



*School of Social Sciences  
2009-2010 Term II*

## **INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL AND POLICY STUDIES SMU COURSE CODE 003**

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*Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:30am -12:30pm, 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment*

*Course website: [www.bridgetwelsh.com](http://www.bridgetwelsh.com) (Course Section IPPS)*

### **TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Monday Section KUAH Jun Wen John

(Email: [jw.kuah.2007@socsc.smu.edu.sg](mailto:jw.kuah.2007@socsc.smu.edu.sg))

Consultation Hours: Fridays 12:30-2:00pm

Wednesday Section Charlene FU Siling

(Email: [charlene.fu.2007@socsc.smu.edu.sg](mailto:charlene.fu.2007@socsc.smu.edu.sg))

Consultation Hours: Thursdays 9:30-11:00am

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*This course is designed to introduce students to political science. From the onset students will learn how power is studied and practiced and learn the tools to better understand the challenges in the modern globalized world. The course will include the basic concepts and theoretical approaches in the study of power and its practice. Among the many important questions the survey course will examine are the nature of political regimes, human rights, political culture and ideologies, leadership, political participation and institutions and justice. The level of analyses examined will extend from individual political behavior to governments and states and organizations in the international system. Students will enrich their knowledge and skills that will help them in any career and in becoming more empowered and informed citizens.*

### **COURSE GOALS**

*Students will develop the tools to understand diversity and contemporary global problems, as well as learn analytical skills and problem-solving. This course is ideal for students interested in honing their ability to interpret complex issues, understand the diverse perspectives of stakeholders and develop tools to address real world challenges.*

### **Specific Learning Objectives**

*By the end of this course, students will be able to:*

- Understand a Range of Concepts, Theories and Models in Political Science
- Appreciate the Diversity of Political Perspectives and Outlooks
- Frame Problems from Multiple Perspectives
- Construct and Present their Own Interpretations of Political Events
- Recognize the Range and Variation in Forms of Political Power
- Evaluate Government Approaches to Rights and Justice
- Formulate their Own Opinions on Political Issues
- Work More Effectively in a Group Dynamic
- Research Contemporary Political Issues

## ASSESSMENT METHODS

Class Participation:	10%
Opinion Pieces:	25%
Group Oral Presentation:	15%
In-Class Learning Assignments/Quizzes	15%
Book Report:	15%
Final examination:	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

a) ***Class Attendance & Participation*** (10% of total grade) Students are expected to read all the required reading before class to participate in discussion. Please note that more than two absences of any class session will significantly lower a student's final grade. Regular patterns of tardiness will also negatively affect a student's performance. Class participation will be assessed based on the quality of participation in the class, with higher marks given to students who relate inputs to the course readings and express individual ideas articulately and succinctly. Students are not evaluated on the volume that they say, but the degree to which their participation adds value to the discussion. Students are asked to turn their cell phones and PDAs on silent mode and not use them during class time. Laptops are to be used for note-taking, not chatting and emailing during class time. Student distractions that take away from the overall class learning environment are strongly discouraged and will be assessed in class participation performance.

b) ***Opinion Pieces-*** (25% of total grade) Students are asked to submit two opinion pieces that make clear arguments and harness evidence to buttress their positions. The opinion pieces should be succinct and accessible, no more than 800 words (strictly enforced). Students can choose their own topics and should relate their papers to contemporary global political issues. A list of possible topics will be available on the course website/VISTA. Assignments will be assessed on individuality, writing, evidence, clarity and effective use of sources. First paper must be submitted on February 12<sup>th</sup> and the second on April 6<sup>th</sup> through SMUVISTA and email to the professor and the TA. All assignments must also simultaneously be processed through TURNITIN accessible on SMUVista. Students must also turn in a hard copy to the professor by 5pm on the due date in her mail box at SOSS 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Students can submit a third piece and the two top marks of all three pieces will be used in the final grade. This third assignment must be completed before Week 13. No late assignments will be accepted. In the beginning of term, there will be a workshop to introduce students to how to conduct research in political science with Library staff and students are strongly encouraged to attend the Political Science Writing Workshop organized during the term by the Centre for English Communication (CEC).

c) ***Group Oral Presentation*** (15% of the total grade), During the course of the term, students working in groups of 2-4 people will be asked to present selected case studies associated with the course readings. The groups and case studies will be selected in the beginning of term and be on a first

come, first chosen basis. These in-class presentations will be no more than twenty minutes and each student within the group will be required to participate in the oral presentation. Students are required to meet with the professor one week before the presentation and include three questions for class discussion. Students in each group will provide confidential assessments of their own preparation and their peers and will be assessed on their ability to present material clearly and succinctly as well as their understanding of the reading and case study selected.

d) **In-Class Learning Assignments/Quizzes** (15% of total grade), As part of the learning process, students will be asked to participate in a series of in-class simulations and problem-solving tasks. These will draw on the assigned course reading. Students will be assessed on their class preparation and the quality of participation in these short assignments. There will be quizzes in the course of the term and they will be unannounced.

e) **Book Report** (15% of total grade): Students are asked review one of the three books assigned for the course in 3-5 pages. These book reviews must address the political issues in the text and connect these issues to the course material. The review must develop an argument. Each book will be discussed as an optional class dinner which students can sign up for on a first come, first space basis. Reviews will be assessed based on their individuality, clarity, presentation, argument and knowledge of the issues in the book. This assignment must be turned in via SMUVista and emailed to the professor and TA, with a hard copy placed in the inbox by 5pm on the due date. All book reviews must also simultaneously be processed through TURNITIN accessible on SMUVista.

f) **Final Examination** (20% of the final grade): Students will be required to sit for a final examination at the end of term. This examination will include identifications, multiple choice questions and short answer questions that assess the comprehension of the course reading and class discussions. The test will include both objective and subjective questions that test knowledge and the ability to formulate analytical responses.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students are expected to uphold high standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, cheating and disrespect for diversity of views in the classroom are not acceptable. In the beginning of term, the professor will review different guidelines for research and help familiarize students with the techniques needed for report preparation. Throughout the course, a classroom environment of acceptance, respect and tolerance will be reinforced. Specific task-oriented assignments have been selected to reduce the temptation for students to rely on the ideas of others and tap directly into an individual student's abilities. All written assignments must be turned in through TURNITIN accessible through SMUVista.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND EXPECTATIONS**

The assignments in this course develop knowledge and skills, with the aim of making students more confident and better prepared to address real world problems they will face. Simultaneously, they introduce students to contemporary problems in the world and teach core material associated with political science. Texts and course material for this course are purposely selected for accessibility. Teaching materials include films, novels, the course website (which will have an interactive component), in-class simulations and engaging reading material.

## **CONSULTATIONS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Students are encouraged to meet one-on-one with the professor to discuss course material and their assignments. The professor holds regular office hours where students can walk in on a first come, first

engaged basis. Students are also welcome to schedule an appointment. Students should schedule appointments early and will receive a response to their emails within two business days. The teaching assistants are also available for consultation and will hold regular office hours in the course of the term. All consultations with the TA's are held in SOE/SOSS Group Study Room 2-1 (Rm 2001).

## CLASS TIMINGS

Monday 12:00 -3:15. Wednesday 12:00-3:15. Students are required to attend their registered section.

## REQUIRED TEXT AND READINGS

Students will be expected to read all the required reading. All the required course reading will be available in the Library on reserve/SMUVISTA or via links. The location of the reading is noted with parentheses below. Additional optional reading material will also be available on the course website.

### Required for Purchase:

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010)

### Recommended for Purchase (one of the books for the book review):

Arvind Adiga, *The White Tiger* (London: Free Press, 2008)

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince* (New York: CentreSpace, 2006 reprinted)

George Orwell, *Animal Farm* (New York: Signet Classics, 2008 reprinted)

Also available at: [http://www.george-orwell.org/Animal\\_Farm/0.html](http://www.george-orwell.org/Animal_Farm/0.html)

## WEEKLY LESSONS AND READINGS

### WEEK 1 (January 4-10) Introducing Political Science

*Thematic Questions: What is politics? How do you study politics?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010), Chapters 1 & 2 (Course Text)

Richard Rose. "Comparing Forms of Comparative Analysis" *Political Studies* 39 (3) (1991): 446-62.

(Link)<http://search.ebscohost.com.libproxy.smu.edu.sg/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=21483083&site=ehost-live>

### WEEK 2 (January 11-17) State Formation and States

*Thematic Question: How were modern states formed?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010), Chapter 4. (Course Text)

Clifford Geertz. *Negara: The Theatre State in Nineteenth Century Bali*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1980), pp. 11-25. (On SMUVista)

Max Weber. "What is a State?" in Roy C. Macridis and Bernard E. Brown, *Comparative*

*Politics: Notes and Readings, Eighth Edition.* (Belmont, MA: Wadsworth Publishing Co, 1996), pp. 84-87. (On SMUVista)

Jeffrey Herbst. *States and Power in Africa*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), pp. 3-32. (On SMUVista)

**Optional Political Science Research Seminar Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> (Library) (Two sessions)**

### **WEEK 3 (January 18-24) Political Regimes**

*Thematic Question: How do dictatorships differ from democracies?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010), Chapter 6.

Amartya Sen. 1999. "Democracy as a Universal Value." *Journal of Democracy* 10 (3):3-17, <http://muse.jhu.edu.libproxy.smu.edu.sg/journals/jod/v010/10.3sen.html>

Adam Przeworski and Michael Alvarez, "What Makes Democracies Endure? In Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, Yun-han Chu and Hung-mao Tien (eds.), *Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies: Themes and Perspectives*. (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), pp. 295-311. (On SMUVista)

Jay Solomon, Evan Ramstad and Peter Spiegel, "North Korea Plans Kim Succession, U.S. Believes" *Wall Street Journal*, 23 May, 2009

(Link) <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124304434715249127.html>

Robert Marquand, "N. Korea escalates "cult of Kim" to counter West's influence," *Christian Science Monitor*, 3 January, 2007. (Link) <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0103/p01s04-woap.html>

**Optional Dinner #1 on White Tiger, Monday, 7pm, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

### **WEEK 4 (January 25-31) Political Ideology and Nationalism**

*Thematic Question: How do political ideas differ and why?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010), Chapter 3 (Course Text)

Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. (London: Verso, 1991), pp. 1-7 (On SMUVista)

Leon P. Baradat, In *Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact*. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2000), pp. 2-12, 160-182. (On SMUVista)

**Optional Class Dinner #2 on Animal Farm, Tuesday, 7pm, January 26<sup>th</sup>**

## **WEEK 5 (February 1-7) Leadership**

*Thematic Question: What makes a good political leader?*

Bryan Jones (ed.) *Leadership and Politics: New Perspectives in Political Science*. (Wichita: University of Kansas Press, 1989), pp. 3-14. (On SMUVista)

Lee Kuan Yew. *From Third World to First: The Singapore Story: 1965-2000* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2000), pp. 199-223. (On SMUVista)

In-Class Film: "The Godfather"

*Optional Class Dinner #3 on Prince, Wednesday, 7pm, February 3<sup>rd</sup>*

## **WEEK 6 (February 8-14) Political Institutions: Parliaments to Courts**

*Thematic Question: How do formal political institutions work and differ?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010), Chapters 13, 14, & 15. (Course Text)

Gary W. Copeland and Samuel C. Patterson, (eds.), *Parliaments in the Modern World: Changing Institutions* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1994), Chapter 1 (On SMUVista)

International Crisis Group, *Reforming the Judiciary in Pakistan*, Asia Report 160. October 2008. pp. 1-18.

(Link) [http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/icg/0007284/f\\_0007284\\_6302.pdf](http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/icg/0007284/f_0007284_6302.pdf)

**\*\*\*First Think Piece Due February 12<sup>th</sup> by 5pm\*\*\***

**\*\*Chinese New Year on Monday. Make-up class held on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.**

## **WEEK 7 (February 15-21) Political Culture, Identity, Inclusion and Exclusion\*\***

*Chinese New Year Holiday.*

*Thematic Questions: Does political culture matter? How does gender lead to political differences?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010), Chapter 7 (Course Text)

Samuel Huntington. *Clash of Civilizations*. (New York: Touchstone, 1996), pp. 19-39. (On SMUVista)

Jennifer Marchbank and Gayle Letherby. *Introduction to Gender: Social Science Perspectives*. (New York: Pearson Limited, 2007), pp. 3-19, 130-147. (On SMUVista)

## **WEEK 8 (February 22-28) Midterm Break. No Class**

## WEEK 9 (March 1-7) Interest Aggregation

*Thematic Question: How are political interests shaped and articulated?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010) Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, &12. (Course Text)

Film: "Election" (1999) Partially shown in class.

Marcus Mietzner, "Indonesia's 2009 Elections: Populism, Dynasties and the Consolidation of the Party System", Lowy Institute for International Policy, Sydney, May 2009.

(Link) <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?ots591=CAB359A3-9328-19CC-A1D2-8023E646B22C&lng=en&id=100187>

\*\*\**Book Review due March 1<sup>st</sup> by 5pm*\*\*\*

## WEEK 10 (March 8-14) Human Rights

*Thematic Question: What rights do people deserve?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010), Chapter 5. (Course Text)

Micheline R. Ishay. *The Human Rights Reader*. (New York: Routledge, 1997), pp. 1-5, 42-55, 56-59, 199-200, 424-40, 461-68 (On SMUVista)

Human Rights Watch. "An Alleyway in Hell": China's Abusive "Black Jails" November 12, 2009. (Link) <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/11/12/alleyway-hell>

## WEEK 11 (March 15-21) Conflict and Violence

**Thematic Questions: Is conflict bad? Why does violence occur?**

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010), Chapter 17 (Course Text)

Earl Conteh-Morgan, *Collective Political Violence: An Introduction to the Theories and Cases of Violent Conflicts* (New York: Routledge, 2003), Chapter 1. (On SMUVista)

Ashutosh Varshney. *Ethnic Conflict and Civil Life: Hindus and Muslims in India*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003), Chapter 1. (On SMUVista)

Paul Collier and Ian Bannon. *Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy* (Washington, DC: World Bank Publication, 2003), Chapter 1 (On SMUVista)

Case Study. Oakland Riots 2009. YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC43Cw3AY10>

and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dkDUIWntVU&feature=related>

## **WEEK 12 (March 22-28) International Cooperation and War**

*Thematic Question: Why do states cooperate and how?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010, Chapter 18 (Course Text)

Robert Jervis, "Theories of War in an Era of Leading-Power Peace." *American Political Science Review* (2002) 96 (1):1-14.

(Link)<http://proquest.umi.com.libproxy.smu.edu.sg/pqdweb?did=1196781861&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=44274&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

## **WEEK 13 (March 29-April 4) Globalization**

*Thematic Question: Does globalization empower people?*

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Madieros, Walter Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction* (New York: Longman, 2010), Chapter 16 (Course Text)

John Baylis and Steve Smith (eds). *The Globalization of World Politics*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006) pp. 1-6; 258-263. (On SMUVista)

*Economist*. "Globalisation and its Critics: A Survey of Globalisation" September 29, 2001

(Link)<http://search.ebscohost.com.libproxy.smu.edu.sg/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=5252157&site=ehost-live>

BBC, "Copenhagen Climate Deal Meets Qualified UN Welcome" 19 December, 2009

(Link) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8422133.stm>

Bjoern Lomborg, "Beyond Copenhagen" Time. 4 December, 2009

(Link)[http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1929071\\_1929070\\_1945639,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1929071_1929070_1945639,00.html)

*\*Make-up class for Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday March 29<sup>th</sup> to be held Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>*

## **WEEK 14 (April 5-11) Reading Period**

**\*\*\*2<sup>nd</sup> Think Piece Due April 6<sup>th</sup> by 5pm\*\*\***

## **WEEK 15 (April 12-18) Final Examination**

**\*\*\*Final Examination, April 13<sup>th</sup> 5pm\*\*\***