

Dr. Zhang  
Office: SO305  
Wed. 11:30-12:30, 2:00-4:00  
Thur. 2:00-3:00

## **Introduction to Political Science**

<b>Course Code:</b>	POL 101
<b>Recommended Study Year:</b>	First Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term:</b>	3
<b>Mode of Tuition:</b>	Lecture-Tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours:</b>	3
<b>Category in Major Program:</b>	Required Course
<b>Discipline:</b>	Political Science
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	None

### **Course Description:**

This course is a general survey of political science. Students are not required to have any background in the field. In fact, the course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts in political science. POL101 is an important course by providing the foundation for future studies in the field.

### **Aims of the Course:**

The course aims to introduce students to the basic concepts in the study of politics. It intends to promote students' appreciation of the role of politics in daily life and why it is important to get involved in the political process of the government.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Students should be able to critically analyze political processes and events. They are also expected to be able to evaluate various political ideologies and forms of government.

### **Teaching Method:**

This course consists of lectures and tutorials. You are advised to complete required readings before attending the lectures.

### **Assessment:**

You are required to make a presentation and participate in tutorial discussions. Your final grade will be determined by the following: attendance (10%); tutorial presentation and class participation (20%); mid-term exam (20%); and final exam (50%).

### **Required Reading** (on reserve in the library)

Roskin, Michael G., R. L. Cord, J. A. Medeiros and W. S. Jones. 2008. 10th ed. *Political Science: An Introduction*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.

**Supplementary Readings** (on reserve in the library)

Lawson, Kay. 1997. 4th ed. *The Human Polity: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Shively, W. Phillips. 2005. *Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Zeigler, Harmon. 1990. *The Political Community: A Comparative Introduction to Political Systems and Society*. London: Longman.

Clark, Ian. 1999. *Globalization and International Relations Theory*. London: Oxford.

**Course Topics:**

Sept 2 Why Do We Study Politics and What Can You Do with It?

Sept 9 Nations, States, and Governments (Roskin, ch. 3)

Sept. 16 Roles and Functions of Governments (Shively, chs. 4 and 5, pp. 100-114)

Sept 23 Political Ideologies (Roskin, ch. 6; Lawson, ch. 3)

Sept 30 Political Ideologies (Roskin, ch. 6; Lawson, ch. 3)

Oct 14 Political Socialization and Political Culture (Roskin, ch. 7; Lawson, ch. 5)

Oct 28 Mid-term exam

Nov 4 Types of Regimes: Democracies (Roskin, ch. 5, pp. 73-83; ch. 14, pp. 256-265)

Nov 11. None Democratic Regimes (Roskin, ch. 5, pp. 83-91; Zeigler, ch, 7)

Nov 18 Political Processes: Interest Groups and Political Parties (Roskin, chs. 10, 11)

Nov 25 Political Processes: Public Opinion and Elections (Roskin, chs. 8, 12)

Dec. 2 International Politics (Roskin, chs. 20, 21)

## **Tutorial Topics**

All students are required to give one presentation during a tutorial session. You should be able to clearly analyze the issue and give critical assessment. Moreover, you need to base your analysis on concrete examples from the real world. The presentation, often by two or even three students as a team, should be about 20-25 minutes long. During the tutorials in which you are not giving a presentation, you are expected to ask questions and make informed comments.

### **Sept 11 and 12**

Nations and states are often incompatible and this results in political conflicts and instability. Provide a few examples of countries that have recently experienced this problem. What can be done to resolve the conflicts arising from nation-state incompatibility?

### **Sept 18 and 19**

Governments are supposed to perform many functions. Is Hong Kong government doing a good job in different aspects? How do you evaluate the overall government performance here?

### **Sept 25 and 26**

What are the main ideas of liberalism? What is the dominant ideology in Hong Kong today? Which ideology do you think best fit Hong Kong?

### **Oct 2 and 3**

What is communism? Why did it fail as an ideology? Do you think China today is a communist country?

### **Oct 16 and 17**

What are the main differences between political cultures of the East and the West? What do you think characterize the political culture in Hong Kong?

### **Nov 6 and 7**

Can democracy be applied in different cultures? Is it the best political system? Will a democracy work in Hong Kong?

### **Nov 13 and 14**

How do you classify China's authoritarian government? Has China become more democratic in recent decades? Is it ready to become a democracy?

**Nov 20 and 21**

What are the main political parties and interest groups in Hong Kong? Do they have any roles to play in Hong Kong's political processes? Which of these parties or interest groups do you support and why?

**Nov 27 and 28**

Analyze the most recent elections in Hong Kong. What did they tell about Hong Kong politics? When will Hong Kong have direct elections for both the chief executive and the entire Legislative Council?

**April 21 and 23**

What are the differences between domestic and international politics? What are the main issues that face the world community today?

**April 28 and 30**

Has Hong Kong benefited from globalization? Who have gained from globalization? Who are victims of globalization? How should Hong Kong compete in the age of globalization?