

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY SWITZERLAND

POL 100—INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

3-27 June 2019 (Summer Session I)

Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu 14:30-17:05, LAC (North Campus) 2

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Professor Roberto Córdón

Office Hours: LAC (North Campus) Office 7
Tuesdays 17:15-18:15; or by appointment

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Final Exam: Thu 27 June, in class

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 government structures and institutions, ideologies, power distribution, and political behavior.

Course Objectives

The *primary goal* will be to understand the basic institutions of governments, compare how they function in varied political systems, and how power is distributed in society. We will also consider the role of political parties, leadership and civic society in shaping the development of countries and regions. In the current global environment, the course touch upon the inter-relation of politics and economics, the role of culture, and the emergence of populism. Finally, we will also try to appreciate the interrelation between political power and human behavior.

The course should provide a foundation for future courses in political science, particularly those focusing on specific countries and regions, and/or adopting a comparative approach. Students will also work on writing competencies and presentation skills. Class discussions will stress an objective analysis of past and present events, and distinguishing between facts and propaganda.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completion of this class, the student should be able to:

- Be conversant on some of the basic concepts of political science.
- Gain insight into the basic methodologies employed in the discipline.
- Integrate classical political frameworks with contemporary writing in the field.
- Apply different frameworks when discussing and reading about current political issues.
- Articulate individual positions on emerging political debates.

Textbook and Readings

- M. E. Ethridge and H. Handelman, Politics in a Changing World (A Comparative Introduction to Political Science), 7th Edition, Cengage, 2015
- Additional short readings, as assigned
- Students should follow international political issues on a regular basis by reading newspapers and magazines such as *The Economist*, *Foreign Policy*, *New York Times*, *Der Spiegel*, *The Times (London)*, *Le Figaro*, or local publications in other languages. This will help you participate effectively in class.

Course Requirements

- Daily readings from textbook or newspaper articles, as assigned by instructor.
- Midterm and Final Exams
- A short essay (~3 pages) on a current issue, assigned by the instructor.
- A research essay (~5 pages) and class presentation on a comparative topic chosen by the student. (Exact task will be explained by the instructor.)

Grading (*indicative, may vary slightly*)

• Midterm Exam	25%	
• Final Exam	25%	
• Short essay	8%	
• Research essay and class presentation	22%	
• Class Participation	20%	=100%

All elements will be graded on a scale from 0 to 100. Grades are generally distributed along a normal curve. However, I am perfectly willing to bend the curve one way or another if many students perform well or poorly. (I always prefer to give more A's than D's!) **Students need to pass either the midterm or the final exam, regardless of performance on other course elements.** *Indicatively:*

A: > 93.3 A-: 90 - 93.3 B+: 86.7 - 90 B: 83.3 - 86.7 B-: 80 - 83.3 C+: 76.7 - 80
C: 73.3 - 76.7 C-: 70 - 73.3 D+: 66.7 - 70 D: 63.3 - 66.7 D-: 60 - 63.3 F: < 60

Class Participation, Attendance and Course Contribution

Class attendance will be essential to perform well in this course. We will discuss specific business situations; **thus, active and constructive participation in class discussions will be rewarded.** The class contribution grade will be determined as follows:

- Students get 8 points just for attending regularly. One absence is allowed "for free"; after that 1 point will be deducted for each absence. Coming late to class (>10 min.) is worth ½ point.
- 12 points will be allotted based on contribution (overall involvement and quality of interventions). An A+ means 12 additional points; an A is 11; an A- is 10; a B+ is 9; and so on; an F (no participation whatsoever or disruptive behavior) gives no additional points.

Late Assignments Policy

Students needing extensions for their written assignments should discuss them in advance with the instructor. The standard penalty in this summer course is 10% (one letter grade) per day.

Laptops and Cellphones

As they are very disruptive to the instructor and other students, laptops are not allowed in class or exams and cell phones should be turned off. If your phone rings during class, you will leave the classroom to answer the call and will not be allowed back in.

Indicative Course Schedule/Topics

Classes for this course will begin on Wed. 5 June.

Topics in the second half could change slightly depending on student interest.

Class of:	Topic	Reading
June 5	Orientation, Globalization and Politics What is Political Science?	Ch. 1

June 6	Ideologies and systems	Ch. 2
<i>Short essay due on Monday 10 June</i>		
June 10	Essay discussion Political culture and Socialization	Ch. 3
June 11	Political Parties and interest Groups	Ch. 4, 5
June 12	Legislative Institutions	Ch. 7
June 13	Executive and Judicial Institutions	Chs. 8, 9
June 17	Executive and Judicial Institutions (cont.) + Review	Chs. 8, 9
<i>Midterm on Mon 17 June in class</i>		
June 18	What is Populism?	handout
National Politics in Comparative and Historical Perspective		
June 19	Great Britain: monarchy and democratic evolution	Ch. 11
June 20	United States: federalism, democracy and hegemony Switzerland: historical transformation and direct democracy	Ch. 10 handout
<i>Research Paper due on Friday 21 June, 12 noon</i>		
June 24	Russia: <i>A Tour de Force</i> of Political Systems Paper feedback	Ch. 12
June 25	Politics in developing countries: some generalizations Paper Presentations	Ch. 14
June 26	Why do Nations Fail?	Handout from book by Acemoglu + Robinson
June 27	Review and catch-up	
<i>Final Exam on Thursday 27 June, in class</i>		

Academic Dishonesty

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.

Consequently, the University has adopted the following code:

- When an examination is in progress, all unauthorized books, notes, papers, notebooks, and phones must be left outside the classroom, or, where this is not feasible, left beneath the student's seat unopened.
- Students will be asked to distribute themselves around the room during an exam so as to leave the widest possible space between them.
- During the examination only the blank paper required for the examination and a pencil, pen or other tools as permitted by individual instructors may be on the desk.
- Should an instructor see written crib notes in evidence or see a student consult a cell phone during an exam, the presumption will be that the student has cheated on that exam.
- If a student must leave the classroom during an examination due to physical duress, the student must turn in the exam and will not be allowed to return during the examination period. No make-up examination will be administered.
- It is within the prerogative of the instructor to take a student's paper during an exam and to ask that student to take an oral exam, or another exam, at the instructor's choice.
- A student found cheating will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.
- A student found cheating on an exam will be given an "F" for that examination. If it is a final examination, the student may be given an "F" for the course.
- A student whose paper or assignment has clearly been plagiarized will receive an "F" for that paper. Notification will be sent to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.

Cases of academic dishonesty may be handled by the instructor in whose course the violation occurred if the matter is a result of student ignorance or is a first offense. The instructor will assess the severity of the violation and impose an appropriate penalty. In the event of a repetition of dishonesty, the matter will be referred to the Dean of Academic Affairs, and the student will risk dismissal from the University.

Furthermore:

A student who is strongly suspected of submitting a paper written by someone else, may receive a failing grade for the course, unless the student can prove his/her authorship. The professor will decide on a suitable means of assessment, e.g. by an oral discussion on the paper's topic, by providing evidence of a meaningful research and drafting process, or other appropriate mechanisms. In such cases, the student will also be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs on the grounds academic dishonesty.

By the same token, if there is a strong suspicion that a student has written a paper for another student, they will be referred to the Judicial Board for potential disciplinary sanction, according to the FUS' Code of Conduct.

Please note that I hold the above statements very seriously. In my courses, any case of cheating will result in an automatic "F" for the whole course.