

**Lingnan University**  
**Department of Political Science**  
POL2101 Introduction to Political Science  
Course Schedule and Reading List  
Term 1, 2017-18

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Office: Room 315, 3/F, Dorothy Y L Wong Building  
Office Hours: Tuesday: 15:30-17:20  
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**Course Description:** This course is a general survey of the field of political science. It is designed to acquaint students with the basic concepts, institutions, processes and issues of modern politics and government, with emphasis on their relevance to our daily life.

**Learning Outcomes:** After completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. understand political issues in a systemic way;
2. critically analyze political processes and evaluate events in local, national and international politics;
3. compare and contrast various political ideologies and forms of government and governance; and
4. communicate political ideas clearly and effectively.

**Assessments:** Students will be assessed in the following three ways:

1. tutorial performance (30%): presentation - 16%; comments - 8%; and discussion - 6%;
2. mid-term test (20%); and
3. written examination (50%).

## References

- Axford, Barrie, Gary K. Browning, Richard Huggins, Ben Rosamond, with Alan Grant and John Tuner. 2002. *Politics: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. London & New York: Routledge.
- Balbus, Isaac D. 2010. *Governing Subjects: An Introduction to the Study of Politics*. New York & London: Routledge.
- Ball, Alan R. and B. Guy Peters. 2005. *Modern Politics and Government*. 7th ed. Basingstoke & New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Danziger, James N. 2016. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 12th ed. Boston: Pearson.
- Ethridge, Marcus E. and Howard Handelman. 2013. *Politics in a Changing World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 6th ed. Boston, MA: Wadsworth.

- Garner, Robert, Peter Ferdinand and Stephanie Lawson. 2016. *Introduction to Politics*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lawson, Kay. 2003. *The Human Polity: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 5th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- Ranney, Austin. 2001. *Governing: An Introduction to Political Science*. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
- Roskin, Michael G., Robert L. Cord, James A. Medeiros and Walter S. Jones. 2014. *Political Science: An Introduction*. 13th ed. Boston: Pearson.
- Shively, W. Phillips. 2014. *Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. 14th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

## **Indicative Schedule and Readings**

### **5 September 2017**

Housekeeping week

### **12 & 19 September 2017**

1. The Study of Politics
  - What is politics?
  - Nation-state and government
  - Some basic concepts

Axford et al., *Politics*, chap. 1.  
 Balbus, *Governing Subjects*, chaps. 15 & 16.  
 Ball and Peters, *Modern Politics and Government*, chaps. 1 & 2.  
 Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chaps. 1 & 5.  
 Ethridge and Handelman, *Politics in a Changing World*, chap. 1.  
 Garner, Ferdinand and Lawson, *Introduction to Politics*, chaps. 1-4 & 7.  
 Lawson, *The Human Polity*, chap. 1.  
 Ranney, *Governing*, chaps. 1 & 2.  
 Roskin et al., *Political Science*, chaps. 1, 2 & 4-6.  
 Shively, *Power & Choice*, chaps. 1 & 3-6.

### **26 September & 3 October 2017**

2. Major Political Ideologies
  - Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Nationalism, and Fascism

Axford et al., *Politics*, chaps. 7 & 8.  
 Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chap. 2.  
 Ethridge and Handelman, *Politics in a Changing World*, chap. 2.  
 Garner, Ferdinand and Lawson, *Introduction to Politics*, chaps. 5 & 6.

Lawson, *The Human Polity*, chap. 2.  
Ranney, *Governing*, chaps. 4 & 5.  
Roskin et al., *Political Science*, chap. 3.  
Shively, *Power & Choice*, chap. 2.

### **10 & 17 October 2017**

#### 3. Political Socialization and Political Culture

- Political beliefs and values
- Agents of socialization
- Types of political culture

Axford et al., *Politics*, chaps. 2 & 3.  
Balbus, *Governing Subjects*, chaps. 17-24.  
Ball and Peters, *Modern Politics and Government*, chap. 4.  
Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chaps. 2 & 4.  
Ethridge and Handelman, *Politics in a Changing World*, chap. 3.  
Lawson, *The Human Polity*, chap. 3.  
Ranney, *Governing*, chap. 3.  
Roskin et al., *Political Science*, chap. 7.  
Shively, *Power & Choice*, chap. 8.

### **24 & 31 October 2017**

#### 4. Political Institutions and Processes

- Branches of government
- Separation of powers and fusion of powers
- Check and balance
- Democratic and authoritarian systems

Axford et al., *Politics*, chaps. 5, 9 & 10.  
Balbus, *Governing Subjects*, chaps. 1-5.  
Ball and Peters, *Modern Politics and Government*, chaps. 3 & 9-13.  
Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chaps. 5-7.  
Ethridge and Handelman, *Politics in a Changing World*, chaps. 7-9.  
Garner, Ferdinand and Lawson, *Introduction to Politics*, chaps. 8, 9, 11 & 13.  
Lawson, *The Human Polity*, chaps. 8, 9, 11 & 12.  
Ranney, *Governing*, chaps. 11-14.  
Roskin et al., *Political Science*, chaps. 13-15.  
Shively, *Power & Choice*, chaps. 7, 9, 14-17.

### **7 & 14 November 2017**

#### 5. Political Interactions

- Political opinion and mass media
- Interest groups
- Political parties and party systems
- Elections and voting behaviours

Axford et al., *Politics*, chaps. 11 & 12.  
Balbus, *Governing Subjects*, chaps. 6 & 7.  
Ball and Peters, *Modern Politics and Government*, chaps. 6-8.  
Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chaps. 3 & 9.  
Ethridge and Handelman, *Politics in a Changing World*, chaps. 4-6.  
Garner, Ferdinand and Lawson, *Introduction to Politics*, chaps. 9, 10 & 12.  
Lawson, *The Human Polity*, chaps. 4-6.  
Ranney, *Governing*, chaps. 6-10.  
Roskin et al., *Political Science*, chaps. 9-12.  
Shively, *Power & Choice*, chaps. 10-13.

## **21 & 28 November 2017**

### 6. Global Politics

Sovereign states and non-state actors  
Conflicts and international cooperation  
The end of Cold War?

Axford et al., *Politics*, chaps. 14 & 15.  
Ball and Peters, *Modern Politics and Government*, chap. 5.  
Danziger, *Understanding the Political World*, chaps. 11 & 13-15.  
Ethridge and Handelman, *Politics in a Changing World*, chaps. 16 & 17.  
Garner, Ferdinand and Lawson, *Introduction to Politics*, chaps. 14-20.  
Lawson, *The Human Polity*, chaps. 7, 13 & 14.  
Ranney, *Governing*, chaps. 17-19.  
Roskin et al., *Political Science*, chap. 18.  
Shively, *Power & Choice*, chap. 18.

### **Important Notes:**

1. Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
2. Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
3. Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
4. To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.