

IR 101 A: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Summer 2021 (Ozyegin University Summer School)

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Time: MW: 14.30-17.30
Office Hours: M: 13.00-14.00, also by appt.



Course Description: What is politics and how do political scientists study it? What are the major political issues and how do they influence our lives? We will begin the course by defining politics and introducing alternative ways of analyzing it. Then we will discuss major political themes, such as ideologies, states, governments, political economies and political change.

Course Objectives: This course will not tell you exactly *what* to think about politics, but it will guide you through *how* to think and talk about politics. The course has several objectives or learning outcomes. The first is defining major political themes and identifying the main approaches and methods of to study them. The second is examining the major political issues. The third is providing the analytical skills to analyze politics. Reading and writing critically will help students to become critical thinkers.

Logistics: Due to the COVID-19 restrictions this course will be conducted through an online format. We will have two short breaks during each three-hour session. Furthermore, we will have guest speakers who will talk about the material covered in that date. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is encouraged for getting the most out of the course.

Office Hours: I will hold office hours on Mondays from 13.00 to 14.00 during which time you may ask me any question individually regarding the class material.

Books: Parsons, Craig. (2017) Introduction to Political Science: *How to Think for Yourself about Politics*. Pearson. A few chapters of the book will be made available for students.

Course Requirements: The course requirements include: four quizzes (30% total), and two essays (70%). The quizzes will contain both multiple choice and short answer components, and the quiz with the lowest score will be dropped. Reflection essays, each accounting for 30% of the grade, will answer the questions on assigned readings. **To receive a full grade, students need to refer to the readings assigned and discussed during the course.** The rubric for grading reflections essays is attached to the end of this syllabus. The reflection papers should be double-spaced with the appropriate citations and a reference page

at the end. Quotation marks should be used and page numbers should be indicated when the material is quoted from its sources. While there is no page limit for the essays, successful essays contain multiple pages with detailed information and well constructed arguments. I will provide more information about the essay questions and more information about quizzes during the first weeks of the course.

Grading Scale: A+ = 100; A = 94-99; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = 0-59.

Late Work Policy: Work turned in after the deadline will receive a maximum of 90% of the prescribed grade for that assignment. From two until five days it will receive a maximum of 50% of the grade. A grade not turned in five days after the deadline will receive 0% of the prescribed grade for that assignment.

COVID-19 Note: If students are not able to complete their assignment because they are sick or because they take care of family members are sick, they should inform the instructor as soon as possible. Necessary arrangements will be made so that students will not lose points due to the health restrictions.

Technology Policy: Photos or video of lectures or conversations may not be taken without prior permission.

Plagiarism: We strictly abide by university regulations concerning plagiarism for the quizzes and the essays. Any attempt at plagiarism will automatically lead to failure in this class. The definition of plagiarism is simple: copying from outside sources and claiming the latter as your own work. You may, of course, refer to and draw from printed sources, but you should properly acknowledge them. If you have any questions, feel free to ask the instructor in due course. The instructor holds the right to use software programs, such as *Turnitin* that detects plagiarism. For more information about what plagiarism entails, please consult [Ozyegin University Code of Academic Integrity](#).

Reflection Paper Rubric

Category	Points				
	5	4	3	2	1
Organization	Information is very organized with well constructed paragraphs, use of subheadings, and information is factual and correct	Information is organized with well constructed paragraphs and information is factual and correct	Information is organized but paragraphs are not well constructed and information is factual	The information appears to be disorganized information is suspect to being correct and factual	Information is not only disorganized but inaccurate
Quality of Information	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1 – 2 supporting details and/or examples	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples or given	Information has little to do with the main topic	Information has nothing to do with the main topic
Mechanics	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	Almost no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	Way to many for a college student getting ready to enter the health education field
Sources	All sources are accurately documented in the desired format (APA)	All sources are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format (APA)	All sources are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format (APA)	Some sources are not accurately documented	To many sources are not documented accurately and there is not a format used

Figure 1: The Rubric for Grading Essays

Class Schedule and Assignments

Monday, July 5th: Introduction

- **Readings:** The syllabus in its entirety
- Obtaining first chapters of the book through Amazon Trial
- Chapter 1: Introduction (Available for Free through Amazon)

Wednesday, July 7th: Political Philosophy, Chapter 2- free through Amazon

- **Quiz 1:** Due Monday, July 12th

Monday, July 12th: Ideologies, Chapter 3 (Uploaded)

Wednesday, July 14th: States, Chapter 4 (Uploaded)

Monday, July 26th: Governments, Chapter 5

- **Essay 1:** Due Friday, July 30th

Wednesday, July 28th: Participation and Collective Action, Chapter 6

- **Quiz 2:** Due Monday, August 2nd

Monday, August 2nd: Representation, Chapter 7

Wednesday, August 4th: Power and Policymaking, Chapter 8

- **Quiz 3:** Due Monday, August 9th

Monday, August 9th: Political Economy, Chapter 9

Wednesday, August 11th: Economic Development and Growth, Chapter 10

Monday, August 16th: Political Change, Chapter 11

- **Essay 2:** Due Friday, August 20th
- **Quiz 4:** Due Friday, August 20th

Wednesday, August 18th: Political Violence, Chapter 12

Possible Addition: Globalization and Governance, Chapter 13

Possible Addition: Conclusion: what did we learn?

- No readings assigned