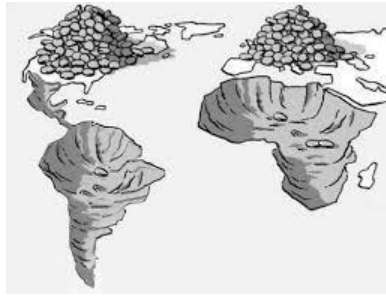


**POL 100, Introduction to Political Science**  
**Department of Political Science and International Relations, Fall 2018**



### **I. Course Information**

**Instructor:** Professor Armando Zanicchia, Ph.D.  
**E-mail:** azanicchia@fus.edu  
**Office hours:** Tuesday/Friday 11:30-13.00 and by appointment  
**Office:** LAC Faculty Office 16  
**Class meeting:** LAC 3 Tuesday/Friday 10.00-11.15

### **II. Course description:**

Basic concepts of the discipline are discussed in this class with a focus on the evolution of the State and the role of the individual from historical, ideological, and comparative perspectives. Key topics include political culture and socialization, geopolitics, comparative institutions, theories of leadership and the politics of development.

**III. Rationale:** This course fulfils a requirement in the International Relations major, Political Science Combined Major and Minor. It may also be used as a general elective requirement.

### **IV. The goals of this course include the following:**

- to develop critical thinking and analytical skills;
- to practice synthesizing information from classroom discussions and reading;
- to present this information in a variety of formats, including class discussion, oral presentation, and short essays and exams;
- to demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively and use information technology effectively in group work and as an individual.
- to enhance writing competency.
- to develop an enhanced awareness of the historical foundations of modern political science.

### **V. Student Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this class, students should:

- be acquainted with some of the classic literature in political science;
- be able to compare these readings with contemporary literature in the field;
- read and write about these readings critically and analytically;
- be able to articulate a formal individual position on the issues related to the field of political science;
- be able to appreciate political power as a dimension of human behavior;
- gain an insight into the basic methodologies employed in the discipline by past and present writers in the field, to include political theory and methodology, comparative politics, political economy, international relations, law and administration, and communications.

### **VI. Texts:**

Marcus Ethridge and Howard Handelman, *Politics in a Changing World*, 7th edition (Wadsworth), 2015. Readings may include prior editions.

James MacGregor Burns, *Transforming Leadership*, Grove Press, 2003. You can also find selections on the Moodle site.

Posted electronic readings on the course Moodle site (see syllabus).

## VII. Assessment Overview.

### Class Requirements:

**1. Participation and attendance (10%).** The class is comprised of a combination of lectures, case discussions, exercises, and videos. You are expected to participate in class discussions and all exercises as they are the central component of the course. Your participation is evaluated on discussion and contributions to the class discussion. You are expected to read the assignments before each class session and it is fair game for me to ask you personally about them during class. Evaluations of this part of your participation will be based on your ability to contribute comments that are insightful, relevant, and progressive (move the discussion along). Please pay careful attention to all extra readings as posted, exercises and videos as these aspects of the course will find their way onto the midterm and final exams.

**2. Periodic Quizzes (10%).** Several short quizzes will be given as noted in the course syllabus.

**3. Exams (50%).** There will be a midterm (25%) and a final exam (25%). The tests will be objective (multiple choice, etc.) and short answer/essay in format. Information from the readings, lectures, and class discussions will be covered on the exams. No make-up of exams will be given except when two conditions are both met: 1) the student makes every effort to notify the instructor in advance of the exam to be missed by phone, email, or with a message to reception; and 2) a condition of illness or serious family emergency is explained via email. Please note: Midterm and Final Exams cannot be taken early.

**4. Team Project (10%).** The purpose of this project is to give you the opportunity to apply course materials to an actual comparative politics current event. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to experience the processes and problems involved in working with other group members to reach a specific objective. You will work on the project with 3-4 other classmates. The goal of the team project is to increase your understanding of political science.

**5. Essays (20%).** Students will be required to write *two research-based essays*. Student essays (2000 words exclusive of question prompt and bibliography) will serve as a basis for and reinforcement of class discussions. Each essay should include a general review of what you have read as well as a *critical reflection* on the readings. These are due as noted in the class syllabus. Please use the MLA, APA or Chicago Handbook as a reference guide for usage and format. **Format for written work:** Please use 1-inch margins, double space and 12 point Times New Roman or similar font. **Please also indicate your question prompt on the first page only, as well as the word count of your essay, exclusive of the essay prompt and list of sources.**

**Late Paper Policy:** All papers are due electronically to my email address no later than 11 PM on the due date. Late essays will receive a one letter grade penalty per day late. Please plan accordingly.

### Review of Grading Criteria:

Participation and class assignments	10%
Team Presentation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Two Essays	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100%

## VIII. Assessment Details.

### Rubric Employed for Assessing Reflective Essays

- An essay that is a good summary of the reading, but where the author provides no real insights of his or her own, or which has grammatical or referencing errors, or which is shorter than specified is a: C- to C+.
- An essay that is well-written, well referenced, and moves beyond merely summarizing to providing insights is a B- to B+.
- An outstanding essay with innovative insights and criticism, which is very well written and referenced, is an A- to A.

### Rubric Employed for Assessment of Student Team Presentations

During the semester, student teams will present on their topics. Assessment will be according to the following rubric:

- **Clarity:** The ability to synthesize and structure information on a given topic and to present it so that it is understood by others, and imparts new knowledge to the audience.
- **Delivery:** The ability to express yourself succinctly within a given time frame in a way that allows your audience to understand your topic, to grasp your central argument, and to distinguish between the material you are referencing and your original insights.
- **Appropriate materials:** Appropriate use of technology such as overhead projector, videos, power point presentation, and of other visual aids, such as hand-outs or use of the whiteboard.

- Lasting impressions: The ability to end the presentation with questions which will fuel class-room discussion

**Evaluation of presentation**

- A presentation that is a good summary of internet or other sources without offering new insights and appropriate visual help, such as power point, overhead or hand-outs is a C- to a C+.
- A presentation which is well delivered and provides insights beyond the summary stage while using visual aids is a B- to a B+.
- An outstanding presentation is one which imparts new original insight in a manner which makes it easy to assimilate by the audience by using interesting and crisp visual aids and by posing interesting questions at the end is an A- to an A.

**IX. Grading Policies and Expectations.**

**Rubric Employed for Final Grade (in percentages)**

A: 94 - 100    A-: 90 - 93  
 B+: 87 - 89    B: 84 - 86    B-: 80 - 83  
 C+: 77 - 79    C: 74 - 76    C-: 70 - 73  
 D+: 67 - 69    D: 64 - 66    D-: 60 - 63  
 F: below 60

**X. How to do well in this course:**

**Attendance and Class Etiquette:**

Attendance is essential to perform well in the course. Hence, students are responsible for any missed information. A maximum of 4 absences (including absences due to illness) will be tolerated before absences affect a student’s final course grade. Extended absences will result in the student being dropped from the class roll.

Further, unacceptable class behavior (including excessive tardiness, chatting with classmates, cell phone texting, leaving while class is in session, and displaying obvious signs of inattentiveness) will result in a loss of points. If you have needs that require special accommodation, please let the instructor know. Again, the due dates for papers and oral reports are binding.

**Laptop Policy and Moodle**

Students who wish to use their laptops may do so as long as you are ONLY taking notes. Also, please be sure to check the course Moodle site for all assigned readings in addition to the text chapters.

**XI. Academic Dishonesty:**

Please refer to Franklin’s Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism in the Academic Catalog (p. 199). See also ([https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS\\_ACADEMIC\\_CATALOG\\_2018\\_2020\\_web.pdf](https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS_ACADEMIC_CATALOG_2018_2020_web.pdf)). To summarize, copying the work of others, using third-party services, or any other circumvention of doing your own work are dishonest and not acceptable in this class or at this institution. For papers and presentations, this includes proper use of references and citations. Copying text without the use of quotations or paraphrasing the ideas of others without proper citations are both examples of plagiarism. For testing situations, this includes the use of notes, cell phones, talking to others, or copying off of the exam of others. The first case of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic grade of a zero on the assignment and a report to the Dean. The second case will result in expulsion from the university.

**XII. Resources Available.**

Please freely utilize the resources of the Writing and Learning Center, Information Technology, and the Franklin’s Grace Library and the USI Library)

**XIII. Course Schedule**

	<b>CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>Chapters, pages, assignments</b>
	<b>Parts I and II: An introduction to the history and political thought of political science; political behavior</b>	
August 28 Tuesday	Course outline and introduction to the field of political science. Class introductions. <b>Begin Chapter 1.</b> All chapter assignments from <i>Ethridge and Handelman</i> text unless otherwise noted.	Chapter 1

August 31 Friday	<b>Chapter 1</b> – Politics, Government Functions, Differences, Human Rights	Chapter 1
September 4 Tuesday	<b>Chapter 2</b> – Political Ideologies – Liberalism, Conservatism, Capitalism, Marxism	Chapter 2 See Zanicchia, <i>Ideologies</i> , Moodle Site
September 7 Friday	<b>Chapter 2</b> – Political Ideologies – Continued. Socialism, Feminism, Libertarianism, Environmentalism, Fascism, Islamic Fundamentalism.	Chapter 2
September 11 Tuesday	<b>Chapter 3</b> – Political Culture and Socialization	<b>Quiz 1 – Chapters 1 and 2.</b>
September 14 Friday	<b>Chapter 3</b> – Continue discussion of political socialization and political psychology	See James C. Davies article (posted)  See Samuel Huntington’s selection from <i>The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order</i>
September 18 Tuesday	<b>Chapter 4 - Public Opinion</b> <b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Geopolitics</b>	See electronic postings by Edward Said, Michael Klare, Francis Fukuyama and Michael Ignatieff
September 21 Friday	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Geopolitics (continued)</b> <b>Chapter 5</b> – Political Parties	<i>Finish all electronic postings</i>
September 25 Tuesday	<b>Chapter 6</b> – Interest Groups	Reading selection from Chomsky’s <i>Manufacturing Consent</i> (posted)
September 28 Friday	<b>Chapter 6</b> – Interest Groups	Selection from G. William Domhoff’s Policy Planning Model (posted)  <b>Quiz 2 – Chapters 3, 4, 5</b>
October 2 Tuesday	<b>Chapter 7</b> – Legislative Institutions	<b>Essay 1 Due</b> <b>See Moodle site for prompts</b>
<b>Part 3 – Political Institutions</b>		
October 5 Friday	<b>Chapter 8</b> – Executive Institutions and Political Leadership	
October 9 Tuesday	<b>Chapter 8</b> - Executive Institutions and Political Leadership	Trump’s Presidency – A Critique
October 12 Friday	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Chapters 1-8</b> <b>and all assigned readings</b>

October 16 Tuesday	<b>James MacGregor Burns, <i>Transforming Leadership</i></b>	Burns, Parts 1 and 2
October 19 Friday	<b>Burns, <i>Transforming Leadership</i></b>	Burns, Parts 3, 4 and 5
<b>ACADEMIC TRAVEL OCTOBER 20 – NOVEMBER 3</b>		
November 6 Tuesday	<b>Chapter 9 - Judicial Institutions</b>	
November 9 Friday	<b>Chapter 11 – Great Britain and Brexit The Politics of Populism</b>	See Moodle Readings and PowerPoint
<b>Part IV – Politics in Selected Nations</b>		
November 13 Tuesday	<b>Chapter 12 – Russia: From Authoritarianism to Democracy and Back</b>	<b>Quiz 3 Chapters 9 and 11 and Burns.</b>
November 16 Friday	<b>Chapter 14 – The Politics of Developing Nations Part I</b> Presentation and slide/video on Sub-Saharan Africa	See W.W. Rostow reading.
November 20 Tuesday	<b>The Politics of Developing Nations – Part II</b>	Moodle: See Dambisa Moyo's <i>Dead Aid</i> , William Easterly's <i>Double Standard of Accountability</i> , Paul Collier's <i>The Bottom Billion</i>
November 23 Friday	<b>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</b>	
November 27 Tuesday	<b>Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, <i>Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty</i></b>	Moodle, <i>Why Nations Fail</i> , Parts 1 and 2 <b>Essay 2 Due</b>
November 30 Friday	<b>Team Presentations on Comparative Politics</b> Countries to be Determined	See rubric for presentations
December 4 Tuesday	<b>Team Presentations on Comparative Politics</b> Countries to be Determined	
December 7 Friday	<b>Team Presentations on Comparative Politics</b> Countries to be Determined	
December 14 Friday	<b>Final Examination – 0830 - 1030</b>	

