

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Arts and Sciences
Department of History and Government

GOVT 130: Introduction to Political Science (Sections 001 & 002) **3 Credits**

FALL 2011

Instructor: Dr. William B. Lewis

Contact Phone: (301) 860-3602

Schedule: MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.

Office Bldg.: MLK, Room 0202

Office Hours: Mon. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 pm, 1:00-4:00 pm **E-Mail Address:** wlewis@bowiestate.edu

Wed. 1:00 -3:00 p.m.

Fri. 1:00-3:00 p.m.

I. **COURSE PREREQUISITES:** none

II. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to the basic concepts, theories, and perennial issues of the discipline.

III. **REQUIRED TEXT**

Ethridge, Marcus E. and Howard Handelman, eds. *Politics in a Changing World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science* (5th ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth, 2010.

RECOMMENDED/SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS

Grigsby, Ellen. *Analyzing Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth, 2009.

Roskin, Michael G. et al. *Political Science: An Introduction*. 9th ed. NY: Prentice Hall: 2008.

Shively, Philips W. *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. 11th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 2008.

Additional reading assignments may be placed on library reserve.

IV. **EMERGING ISSUES:** Students will examine the politics of global warming and its impact on the human race.

V. **GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES (WITH CORRESPONDING LEARNING OBJECTIVES):**

1. **Written and Oral Communication**

- a) Write essays designed to demonstrate familiarity with the literature (1, 2, 3& 4); and
- b) Give an oral presentation of the contributions of selected (political) philosophers and theorists to the development of conservatism, liberalism, socialism, fascism (1& 2).

2. **Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning**

- a) Evaluate facts and data on assignments, including term papers (5 & 6); and
- b) Examine how scientific methods can be applied to the study of political science (5 & 6).

3. **Critical Analysis and Reasoning**

- a) Develop term papers that evaluate facts and opinions in the area of political science (5 & 6); and
- b) Apply critical thinking and analytical reasoning in developing quality terms papers (5).

4. **Technology Competency**

- a) Use the internet to locate materials via BSU Online pertaining to the course (6); and
- b) Use the library software to identify relevant resources for course assignments (6).

5. **Information Literacy**

- a) Use of library to locate and access information from the University Consortium (6); and
- b) Select appropriate materials for assignments (5 & 6).

VI. **STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** After completing this course, students should be able to:

- 1. Define the basic concepts and themes of political science such as: politics, power, authority, freedom, equality, justice, political socialization, interest groups;
- 2. Discuss the nature of political ideologies such as conservatism, liberalism, socialism, and fascism;

3. Distinguish the motives for political participation and party politics;
4. Identify the dynamics of international politics;
5. Use the requisite skills for research in political science; and
6. Demonstrate the knowledge in the use of technology and library resources.

VII. **STUDENTS EXPECTED OUTCOMES:** Students will be required to complete:

1. Three unit examinations on key terms and concepts [GENED 1(a), 3(b)]
2. A research paper to demonstrate an understanding of the key political science concepts and terms [GENED 1(a), 2(a), 3(a), 3(b), 4(a), 5(a)]
3. A comprehensive final examination designed to evaluate an understanding of the subject [GENED 1(a), 2(a), 3(a), 3(b)]

VIII. **KNOWLEDGE BASES:**

- Understand key concepts of politics: power, best political order, leadership and governing.
- Critical examination of the political world in which we live.

IX. **CURRICULUM THEMES**

- Academic Scholar (Objective 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
- Effective Practitioner (objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Technological Application (Objective 6)
- Multiple Forms of Assessment (objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
- Multicultural and Global Perspectives (objective 1, 2, 4)
- Special Population Perspectives (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Reflective Practitioner (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Personal and Interpersonal Perspectives (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5)

X. **INSTRUCTIONAL MODES:** Methods and activities for the course include:

- class discussions based on assigned pertinent readings;
- lectures and videos that aim to illuminate the major themes raised in the readings; and
- writing exercises, especially keeping a journal of readings.

XI. **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS**

A. Short Paper Assignment:

1. Students will be required to write a short paper.

Topic: “Is Political Science a Science?”

Due Date: October 24, 2011 (No extensions)

Note: Final copies of term papers will not be accepted after October 24, 2011

2. Each paper must be three pages long (excluding bibliography page); typed with double-spacing.
3. A minimum of three reference sources is required, excluding Internet sources.
4. You are required to submit draft outlines for the Professor's review.
5. Papers will be evaluated as follows:
 - a. Statement of thesis (clarity).....10%
 - b. Organization & coherence.....20%
 - c. Critical Thinking & Analysis.....50%
 - d. Use of references.....10%
 - e. Citations' Format.....10%

Total = 100%

Plagiarism: Any plagiarism will result in an 'F' for the course. This includes copying material from the internet without proper notations.

For direct quotation from any web page, always use quotations marks or indented block with complete URL (web address). For paraphrase or use of ideas, include only the URL.

C. **JOURNAL:** Students will maintain a journal consisting of short summaries of reading assignments which will be evaluated twice during the semester. The journal entries should attempt to clearly identify the author's main concepts, and ideas and your evaluation of each reading. Past experience indicates that, if done properly, this exercise will definitely help in test-taking as well as improve one's general understanding of the content areas. It must be typed and the due dates are: **October 21, 2011 (for review) and November 18, 2011 (final copy).**

Note: Final copies of journals will not be accepted after November 18, 2011.

D. EXAMINATIONS:

1. Students will be given three unit examinations. The lowest unit score will be dropped in the computation of the final grade.
2. Students will be required to take the final examination.
3. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled.

E. Grading Scale and Distribution of Percentages

a. First Unit Exam.....	20%
b. Second Unit Exam.....	20%
c. Final Exam.....	20%
d. Short Paper.....	15%
e. Class Participation.....	10%
f. Journal.....	15%
Total =	100%

Note: The letter grades will conform to the following scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 =B; 70-79 =C; 60-69 =D; and Below 60 =F.

F. The examinations will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer questions and essay questions. They will cover the lectures, reading assignments, and class handouts. The final examination will be comprehensive. **THE FINAL EXAM MAY ONLY BE TAKEN ON THE DATES AND TIMES LISTED FOR EACH CLASS AS PUBLISHED IN THE FALL 2011 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES.**

G. All exams and assignments will be taken or handed in as scheduled. Failure to do so will result in zero points earned for the exercise; therefore, except in the most extreme circumstances, (death in family, child birth, auto accident, hospitalization) there will be no make-up. An INCOMPLETE (I) grade will rarely be given and only in cases where the student is doing passing work and has a valid excuse (distress or illness). Please contact the professor prior to an exam in case of an emergency/illness which would be a cause for an official excuse from the DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. However, the final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

H. Students are expected to maintain regular and punctual attendance; there will be a roll call at the beginning of each class session. Therefore excessive tardiness or unexcused absences will not be tolerated; any such documented absences may negatively impact on the final letter grade. In any case, the University's rule states that "a student may be advised by the instructor to withdraw from a course for excessive absences. Five (5) or more hours of unexcused absences before the final date for withdrawal may result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course".

I. Finally, the instructor reserves the right to modify the organization of the course content, and may adjust the grading scale in the computation of the final grades.

XI. COURSE OUTLINE

A. INTRODUCTION:

- Review of course

WEEKS 1-2:

B. POLITICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

- Politics and Government
- Kinds of Government
- Politics in a Changing World

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 1, “Politics, Government, and Political Science” (**Required**)
- W. Philips Shively, Chapter 1, “Politics: Setting the Stage” (**Recommended**)
- Internet sources & Other Links:

Political Science as a scientific, academic discipline (APSA): <http://www.aspsanet.org>
 The National Science Foundation: <http://www.nsg.gov>.

WEEKS 3-4:

C. POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES:

- Definition of Political Ideology
- Types of Ideologies: conservatism, liberalism, socialism and fascism
- Islamic Fundamentalism
- Anarchism

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 2, “Ideologies: Images of Political Life” (**Required**)
- Roskin, Michael et al., “Political ideologies” (Chapter 6) (**Recommended**)
- Internet sources:
 - The Marxism Leninism project
<http://www.idbsu.edu/surveyrc/staff/joynes/marxism/marxism.htm>
 - Liberalism Democratic Party
<http://www.democrats.org>

- Conservatism: Republican Party
<http://www.rnc.org>
- Socialism – Democratic Socialists of America
<http://www.dsausa.org/dsa.html>

First Unit Exam: September 14, 2011

WEEK 5

D. POLITICAL CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION

- Definition of concepts: political culture and political socialization
- Agents of Political Socialization: family, schools, peers, and news media
- Classifying Political Cultures
- The Evolution of Political Cultures

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 3, “Political Culture and Socialization” (**Required**)
- Slann, M. “Political Culture” in *Introduction to Politics* (Chapter 3) (**Recommended**)

WEEK 6

E. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- Public Opinion and Voting Choice
- Voter Turnout
- The Electoral Process and Campaign Money
- Public Opinion Polling

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 4, “Public Opinion and Elections” (**Required**)
- Internet Source

- The Gallup Organization
<http://www.gallup.com>

WEEK 7

F. POLITICAL PARTIES

- Definition and Functions of Political Parties

- The Origins of Political Parties
- Party Systems
- Types of Political Parties

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 5, “Political Parties” (**Required**)
- Shively, “Structured Conflict: Interest Groups & Politics” (Chapter 12) (**Recommended**)
- Internet Source: <http://www.politics.com/parties/ht>,

WEEK 8

G. INTEREST GROUPS

- Definition of Interest Groups
- The Power of Interest Groups
- The Growth of Interest Groups
- How Interest Groups are Formed

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 6, “Interest Groups” (**Required**)
- Shively, Chapter 12, “Structured Conflict: Interest Groups & Parties” (**Recommended**)

SECOND UNIT EXAM: October 19, 2011

WEEK 9

H. LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS

- Lawmaking
- Legislatures: Features, Functions & Structures
- Representation
- Party Responsibility and Legislative Behavior

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 7, “Legislative Institutions” (**Required**)
- Roskin, Michael et al., Chapter 14, “Legislatures” (**Recommended**)
- Internet Source: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/lawsmade.tuc.html>

WEEK 10**I. EXECUTIVE INSTITUTIONS**

- The Functions of Executive Institutions
- Kinds of Executive Institutions
- Limits on Executive Powers

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 8, “Executive Institutions and Political leadership” (**Required**)
- Internet Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov>.

WEEK 11**J. JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS**

- Judicial Functions
- Justice and the Political System
- Kinds of Law
- Judicial Institutions

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 9, “Judicial Institutions” (**Required**)
- Internet Source: <http://www.findlaw.com/case.code/supreme.html>

THIRD UNIT EXAM: November 16, 2011**WEEK 12****K. BUREAUCRATIC INSTITUTIONS**

- Definition of Bureaucracy
- Bureaucratic Functions
- The growth of Bureaucracy
- Bureaucracy & Democracy

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 10, “Bureaucratic Institutions” (Required)
- Internet Source: <http://www.opm.gov>

WEEK 13

L. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- International Relations versus Domestic Politics
- Idealists versus Realists
- War and International Relations
- Foreign Policy Decision Making
- International Law and Organizations

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 17, “Approaches to International Relations” (**Required**)
- Internet Sources: <http://www.isanet.org>

Week 14

J. FUTURE CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- Climate Change and Public Policy Responses
- Resource Conservation
- Health Care
- Immigration Policy

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 19, “Future Challenges and Developments” (**Required**)

Disability Statement: Students who have a disability and who would like accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Room 1328 in the Business and Graduate Studies Building or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301-860-4067.

Specific Notification: All students must pass the English Proficiency Examination in order to graduate from Bowie State University. “After completing ENGL 101 & 102: Composition & Literature 1 & 2, students must take and successfully pass the Bowie State University English Proficiency Examination. Transfer students who completed their English composition requirements at another university should take the English Proficiency Examination during their first semester of enrollment at the University.”

Final Exam Dates: Section 001-Friday, December 9, 2011; 10:00-11:50 a.m.

Section 002- Monday, December 12, 2011; 10:00-11:50 a.m.
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Baradat, Leon P. *Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact* (10th ed.). New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2009.
- Ball, Terrence & Richard Dagger. *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader*. (8th ed.). New York: Pearson Longman, 2011.
- _____. *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal*. (8th ed.). N.Y.: Pearson Longman, 2011.
- Bell, Van, Douglas A. & Kenneth Mash. *A Novel Approach to Politics*. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2007.
- Coulter, Edwin M. *Principles of Politics and Government*. 6th ed., Guilford, CT: Brown and Benchmark, 1997.
- Dahl, Robert A. & Bruce Stinebrickner. *Modern Political Analysis*. 6th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2003.
- Dahl, Robert. *A Modern Political Analysis*. 5th ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1991.
- Danziger, James N. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. 6th ed. New York: Longman, 2003.
- Eagles, Monroe & Larry Johnston. *Politics: An Introduction to Democratic Government*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1998.
- Easton, David et al. (eds.). *The Development of Political Science: A Comparative Survey*. New York: Rutledge, 1991.
- Easton, David. *The Political System: An Inquiry into the State of Political Science*. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1990.
- Ethridge, Marcus E. & Howard Handelman. *Politics in a Changing World* (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth, 2008.
- Goodin, Robert E. & Klingemann Hans-Dieter (eds.). *A New Handbook of Political Science*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Grigsby, Ellen. *Analyzing Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*. Belmont, CA: West/Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2009.

- Huysmans, J. *What is Politics? A Short Introduction*. NY: Columbia University Press, 2004.
- Kousoulas, D.G. *On Government and Politics*. (4th ed.). Boston, MA: Duxbury Press, 1979.
- Lasswell, Harold. *Politics: Who Gets What, When and How?* New York: McGraw Hill, 1936.
- Levine Herbert. *Political Issues Debated: An Introduction to Politics*. N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1993.
- Magstadt, Thomas M. *Understanding Politics* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2009.
- Ranney, Austin. *Governing: An Introduction to Political Science*. 8th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2001.
- Riemer, Neal et al. *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2003.
- Ricci, David. *The Tragedy of Political Science: Politics, Scholarship and Democracy*. New Haven, CT: Yale Univ. Press, 1984.
- Roskin, Michael G. et al. *Political Science: An Introduction*. 10th ed. New York: Prentice Hall, 2008.
- Shively, Phillips W. *The Craft of Political Research*. 6th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2005.
- _____. *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. 11th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2008.
- Shively, Philips W. *Power and Choice: In Introduction to Political Science*. 4th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, Inc., 1995.
- Slann, Martin. *Introduction to Politics: Governments and Nations in the Post Cold War Era*. New York: Thompson Corporation, 2008.
- Tinder, Glenn. *Political Thinking: The Perennial Questions*. (6th ed.). NY: Harper Collins Pubs., 1996.
- White, Stephen K. & J. Donald Moon (eds.). *What is Political Theory?* CA.: Sage 2004.
- Weisberg, Herbert F. (ed). *Political Science: The Science of Politics*. NY: Agathon Press, 1986.
- Winter, Herbert R. & Thomas J. Bellows, *Conflict and Compromise: An Introduction to Political Science*. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.

Journal Assignment: Outline Guide

General Goal: To improve the student's reading, writing, analytical and critical thinking skills.

Assignment: Students will be required to provide short, organized summaries of the main class readings. In this way, students will also be preparing substantive outlines that may serve them well in the exams.

Grading: **The assignment will be graded in terms of organization and coherence as well as clarity of writing. Please adhere to the following outline:**

- I. Title: Chapter title.
- II. Main Concepts: Identify and define the main concepts. (Note: You may paraphrase the author's words in your definition)
- III. Main Idea(s): Identify and explain, as concisely as possible, the author's main arguments.

Note: The argument ties together the concepts, identified in Part II above, so as to express the author's thoughts.

- IV. Conclusion and Evaluation: What is the author's conclusion/message? What is your impression of the work? Do you agree with the argument? Is this work relevant to your experience?