



School of Social Sciences 2011-2012 Term II

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL AND POLICY STUDIES SMU COURSE CODE POSC 003

Wednesdays 8:30-11:45, Seminar Room 3-3

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:30-12noon to 2:00-3:00pm

TEACHING ASSISTANT

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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, public policy, political participation and institutions and violence. 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 Approaches 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%
In-Class Learning Assignments/Quizzes	15%
Opinion Pieces:	25%
Group Oral Presentation:	15%
Book Report:	15%
Final examination:	20%
Total	100%

*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 **ONE** absence of any class session will significantly lower a student's final participation 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) **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 three quizzes in the course of the term and they will be unannounced. These will be held in the beginning of class and students who miss these quizzes without a MC will not be excused.*

*c) **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/LMS. At least one of these assignments must address issues outside of Singapore. Assignments will be assessed on individuality, writing, evidence, clarity and effective use of sources. First paper must be submitted on February 13th and the second on March 12th through LMS and email to the professor and the TA. All assignments must also simultaneously be processed through TURNITIN accessible on LMS. Students must also turn in a hard copy to the professor by 5pm on the due date in her inbox directly in front of the SOSS Administrative Office on the 4th floor. Students can request to 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 March 30th. 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).*

*d) **Group Oral Presentation** (15% of the total grade). Students working in groups of up to 5 people will be asked to present a comparative case study associated with the topic of one of the first twelve weeks in the course. Students will sign up in the first week of class on LMS. All of the presentations should be no more than 10 minutes (with five minutes for questions), include a two-page written synopsis of the main questions and findings of the case study comparison and a power point presentation that should be forwarded to the TA and professor at least one hour before the presentation. All presentations will take place during class in Week 13. Strict time limits will be imposed. The groups will be selected in the beginning of term and be on a first*

come, first chosen basis. Students are required to meet with the professor in the immediate week after the chosen week to discuss the presentation during her office hours. Students will be assessed on their ability to present material clearly and succinctly, the quality of their synopsis as well as their understanding of the reading and comparative case study selected.

e) **Book Report** (15% of total grade): Students are asked review one of the two books assigned for the course in 3-5 pages (2-3000 words). 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 LMS and emailed to the professor and TA, with a hard copy placed in the inbox by 5pm on the due date, February 6th. All book reviews must also simultaneously be processed through TURNITIN accessible on LMS.

f) **Final Examination** (20% of the final grade): Students will be required to sit for a final two-hour 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. The final examination is scheduled for April 24th from 1-4pm.

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 LMS.

SMU's policy on academic integrity states that all acts of academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of exam questions, or tampering with the academic work of other students) are serious offences. All work (whether oral or written) submitted for purposes of assessment must be the student's own work. Penalties for violation of the policy range from zero marks for the component assessment to expulsion, depending on the nature of the offense.

When in doubt, students should consult the instructors of the course before the assignment is due. Details on the SMU Code of Academic Integrity may be accessed at <http://www.smuscd.org/resources.html>.

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 novels, the course website, in-class simulations and core disciplinary 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 meet her. Students are also welcome to schedule an appointment, but should provide at least three different alternatives to be

accommodated for a meeting outside of office hours. Given the large number of students in the course, students are encouraged to book their time early. During term, students should expect a response to their emails within two business days. The teaching assistants are also available for consultation. All consultations with the TA are held in SOE/SOSS Group Study Room 2-1.

CLASS SESSIONS

Class sessions will be held for three hours per week, with a short break in the middle. Each session will combine lectures, discussions, and group activities focused on the assigned topics.

REQUIRED TEXT AND READINGS

Students will be expected to read all the required reading before class. All the required course reading will be available in the Library on reserve/LMS eLearn 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:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 10th Edition. (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011)

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

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* (P.S) (Deckle Edge). (New York: Harper Perennials, 2010) (Originally published in 1932). Recommended edition.

Mohsin Hamid. *Moth Smoke*. (New York: Picador, 2001.)

WEEKLY LESSONS AND READINGS

WEEK 1 (January 9-15) Introducing Political Science

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

Required Reading:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 10th Edition. (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011), Chapter 1 (Course Text)

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

<http://libproxy.smu.edu.sg/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/libproxy.smu.edu.sg/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=21483083&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

WEEK 2 (January 16-22) State Formation and States

Thematic Question: How were modern states formed?

Required Reading:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 10th Edition. (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011), Chapter 5 (Course Text)

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

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 eLearn)

Jeffrey Herbst. *States and Power in Africa*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), pp. 11-31. (On eLearn)

***Optional Dinner #1 on Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*, Tuesday, 7:30pm, January 17th ***

***Optional Dinner #2 on Mohsin Hamid. *Moth Smoke*, Wednesday, 7:30pm, January 18th ***

WEEK 3 (January 23-29) Political Regimes & Political Development

Thematic Questions: How do dictatorships differ from democracies? How do regimes change?

Required Reading:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science. 10th Edition*. (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011), Chapter 7, pp. 169-181 and Chapter 10, pp. 280-292. (Course Text)

Amartya Sen. 1999. "Democracy as a Universal Value." *Journal of Democracy* 10 (3):3-17
(Link)

<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 eLearn)

Optional Political Science Research Seminar in Library January 26th Library Training Room, 5th Floor, 10-11am

WEEK 4 (January 30-February 5) Political Ideology and Public Policy

Thematic Question: How and why do political ideas differ? How do different political approaches shape public policy?

Required Reading:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science. 10th Edition*. (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011), Chapters 2 and 9 (Course Text)

Leon P. Baradat, In *Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact*. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2000), pp. 4-12, 162-182. (On eLearn)

***Optional CEC Writing Workshop February 2nd (3:30-6:30pm) and 3rd (12 noon-3pm) ***

WEEK 5 (February 6-12) Political Mobilization & Interest Aggregation

Thematic Question: Why and how do people participate in politics?

Required Reading:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science. 10th Edition*. (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011), Chapters 3 & 4 (Course Text)

Sylvia Bashevin. "Interest Groups and Social Movements," in Lawrence Le Duc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris (eds.) *Comparing Democracies: Elections and Voting in Global Perspective*. (London: Sage Publications, 1996), pp. 134-159. (On eLearn)

Lenore Lyons, "The Transnational Networks and Localized Campaigns: the Women's Movement in Singapore," in Mina Roces and Louise Edwards, *Women's Movements in Asia: Feminisms and Transnational Activism*, (London: Routledge, 2010), pp. 75-89. (On eLearn)

*****Book Review Due Monday February 6th*****

WEEK 6 (February 13-19) Political Institutions: Parliaments to Courts

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

Required Reading:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science. 10th Edition.* (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011), Chapter 6 and Chapter 7, pp. 183-202 (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 eLearn)

*****First Think Piece Due, February 13th*****

WEEK 7 (February 20-26) Political Identity and Nationalism

Thematic Questions: How does political identity evolve and impact politics?

Required Reading:

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

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

Nathan Glazer. "Democracy and Deep Divides," *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 21, Number 2, (April) 2010. (Link)

http://muse.jhu.edu.libproxy.smu.edu.sg/journals/journal_of_democracy/toc/jod.21.2.html

WEEK 8 (February 27-March 4th) Midterm Break. No Class

WEEK 9 (March 5 -March 12) Political Economy & Development

Thematic Questions: How does politics affect the economy and visa versa? Why are some countries more economically developed than others?

Required Reading:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science. 10th Edition.* (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011), Chapters 8, 13, 14, 15. (Course Text)

Alan Thomas. "Meaning and Views of Development," in Tim Allen and Alan Thomas. (eds.) *Poverty and Development into the 21st Century.* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 23-48. (On eLearn)

*****2nd Think Piece Due, March 12th*****

WEEK 10 (March 12-18) Human Rights

Thematic Question: What are human rights and human rights problems?

Required Reading:

Jack Donnelly. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*. 2nd Edition. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2003), pp. 7-21. (On eLearn)

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 eLearn)

Human Rights Watch. "'They Deceived Us at Every Step: Abuse of Cambodia Domestic Workers in Malaysia'" October 30, 2011. (Link) Read summary and skim report. <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/cambodia1111webwcover.pdf>

WEEK 11 (March 19-25) Conflict and Violence

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

Required Reading:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 10th Edition. (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011), Chapter 12. (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 eLearn)

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

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

WEEK 12 (March 26-April 2) International Cooperation and War

Thematic Question: Why do states cooperate and how?

Required Reading:

James N. Danziger. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 10th Edition. (New York: Longman Pearson, 2011), Chapter 11. (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://libproxy.smu.edu.sg/login?url=http://search.proquest.com.libproxy.smu.edu.sg/docview/214423350/fulltextPDF?accountid=28662>

Hans Morgenthau. "Chapter 1: A Realist Theory of International Politics," *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. (Boston: McGraw Hill, 1992 (1948)), pp. 3-16. (On eLearn)

*****OPTIONAL 3rd Think Piece Due, March 30th*****

WEEK 13 (April 3- 9) Group Presentations

*****All In-Class Groups Presentations*****

WEEK 14 (April 10-16) Reading Period

WEEK 15 (April 17-24) Final Examinations

*****Final Examination, April 24th, 1-4pm*****