

Introduction to Political Science

POLS2101
Dr. Baogang Guo
Department of Social Sciences

Office Hours: TR: 8:10-10:50; 13:00-13:40; 16:00-16:40
Wed. 17:00-18:00
Tel: (706) 272-2678

Office Location: LIA 260
Classroom: LIA 313
E-mail: bguo@daltonstate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Aristotle said politics was the ‘Master Science’: the door through which lay an understanding of all other subjects. This course will introduce to you to the nature and study of politics, which includes an examination of the basic concepts of the discipline, such as law, government and the state. Attention is also given to the various institutions and processes of government and politics through which law and policy are made. More specifically, three main sub-divisions of political science, namely, political philosophy, comparative politics, and international relations, will be examined in details. We will study concepts such as human nature, power, community, the state, citizenship, rights, authority, legitimacy, freedom, equality, democracy, ideology and justice.

SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISIONAL GOAL STATEMENT: The Division of Social Science assists students in developing an ability to acquire data, understand relationships, process information, draw conclusions, and critically evaluate issues related to the society and culture of the United States, both internally and externally.

SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION’S INTENDED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of course content acquired through listening, reading, research and use of electronic media.
2. Students will be able to utilize frameworks, models and concepts appropriate to social science disciplines in order to analyze human behavior and social institutions.
3. Students will be able to comprehend major forces, events, influences and ideas that have shaped history and society..
4. Students will be able to analyze and understand different perspectives on issues and recognize viewpoints other than their own.

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2101 INTENDED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will articulate understandings of course materials acquired through listening, reading, graphics, experiments, computations, and electronic media.
2. Students will articulate and analyze issues from different perspectives and be opened to

viewpoints other than their own.

3. Students will analyze political institutions and political behavior using disciplinary frameworks.
4. Students will have an awareness of major approach to the study of politics.
5. Students will improve their awareness of public affairs and a responsible citizenry.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to: (1) attend and actively participate in class and class discussion; (2) read assigned texts and being prepared; (3) complete all assignments; (4) take all exams, tests and quizzes; and (5) participate in a *base group* and its activities.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Douglas A. Van Belle & Kenneth M. Mash, *A Novel Approach to Politics* (Washington D.C.: CQ Press,

2007. Textbook web sites: <http://www.cqpress.com/cs/novel/>; <http://www.politics-in-fiction.com/>

Additional reading materials will be announced or given in class.

STUDENT EVALUATION: Students will be evaluated fairly based on both *objective* and *subjective* assessment instruments.

- The *objective* assessment is made of **two** exams (30 % each and 60 % of total grade), and a number of small quizzes (10% of total grade). The lectures and principal readings constitute the main knowledge base for these examinations and quizzes. These exams will be mostly multiple-choice and true/false questions.
- The *subjective* assessment consists of two debates (10% each) and one country report and presentation (10%). The debate presentation will be based on selective topics given to you by the instructor.

Summary of Student Evaluation

Items	Possible Scores	My Score
Exams (2)	60%	
Quizzes	10%	
Debates (2)	20%	
Report (1)	10%	
Total	100%	= _____

Letter Grade: **A**=100-90 **B**=89-80 **C**=79-70 **D**=69-60

EXTRA CREDITS (up to 10%) There are many excellent movies and videos you can view on you own in the library. You can watch a video from a video list given to the class or any other educational videos that are related to the current lecture topics. You need to select the videos

based on the subject that are relevant to current lectures. Each one-hour long video can give you one point, depending on the length of the tape and the quality of your report.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: To deter unexcused absences or tardiness, an attendance sheet will be circulated periodically. In class assignment will be given to facilitate cooperative learning and independent studies. Only three absences are allowed. An absence thereafter and for whatever reason will be given 1 to 3 points deduction from the final score a student has earned (depends on if an in-class exercise is given). I have the discretion to reward people who have a perfect attendance.

Example 1: Student A has an accumulation of 82 points, but has 5 recorded absences. In one absented class, a 2-point in-class exercise is given to the class. 3 of the absences are forgiven. But he/she loses 3 attendance points. Her final score will be 79 or a C.

Example 2: Student B has attended all classes and completed all in-class exercises. Even his final score is 79, he is rewarded with a bonus point and receives a B.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT: In this class *cooperative learning* will be used to (1) ensure active cognitive processing during a lecture (*informal learning groups*), (2) provide long term support and assistance for academic progress (*base groups*), and (3) promote critical thinking and high-level reasoning (*group controversy exercises*).

ACCESS STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with disabilities are invited to contact the Academic and Career Enhancement (ACE) Center of Dalton State College to request reasonable accommodations for academic programs and other activities of Dalton State College. Students are encouraged to contact the ACE Center as soon as possible and to make an appointment with Disability Support Services (DSS) staff to begin the process of qualifying for accommodations. Professional documentation must be provided that explains and verifies the disability and resulting limitations before DSS Services and accommodations can be utilized. Once documentation is provided, students must allow adequate time for assessment of documentation and implementation of approved accommodations. For additional information, please contact: Mary Andrews, ACE Center - Disability Support Services, Lower Level, Pope Student Center, 650 College Drive, Dalton, GA 30720, 706-272-4429. **Students who are unable to come to the ACE Center to request accommodations for a disability should call 706-272-4429. Students who are unable to come to the instructor's office or access any facility utilized by this course, should call the instructor at (phone number) for assistance.**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT: If a student receiving aid administered the DSC Workforce Development Department drops this class or complete withdrew from the College, the Add-drop/Withdrawal form must be taken to the Workforce Development Office first. The office is located in the Technical Education Building, Room 140 and their hours are 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon on Friday. Their phone number is 272-2635.

DROP/WITHDRAWAL STATEMENT: The last day to drop this class without penalty is Tuesday March 18. You will be assigned a grade of **WP**. After this date, withdrawal without penalty is permitted only in cases of extreme hardship as determined by the Vice President for Academic Affairs; otherwise a grade of **WF** will be issued. Students who wish to drop this class or withdraw from all classes should go

to the Enrollment Services Office in Westcott Hall to complete the necessary form. Students who fail to complete the official drop/withdrawal procedure will receive the grade of **F**. **Withdrawal from class is a student responsibility**. Before dropping any class, the College strongly advises that students meet with their academic advisor and their instructor to discuss the impact of a withdrawal on their graduation plans.

The College also strongly advises students who are receiving any type of financial aid to visit the Financial Aid Office in Pop Student Center to discuss the impact a withdrawal may have on their financial aid status. The grade of **W** counts as hours attempted for the purposes of financial aid.

PROFESSIONALISM: Professional behavior is required and expected in accordance with the College's policy. Plagiarism or cheating will result in an "F" grade for this class, and may also lead to expulsion from the College.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

<i>Part</i>	<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Lecture Topics</i>	<i>Activities & Dates</i>
Constitutional Fundamentals	Jan. 8, 10 & 15	Study of Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: textbook, Ch.1 Politinfo.com http://www.politinfo.com/ 	Base Group
	Jan. 17, 22, 24, 29 & 31	Political Philosophy: What is a Good Government? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: textbook, Ch.2, • <u>On-line Supplement</u>: http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/thought.htm • 	Video 1st debate : "Which presidential candidate is good for America?" Feb. 5
	Feb. 7 & 12	Logics of Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: textbook, Ch. 3-4 • <u>Research Methods</u>: http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/ 	
	Feb., 14, 19, 21, 26 & 28	Government and the Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: textbook, Ch. 5 • <u>Supplement</u>: http://www.answers.com/topic/government-and-the-economy 	Exam One: Feb. 28 (cover Ch. 1-5)

Structures and Institutions	Mar. 11 & 13	Structure and Institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: textbook, Ch. 6 • <u>On-line Supplement</u>: http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/area.htm 	Spring Break
	Mar. 18 & 20	Presidential or Parliamentary Government? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: textbook, Ch. 7-8 • <u>Supplement</u>: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system 	Video Country Report and Presentation
	Mar. 25 & 27	The Judiciary: Do Judges in all Countries Exercise Judicial Review? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: textbook, Ch. 9 • <u>Supplement</u>: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judicial_review 	Country Report and Presentation
World Politics	Apr. 3, 8, 10 & 15	Building Blocks of Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: textbook, Ch. 10 • <u>Supplement</u>: http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/election.htm • http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/parties.htm 	Video 2nd debate : "Is China a threat?" (April 10)
	Apr. 17, 22 & 24	The World Around Us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: textbook, Ch. 12 • <u>Supplement</u>: Encyclopedia Britannica on-line articles • 	Exam Two: April 24

Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jan. 21. Martin Luther King's Holiday• Spring break Monday Mar. 3- Sunday, Mar. 9• Last day to withdraw from A session class is Tuesday, March 18• Last day of class for American Government class, Thursday, Apr. 24.
--------------	---