

**Lingnan University**  
**Department of Political Science**  
POL2101 Introduction to Political Science  
Course Schedule and Reading List  
Term 1, 2019-20

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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 - 14%; comments - 6%; and participation - 10%;
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. and Charles Anthony Smith. 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**

### **4 September 2019**

Housekeeping week

### **11 & 18 September 2019**

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 and Smith, *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.

### **25 September & 2 October 2019**

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

Axford et al., *Politics*, chaps. 7 & 8.  
 Danziger and Smith, *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.

### **9 & 16 October 2019**

#### **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 and Smith, *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.

### **23 & 30 October 2019**

#### **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 and Smith, *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.

### **6 & 13 November 2019**

#### **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 and Smith, *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.

## **20 & 27 November 2019**

### **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 and Smith, *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/>.

## **Rubric for Assessments**

<b>Assessments (% of total)</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Failure</b>
<b>Presentation</b>  <b>(14%)</b>	Excellent understanding of key concepts, excellent analysis, and fluent presentation  80-100 marks	Good understanding of key concepts, good analysis, and good presentation  65-79 marks	Adequate understanding of key concepts, fair analysis, and clear presentation  50-64 marks	Barely adequate understanding of key concepts, fair analysis, and less clear presentation  40-49 marks	Poor understanding of key concepts, poor analysis, and poor presentation  0-39 marks
<b>Comments</b>  <b>(6%)</b>	Nearly all inadequacies of the Presentation identified with excellent supplementary  80-100 marks	Many inadequacies of the Presentation identified with good supplementary  65-79 marks	A few inadequacies of the Presentation identified with fair supplementary  50-64 marks	Only a couple of inadequacies of the Presentation identified with poor supplementary  40-49 marks	Nearly no inadequacies of the Presentation identified with poor supplementary  0-39 marks
<b>Participation</b>  <b>(10%)</b>	Active participation in group discussion  80-100 marks	Satisfactory participation in group discussion  65-79 marks	Unsatisfactory participation in group discussion  50-64 marks	Poor participation in group discussion  40-49 marks	Nearly no participation in group discussion  0-39 marks
<b>Mid-term Test</b>  <b>(20%)</b>	Excellent understanding of the multiple-choice questions being tested  80-100 marks	Good understanding of the multiple-choice questions being tested  65-79 marks	Adequate understanding of the multiple-choice questions being tested  50-64 marks	Barely adequate understanding of the multiple-choice questions being tested  40-49 marks	Poor understanding of the multiple-choice questions being tested  0-39 marks
<b>Written Examination</b>  <b>(50%)</b>	Nearly all issues identified in each question attempted and excellent answers provided  80-100 marks	Many issues identified in each question attempted and good answers provided  65-79 marks	A few issues identified in each question attempted and fair answers provided  50-64 marks	Only a couple of issues identified in each question attempted and fair answers provided  40-49 marks	Nearly no issues identified in each question attempted and poor answers provided  0-39 marks