

POL 199, Key Ideas in Global Politics
Department of Political Science and International Relations, Fall 2018

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:	Prof. Bernd Bucher	
Instructor's Email:	bbucher@fus.edu	
Office Hours:	Monday, Thursday	14:00 – 15:00h,
	Wednesday	15:00 – 16:00h
Class location:	MV Classroom 1	
Class meeting times:	Mondays & Thursdays	10:00 - 11:15
Academic Mentor:	Dylan George	

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Understanding politics is key to analyzing contemporary (world) events and to meaningfully participate in societies. At the same time, the key ideas that inform our political debates and decisions are seldom critically analyzed and discussed outside of University departments. This course seeks to familiarize students with the development and content of (some of the central) ideas of political thinking. We will focus on contemporary debates (e.g. limits of free speech, taxation, environmental protection, democracy, legitimacy of whistle-blowing, limits of sovereignty, ect.) to a) provide an overview of the discipline of political science and to b) further develop the skills needed to enter into critical debate and studying at a university level.

III. RATIONALE

Like all First Year Seminars, this course will cultivate the fundamental critical and academic skills necessary for succeeding at the university level.

IV. COURSE GOALS

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 in short essays and homework assignments;
- To introduce students to the library, writing center, information technology, and student affairs at Franklin University;
- To learn study and research skills that will carry through to other classes and other semesters;
- And to demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively in group work.

In addition, holistic development figures as an important common learning objective for all first year students at Franklin University. To this end, all FYS students are expected to:

- Demonstrate the cultivation of a meaningful link with the surrounding community (both the broader University community and the local Swiss community) through a variety of cultural initiatives (University-wide event attendance and structured intranet blogging; local field trips and related class activities); and
- Demonstrate personal and interpersonal intercultural awareness and maturity (valorizing difference through class discussion and debate, recognizing and capitalizing on difference as a resource for life-long learning).

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this class, students should

- Be familiar with the central concepts and approaches discussed in class
- Be able to find literature in the library and write a University level essay
- Have acquired the skills needed to read academic sources;

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Swift, Adam (2014) *Political Philosophy: A beginners' guide for students and politicians* (third edition). Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Mueller, Jan-Werner (2017) *What is Populism?* Pinguin.

Please also consider purchasing:

- Pears, Richard and Graham Shields (2016) *Cite them Right: The Essential Referencing Guide (10th edition)*. London: Palgrave.
- Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013)

All other literature which is required for the course will be made available on moodle or in the library.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Summery 'Liberty'	15%
Essay 'Comparative Politics'	20%
Library assignment (search log, reference list, source suggestion)	10%
Essay International Relations	25%
Library assignment (search log, reference list, source suggestion)	10%
Showcase	10%
Class participation	10%

Please note:

You are required to attend the following events as part of your FYS course:

- Convocation (see course schedule)
- Guest lecture -Patrick Villeneuve (see course schedule)
- One of the alcohol Knowledge and Awareness workshops

- (see the Tuttle le Strade schedule)
- The Travel Safety Session
(see the Tuttle le Strade schedule)
- The WLC Workshop
(see the Tuttle le Strade schedule)

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Students will be required to complete the assignments listed above. All of the assignments are conceptualized to be an integral part of the essay writing process or to actively help in making progress towards handing in the final essay on time. We will discuss assignment expectations during the course and students always have the opportunity to ask the course AM in case they need help with any assignment.

Students should expect to spend an average of approximately 4 hours a week for course preparation, in addition to time in class. Class attendance is mandatory and includes a variety of co-curricular activities in addition to regular class sessions. The First Year Seminar is designed as part of the larger First Year Experience at Franklin. Students are therefore encouraged to participate in “Tutte Le Strade” activities.

XIX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Grading Policy

Examinations are given letter grades according to the following numerical scale:

A: 94-100	B+: 88-89	C+: 78-79	D+: 68-69	F: 0-59
A-: 90-93	B: 84-87	C: 74-77	D: 64-67	
	B-: 80-83	C-: 70-73	D-: 60-63	

The course grade is an average of examination letter grades according to the following grade points:

A: 4.0	B+: 3.3	C+: 2.3	D+: 1.3	F: 0.0
A-: 3.7	B: 3.0	C: 2.0	D: 1.0	
	B-: 2.7	C-: 1.7	D-: 0.7	

X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

Attendance Policy: A total of two absences will be tolerated during the course of the term as long as efforts are made by the student to make up all homework and missed in-class work. A third absence will automatically result in a grade reduction from the final grade (i.e. an B+ would drop to a B). Five unexcused absences will result in a report to the dean and the registrar.

Late papers/written assignments will be penalized 10 percentage points per academic day without documented evidence of a major disruption to your work. No papers will be accepted more than 5 days after the deadline. Students must retain a final draft until the work is returned.

Please note:

The use of laptops, cell phones and entertainment devices (e.g. iPods) is strictly forbidden during class time. Laptop use might be permitted during group work

sessions. During such time, use of laptops for non-class purposes (e.g. Facebook, e-mail, chatting, etc.) will result in student dismissal from class.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

See the Academic Catalog for full statement (page 199):
<http://www.fus.edu/files/FUS-academic-catalog-2018-2020.pdf>

Please note that even first offenses (cases of cheating or plagiarism) are very likely to lead to offenders receiving an F for the entire course.

XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

This course is focused on getting to know the resources available at Franklin University. As such, we will not only visit the library, but get to know the WLC as well. Further details will be discussed in class.

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative)

Week 1

Monday

Course Introduction – what is politics and how can we study it?

We will also focus on University expectations and institutional responsibilities, before discussing how to best succeed in this course (and University courses generally).

Tuesday

Convocation (19:00h, Auditorium)

Aug. 28

Thursday

Approaching Political Philosophy

The class will provide an introduction to Political Philosophy and to the way philosophical reasoning and the social sciences work in practice.

Week 2

Monday

Conceptualizing Liberty

Reading: Swift, Adam (2014) Political Philosophy: A beginners' guide for students and politicians (third edition). Cambridge: Polity Press, pp.57-73.

Assignment:

Hand in a 1 page summary of the text (turn-it in assignment).

Thursday **Conceptualizing Liberty**
Reading: Swift, Adam (2014) Political Philosophy: A beginners' guide for students and politicians (third edition). Cambridge: Polity Press, pp.73-94.

Week 3

Monday **Conceptualizing Equality**
Reading: Swift, Adam (2014) Political Philosophy: A beginners' guide for students and politicians (third edition). Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 95-115.

Thursday **Conceptualizing Equality**
Reading: Swift, Adam (2014) Political Philosophy: A beginners' guide for students and politicians (third edition). Cambridge: Polity Press, pp.116-133.

Week 4

Monday **Essay writing and essay structure**
In this class we will discuss the value of academic literature, how to correctly reference and the importance of academic honesty (avoiding plagiarism).
Reading: Rears, Richard and Graham Shields (2016) Cite them Right: The Essential Referencing Guide (tenth edition). London: Palgrave, pp. 1-4

Wednesday **Guest Lecture Jean-Patrick Villeneuve** (18:00 – 19:00h, Auditorium)
Sep. 19

Thursday **Using the library**
To use academic literature, we have to be able to find it. We will therefore focus on learning how to access high quality literature in the library. It will take a while to master finding what you need. But once you know how to use the resources of the library, you will have access to invaluable information. Our librarian Clelie Riat will help you to understand how our library functions and which resources you have available. We will specifically focus on how to search for literature for your essay projects (on the political system of Switzerland or state of choice).
Use our time in the library and the following weeks to find literature on your project.
This includes:
a) Writing a **search log** in which you list:
- the search tools you used (library cat., JSTOR, EBSCO, ect.)
- the terms you used

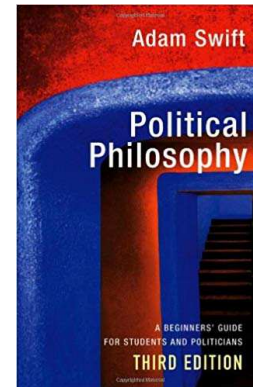
- which settings you changed and adapted
- the literature you found and the literature you were not able to access

b) **Finding at least one relevant book, article, dataset ect.) that the library does not have, so we can order it/them.**

Week 5
Monday

Conceptualizing Democracy

Reading: Swift, Adam (2014) *Political Philosophy: A beginners' guide for students and politicians* (third edition). Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 187-211.



Thursday

Conceptualizing Democracy

Reading: Swift, Adam (2014) *Political Philosophy: A beginners' guide for students and politicians* (third edition). Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 211-231.

Week 6
Monday

Approaching comparative politics and the comparative method

This class will provide an introduction to the discipline of comparative politics and its major fields of inquiry

Note: begin working on your essay on the political system of Switzerland in comparison to the political system of your choice.

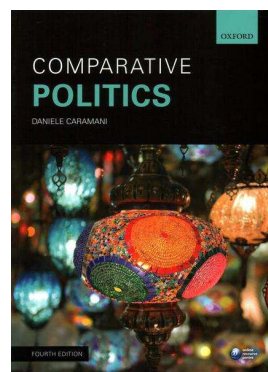
- 1000 words, plus cover page and reference list
- Harvard style citations
- 1,5 spacing, font size 12

To help with this process we will discuss some of the main challenges of getting a research project started

Thursday

Studying types of democracies

Reading: Perez-Linan (2017) 'Democracies', in Caramani, Daniele (ed.) *Comparative Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 83-99.



Week 7

Monday

Democratic structures and institutions

Readings:

Kreppel, Amie (2017) 'Legislatures', in Caramani, Daniele (ed.) *Comparative Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 118-124.

And

Müller, Wolfgang (2017) 'Governments and bureaucracies', in Caramani, Daniele (ed.) *Comparative Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 137-148.

Thursday

Democracy and the populist challenge

Reading: Mueller, Jan-Werner (2017) What is Populism? Chapter 1.

Week 8

Monday

Democracy and the populist challenge

What is Populism? Chapter 2

Thursday

Democracy and the populist challenge

What is Populism? Chapter 3.

Please note the essay deadline:

Political System of Switzerland in comparison to the political system of your choice.



Week 9 and 10 ACADEMIC TRAVEL

Week 11

Monday

Approaching International Relations

We will use this class for an introduction to the field of international relations.

Your pre-travel essays will be returned to you and we will briefly reflect on the assignment and potential improvement opportunities.

Note:

As you will have to write an essay on one or more international conflicts and their resolution, begin to think about a topic at this time and see Dylan and myself to discuss it

The essay should consist of:

- 1000 words
- plus cover page and reference list
- use Harvard style citations
- 1,5 spacing, font size 12

Thursday

The Cuba Missile Crisis and 'The Fog of War'



Week 12

Monday

The Cuba Missile Crisis and 'The Fog of War'

Discussion

Thursday

Second Library Session

- 1) Search for literature for your projects
- 2) Write up a search log in which you document
 - The search tools you used (library catalogue, JSTOR, EBSCO, ect.)
 - The terms you used
 - Which setting you changed and adapted
 - The literature you found
 - What you did not find?

Create a reference list and hand in a search protocol for your essay project.

- **Find at least one relevant book that the library does not have, so we can order it/them.**

Week 13

Monday

Central IR concepts - Anarchy

Reading: Prichard, Alex (2016) 'Anarchy', in Berenskoetter, Felix (ed.) *Concepts in World Politics*. London: Sage, pp. 125 – 142.

Thursday

Central IR concepts - Sovereignty

Reading: Aalberts, Tanja (2016) 'Sovereignty', in Berenskoetter, Felix (ed.) *Concepts in World Politics*. London: Sage, pp. 183 – 200.

Week 14

Monday

Central IR concepts - Security

Reading: Stritzel, Holger and Juha Vuori (2016) 'Security', in Berenskoetter, Felix (ed.) *Concepts in World Politics*. London: Sage, pp. 41-57.

Thursday

Contemporary International Challenges

In this final session focusing on International Relations, we will discuss one or more contemporary challenges based on course content and media sources.



Week 15

Monday

Showcase preparation

As all First Year Seminars participate in a showcase event towards the end of the semester, we will use this class to think about how to share some interesting aspect of the course with others. This is the best time to be creative!

Thursday

So what have we learned?

We will use the last class of our FYS to reflect on what we have learned and the role of studying politics in contemporary societies.

Showcase:**December 7th****13.12.2018 Assignment Deadline Final Paper**

All essays are to be uploaded on moodle (we will show you how to do this) by 13:00 on 13 December.

Moodle settings will not allow you to hand in late. Should you fail to hand in on time, you are required to hand in an electronical version to bbucher@fus.edu. You will lose a full letter grade every 24 hours.