

Political Science 1550/2
Introduction to Politics / 40355 - 3sh
Fall 2009
T-Th 11:00 – 12:15

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COURSE GOALS

To further student understanding and knowledge of the basic concepts, themes, and ideas about politics and government and apply them to the world's diverse political systems.

To increase student awareness of the challenges and dynamics of global politics.

General Education Program Information

Political Science 1550 is an approved course under the Societies and Institutions domain, designed to fulfill general education goals 10, 11, and 12 while also addressing goals I, 2, and 3 (for listing of the goals for the general education requirements please access YSU's general education website at <http://www.cc.ysu.edu/ger/genedg.html>).

Text: Roskin, et. al. **Political Science: An Introduction, Eleventh Edition**. Pearson Custom Publishing, 2010.

Date	Topic	Assignment
Part I: The Bases of Politics		
Aug. 25	Course Introduction	
Aug. 27	Politics and Political Science / Theories	Ch. 1 & 2
Sept. 1, 3	Political Ideologies	Ch. 3
Sept. 8, 10	States	Ch. 4
Sept. 15	Constitutions	Ch. 5
Sept. 17, 22	Regimes	Ch. 6
Sept. 24	Part I Unit Test	
Part II & III: Political Attitudes / Political Interactions		
Sept 29, Oct 1	Political Culture	Ch. 7
Oct. 6, 8	Public Opinion / Political Communications	Ch. 8, 9
Oct. 13	Interest Groups	Ch. 10
Oct. 15	Parties	Ch. 11
Oct. 20	Part II and III Unit Test	
Part IV: Institutions of Politics		
Oct. 22	Elections / Electoral Systems	Ch. 12
		Ch. 4 pp.69-71
Oct 27	Legislatures	Ch. 13
Oct 29	Executives	Ch. 14
Nov. 3, 5	Judiciaries	Ch. 15
Nov. 11	Part IV Unit Test	
Part V: What Political systems Do		
Nov. 12, 17	Political Violence	Ch. 17
Nov. 19, 24, Dec.1	International Relations/ The Global System	Ch. 18
Dec. 3	Part V Unit Test,	
Dec. 10	Final Exam, 10:30 – 12:30	

Last Day to drop with 100 % refund – Sept. 6, 2009 by 5:00 p.m.

Last Day for withdrawing with a grade of "W": Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009

Performance Evaluation:

The grade in this course depends on the **average of three of four scheduled examinations and the final. Should you miss a regular scheduled exam it will be your drop grade. There are no make up tests for the four unit tests.** The exams cover material in the text readings, handouts, lectures, and class discussions. Additional readings may be distributed or assigned to supplement text material. The final is comprehensive review of the material on previous tests.

Examinations will be a combination of objective type questions and short essays. The final grade will be the average of three tests and the final. For final grade purposes, an average of 90% - 100% = A, 80% - 89% = B, 70% - 79% = C, 60% - 69% = D. Anything below 60% = F. Test grades are recorded to the nearest tenth of a percent. For example, 83.56 = 83.6%, 83.43 = 83.4%. The final grade for the course is also determined by averaging to the nearest tenth of a percent. For example, 77.2%, 81.3%, 80.4%, $79.5 = 318.4 \text{ divided by } 4 = 79.6\%$ (C).

*Makeup examination privileges for the final exam will be extended only in case of absence on the scheduled date for reasons beyond the student's control. A makeup exam will be given only on the basis of **documented** cause. I.e., evidence of serious illness, accident, etc.*

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

Any student who is found to be academically dishonest or plagiarizes shall receive a failing grade for the affected assignment, test, or paper. See *Undergraduate Bulletin*, pgs. 40 and 41.

Incomplete grade policy:

An incomplete grade of "I" may only be given to a student who has been doing satisfactory work in the course but, for reasons beyond the control of the student and deemed justifiable by the instructor, had not completed all requirements for the course when grades were submitted. A written explanation of the reason for the "I" and a date (which must be within one year by which all course requirements will be completed must be forwarded to the Office of the Registrar for inclusion in the student's permanent record, with copies to the student and department chairperson.

The instructor will initiate a grade change upon completion of the course requirements. If no formal grade change occurs within one-year time period, the Incomplete Grade will be converted to an "F" before graduation.

Department chairs are granted authority to convert grades of "I" into final grades in cases where instructors may have severed connections with the university or have become incapacitated before converting the grade.

Email Communications: All email communications between the University and student shall be conducted using their @student.yzu.edu address and students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Attendance:

"The student must realize that for their own welfare they are expected to attend all class meetings of a course in which they are enrolled." (See YSU Bulletin) There is no specific mathematical penalty assessed for lack of attendance in the computation of final grades. However, attendance will be taken into consideration where a student's final average puts them within .5% of a higher grade.

Special Assistance:

Americans with Disabilities Act: "Anyone requiring special adaptations of accommodations should inform the instructor as soon as possible. In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the Office of Disability Services (phone: 330-941-1372) in the Center for Student Progress at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Disability Services."

Student Tutorial Service Office (Kilcawley Center West), Phone: 330-941-3538.

Reading and Study Skills Lab (Beeghly College of Education, Rm 3312), Phone: 330-941-3099

Writing Center (Maag Library, lower level), Phone: 330-941-3055