

Dr. Zhang
Office: SO305
Tue 2:30-4:30
Fri 3:30-5:30

Introduction to Political Science

Course Code:	POL 101
Recommended Study Year:	First Year
No. of Credits/Term:	3
Mode of Tuition:	Lecture-Tutorial
Class Contact Hours:	3
Category in Major Program:	Required Course
Discipline:	Political Science
Prerequisite:	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%).

Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. Cheating in examination, plagiarism and multiple submission of course work are considered as such dishonest practices.

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.

Snarr, Michael. 2005. *Introducing Global Issues*. London: Lynne Rienner.

Topics:

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| Sept 4 | Why should you study politics and what can you do with it? |
| Sept 11 | Nations, States, and Governments (Roskin, ch. 3) |
| Sept 18 | Roles and Functions of Governments (Shively, chs. 4 and 5, pp. 100-114) |
| Sept 25 | Political Ideologies (Roskin, ch. 6; Lawson, ch. 3) |
| Oct 2 | Political Ideologies (Roskin, ch. 6; Lawson, ch. 3) |
| Oct 9 | Political Culture and Socialization (Roskin, ch. 7; Lawson, ch. 5) |
| Oct 16 | Mid-term exam |
| Oct. 23 | International Politics (Roskin, chs. 20, 21) |
| Oct 30 | Globalization (Clark, chs, 1, 2) |
| Nov 6 | Terrorism, Environmental Issues, Nuclear Threat (Snarr, chs. 1, 5, 14) |
| Nov 13 | Types of Governments: Democracies (Roskin, ch, 5, pp. 73-83; ch. 14, pp. 256-265) |

Nov 20	None Democratic Governments (Roskin, ch. 5, pp. 83-91; Zeigler, ch, 7)
Nov 27	Political Processes: Interest Groups and Parties (Roskin, chs. 10, 11)
Dec 4	Political Processes: Public Opinion and Elections (Roskin, chs. 8, 12)

Tutorial Topics

All students are required to give one presentation during a tutorial session. You should analyze the issues and give critical assessment. Moreover, you need to base your analysis on concrete examples from the real world. The presentation should be 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 on others' presentations.

Sept 14, 16 and 17

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 do you think are the causes of the recent ethnic riot in Xinjiang? What do you think can be done to prevent further rise of nationalism in Xinjiang?

Sept 21 23 and 24

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?

Oct 5, 7 and 8

Why did Communism fail as an ideology? Do you think China today is a communist or socialist country?

Oct 12, 14 and 15

What do you think characterize the political culture in Hong Kong? Does Hong Kong have a Westernized political culture? Or do you think Hong Kong's people display key features of a Confucian society?

Nov 2, 4 and 5

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

Nov 9, 11 and 12

Global warming is a big challenge to the world. Should developing countries like China slow down their economic development in order to reverse global warming? Is China willing to do so?

Nov 16, 18, 19

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

Nov 23, 25 and 26

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

Nov 30, Dec 2 and 3

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