
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

DEGREE: BACHELOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

ACADEMIC YEAR:

DEGREE COURSE YEAR: 1st

1^o SEMESTER 2^o SEMESTER

CATEGORY: BASIC COMPULSORY OPTIONAL

NO. OF CREDITS (ECTS):

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TUTORIALS:

FORMAT:

PREREQUISITES:

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide students a core background in the central topics of contemporary political science, including: the nature of political authority; processes for collective decision-making; the history of nation states; the interplay between values and power; the quality of governance; and the causes of political change and political violence. Studying these general topics will allow us to better understand important social and political phenomena such as democratic elections, economic crises, civil wars, corruption, and state failure.

Throughout the course, we will survey these topics using the course textbook, along with a small selection of supplementary readings (all supplementary readings will be provided in students' course packet). In addition, we will conduct weekly surveys of relevant articles from *The Economist*, arguably today's best weekly periodical reporting on contemporary political issues and phenomena. This will both help students relate course material to everyday events, and help instill the habit of tracking developments in international politics on a week-to-week basis.

- Two short papers (20% each)
- In-class debate performance (20%)
- Final exam (30%)
- Participation (10%)

2. PROGRAM

SESSIONS 1, 2, 3 & 4
COURSE INTRODUCTION

SESSIONS 5 & 6
POWER, CHOICE, AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY

SESSIONS 7 & 8
HOW 'SCIENTIFIC' IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?

SESSIONS 9 & 10
IDEOLOGY AND IDEOLOGIES

SESSIONS 11 & 12
IDEOLOGY, POLICY, AND THE QUALITY OF POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

SESSION 13
AN EXAMPLE OF COMPARATIVE POLICY ANALYSIS: THE WELFARE STATE

→ **PAPER #1 Due at the beginning of Session 13** ←

SESSIONS 14 & 15

* **Debate 1**: Ideology and Policy: What is the best Type of Welfare State?

SESSIONS 16 & 17
THE MODERN NATION STATE: ORIGINS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

SESSIONS 18 & 19
DEMOCRACY AND AUTHORITARIANISM

SESSIONS 20 & 21
CONSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

SESSIONS 22 & 23
POLITICAL CULTURE AND RELIGION

SESSIONS 24 & 25

* Discussion: Islam and Democracy in Turkey

* **Debate 2**: Political Culture vs. Constitutional Structure: Which is most Important for Politics?

SESSIONS 26 & 27

POLITICAL PARTIES, INTEREST GROUPS, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

→ **PAPER #2 Due at the beginning of Session 25** ←

SESSION 28 & 29

INTERNATIONAL VS. DOMESTIC POLITICS

SESSION 30

FINAL EXAM!

3. EVALUATION SYSTEM

- Students have up to 4 examination sessions per course over two consecutive academic years.
- IE University has a mandatory Class Attendance Policy that calls for students to attend a minimum of 70% of class sessions in a course. An absence, for any reason, counts towards the maximum of 30% allowed absences. Failure to comply with any of these requirements will result in students being ineligible to sit for the exam in both the 1st and 2nd examination sessions. These students will be required to sit for the exam in the 3rd session.
- Grading for make-up exams will be subject to the following rules:
 - Students who failed the course in the first round of exams will be eligible to re-sit in the 2nd examination session. *Warning*: students who do not comply with the attendance policy requirements will be required to sit for the exam in the 3rd examination session.
 - The highest grade that a student may earn in the 2nd examination session is 8.