apply it to the examples from real life- case studies
3. Be sure to get to the point, to be able to explain the main features of every concept, and then go to the examples, and finally draw some conclusion- i.e. why is it important, how it works, what are the drawbacks or risks etc. Distribute the tasks among yourselves.
4. The general structure should be: Introduction-case study/studies- conclusion.
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6. At group presentations you are evaluated as a group, so the performance of each one of you can affect the grade of the group as a whole. Bear that in mind.
7. The presentations last 12-15 minutes, meaning that each of you should speak for 2-3 minutes. So, prepare well for your part and don't read the text.
8. Those of you who are not very fluent in English, practice more, if necessary learn your part by heart.
9. Those of you who are very fluent in English, don't rely only on your fluency, but prepare yourselves for the presentation.
10. Manage your group, know your strengths and weaknesses. Have a guiding thread of your presentation, don't just saturate it with examples that are not mutually coherent. Tell a story.

C. TESTS: ESSAY-TYPE EXAMS (MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAM)

There will be two tests consisting of essay-type questions based on the readings for each session and lectures given by the instructor. The aim of the tests is to check your understanding of basic concepts and will review the assigned reading and class discussions for the sessions of the course.

The tests are strategically divided in two parts and are therefore considered two equal parts of an exam of the course content.

D. INDIVIDUAL WORK IN ASYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS

The students will work individually and independently in asynchronous sessions, studying the material, answering the related questions and getting involved in online discussions on the related topics.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course. Dates and location of the final exam will be posted in advance and will not be changed. 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. While we do closely monitor attendance in each course, we also consider our students responsible for their own agenda and commitments, as adult university students. With that in mind, 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 it might 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.

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.
- Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

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.

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. 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 Academic Ethics Committee. Very high similarity scores will be automatically flagged and forwarded to the Academic Ethics Committee. 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.

PROFESSOR BIO

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Nikolina Židek is Adjunct Professor at IE School of Global and Public Affairs. She is also member of the Research Group "Lugares, marcas y territorios de memoria" (Places, marks and territories of memory) of the Memory Studies Nucleus, Institute for Economic and Social Development/Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social (IDES) in Buenos Aires, and an invited lecturer at the Advanced Study Course in Human Rights and Genocides, Universidad del Museo Social Argentino (UMSA) in cooperation with Luisa Haraibedian Foundation, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Židek holds a PhD in political science from the Complutense University in Madrid and a Masters degree in International Studies from the Diplomatic School of Madrid in cooperation with the Complutense University. She wrote her PhD thesis on Transitional justice and EU enlargement to Croatia and Serbia. Before entering the academia Dr. Židek was previously working for 12 years as Croatian professional diplomat. She was posted in Croatian Embassies in Madrid and Buenos Aires.

Her areas of expertise are transitional justice and human rights, memory politics, the Balkans, and processes of democratization.

Office hours: to be communicated according to the course schedule (an hour before or after class or by appointment face to face or through Skype)

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OTHER INFORMATION