

Bowie State University
Department of History & Government
GOVT 462: Capstone Seminar in Political Science I Fall 2010

Coordinator: Joseph M. Kum	Office: MLK O220
Office Hours: MTWR 4-5 pm and 7:30-8:30 pm	
Office Phone: (301) 860-3608	Office Email: jkum@bowiestate.edu

Course Description

This course is a review of the major concepts, themes, and methods of the discipline in preparation for the departmental comprehensive examination.

Readings:

The following are required and recommended texts:

- Minoque, Kenneth. Politics: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford: Oxford UP, 1995 (required)
- Robert A. Dahl & Bruce Stinebrickner, Modern Political Analysis, 6th ed., Upper Saddle, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003. (required)
- Morgenthau, Hans J. & Kenneth W. Thompson. Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace. (Brief ed.). NY: McGraw Hill, 1993.

Additional readings/texts will be assigned depending on the sessions; they will be placed on Library Reserve. These readings are designed to review political questions that are relevant to the questions on the comprehensive exam.

Student Outcomes

Students will be required to pass a comprehensive exam in Government at the end of the semester. (See Course Requirements for Comprehensive Exam.) In the process of preparing for and completing the exam, the student will:

1. become acquainted/reacquainted with specific political content and themes.
2. be exposed to various political science writings.
3. participate in readings of major political science works.
4. make significant use of materials in our university library.

Specific Learning Objectives

1. to learn factual content fundamental to major political science topics.
2. to gain the ability to interpret political science as a reader, a writer, and a presenter.
3. to become familiar with political science research and methodology.
4. to develop note-taking and organizational skills necessary to compose essay answers.
5. to improve one's writing skills.
6. to understand the nature of political science as a discipline.
7. to become familiar with the philosophical questions of political science.

Curriculum Themes

Academic Scholar

Multicultural and Global Perspectives

Personal and Interpersonal Perspective

Reflective Practitioner

Effective Practitioner

Technological Applications

Corresponding Outcome or Objective

outcomes 1, 2, 3 and all objectives

outcomes 1, 3 and objectives 1, 6, 7

outcome 4 and all objectives

outcome 4 and objectives 3, 4, 5

Teaching Modes

Teaching modes include class lecture, class discussion, student oral presentation, and special presentations by departmental faculty.

Guidelines and Responsibilities

Members of the class are required to read the text, handouts, and material on library reserve. The assignments are clearly laid out under the Course Calendar, and the evaluations for those assignments are given in the next section under Grading/Evaluation Procedures. Class attendance is required. Roll is taken at each meeting of the class, usually during the first five minutes of the class period.

Bowie State University does not recognize academic dishonesty as a legitimate means for fulfilling the requirements of a course. Therefore, cheating on anything in this course results in a grade of zero for that particular examination.

Grading/Evaluation Procedures

The requirements for GOVT 462 consist of the following: a final comprehensive exam and various assignments, as part of the process towards completing the comprehensive exam. A series of course assignments will be given through the semester to help students prepare for the exam. Depending on the professor, students may be called upon to make oral presentations on assigned readings or submit and present responses to hypothetical questions that could be tested on the comprehensive examination.

The comprehensive examination will consist of questions that are derived from courses that are taught in the Department of History and Government. The questions will be composed by full-time faculty members within the Department who would have communicated their expectations of student work on the comprehensive exam during their respective course sessions. The graders of the comprehensive exam will be full-time political

science professors in the Department. At the beginning of most course sections, a set of questions will be submitted to the students. From this list a certain number may be chosen for the final comprehensive exam. On the final comprehensive exam at least five questions must be answered. A midterm exam, which is a prep exam for the comprehensive, may also be given. The questions for the exams will be drawn from the following areas of concentration:

1. General Political Science
2. American Government
3. Political Theory and Philosophy
4. International Relations and Comparative Politics
5. Research Methods

Student work may be given a numerical grade which, in any case, will be converted to a letter grade at the end of the semester. The translation of numerical value into letter value is as follows:

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; and F is below 60

By the middle of the Fall Semester, students will also be expected to identify a Research Topic and a Faculty Advisor who would guide the research work for the Spring Semester Capstone Thesis Experience. A contract will be signed between the student and the professor once an understanding is reached on a chosen topic; this document must be submitted to the Coordinator.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction

- Review of course outline
- Overview of the course

II An Introduction to Politics

Reading: Minoque, Chaps 1-5

2 sessions

(KUM)

III Political Philosophy

- Early Political Philosophy
Thinkers: Aristotle; Plato; Thomas Aquinas; Machiavelli; Hobbes; John Locke; Montesquieu
- Modern Political Philosophy Thinkers: David Hume; Rousseau; Edmund Burke; Thomas Paine; Hegel; J.S. Mill; Karl Marx.

(3 weeks)

(ARAH)

IV American Government

A. US Government, Constitution and Political Parties

- i. The US Constitutional System:
 - Constitutional principles
 - The Federal System
 - Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

- ii. The Institutions of Government:
 - The Congress
 - The Presidency
 - The Bureaucracy
 - The Judiciary

- iii. Political Behavior:
 - Political Parties
 - Elections
 - Interest Groups
 - The Media
 - Public Policy making

B. US State and Local Government

- i. Federalism and the Constitution
- ii. Participation in State Politics
- iii. The Structure of State Government: Governors; Bureaucracy; Legislature; Judiciary
- iv. State and Local Government Relations

(3 weeks)

(LEWIS)

V. International Relations/Foreign Policy

- International Politics
- International Law and Organization
- US Foreign Policy

(3 weeks)

(KUM)

VI. Political Theory and Research Methods

- Theoretical Approaches to Political Science
- Research Methods in Political Science
- The Growth of the Discipline

(3 weeks)

(ROBERTSON)

VII. Comparative Politics and African Studies

- Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method
- Government and Politics of Africa/Middle East/Latin America
- Black Politics in the United States

(KUM/ROBERTSON)

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION DATE: TBD

VIII Announcements

ADA Policy

Students who have a disability and who would like accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Room 311 in the Center for Learning and Technology or call Mr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301-860-3292.

English Proficiency Examination

After completing ENGL 101 and 102, Composition and Literature I and II, 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.

Inclement Weather

During inclement weather tune in to a local radio or television station. Local Media will announce whether the university will open late or be closed, depending on the degree of weather severity. Many of these sources will begin announcing late openings and closings by 6:00 a.m. Consult university publications for additional information.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

a. Comparative Politics and African Studies:

- Gabriel Almond and G. Bingham Powell, Comparative Politics Today: A World View III: Scott Foresman & Co., 1988.
- Louis Cantori and Andrew H. Ziegler ed., Comparative Politics in the Post-Behavioral Era, Boulder: Lynne Reiner, 1988.
- Roy Macridis and Bernard Brown, Comparative Politics: Notes and Readings, 7th ed., Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks Cole, 1990.
- Basil Davidson, Modern Africa, 2nd ed, New York: Longman Group, 1991.
- Harbeson, John and Donald Rothchild, eds., Africa in World Politics, Boulder, CO.: Westview Press, 1991.
- Tordoff, William ed., Government and Politics in Africa, Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP, 1993.

b. International Relations:

- Karen Mingst, Essentials of International Relations, 2nd ed. New York: WW Norton & Co, 2003.
- Joseph Nye, Understanding International Conflicts
- Leroy Bennett, International Organizations: Principles & Issues (5th ed), Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1991.
- L. Henkin, How Nations Behave, NY: Columbia U Press, 1979.
- Mark Lindeman and William Rose, The Role of the United States in a Changing World: Choices for the 21st C, Guilford, CT: Dushkin Pubs, 1993.

c. Research Methods:

- Allan Isaak, Scope and Methods in Political Science
- Kenneth Hoover, The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking, 5th Ed., N.Y.: St Martin's Press, 1992.
- Paul D. Leedy, Practical Research: Planning and Design, 5th ed., New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1993.
- Johnson, J. B. and Joslyn, R. A. Political Science Research Methods. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1991.

d. American Government

- Bowman, Ann and Richard C. Kearney, State and Local Government, New Jersey: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1999.
- Burns, James M. et al. State and Local Politics 7th ed. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1998.
- Strayer, John and Robert Wrinkle, State and Local Politics, New York: Chatham House Publishers, 1998.
- Weber, Ronald E. and Paul Brace, eds. American State and Local Politics, New York: Chatham House Publishers, 2000.
- Bardes, Barbara et al., American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials. New York: Harper & Row, 1992.
- Brent, James ed. Issues in American Government. Englewood, CO: Martin Publishing Co., 1999.
- Dye Thomas and Harmon Ziegler, The Irony of Democracy, New York: Harper & Row, 1990.

- Levine, Herbert. Point-Counterpoint: Readings in American Government. New York, St. Martin's Press, 1998.

- Lowi, Theodore et al. Readings for American Government. 6th ed., New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 2000.

- Melusky, Joseph A. The American Political System. New York: McGraw Hill, 2000.

- Ross, Robert S., American National Government, 3rd Ed, Guildford, CT: Dushkin Pub., 1993.

e. Political Philosophy

- Brown, Robert, Classical Political Theories: From Plato to Marx, New York: MacMillan Pub., 1990.

- Connolly William, Political Theory and Modernity, Mass: Basil Blackwell, Inc 1991.

- Kramnick, Isaac, ed., Essays in the History of Political Thought, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1969.

- Baradat, Leon P. Political Ideologies (5th ed). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1994.

- Solomon, Robert C. and Higgins, Kathleen M. From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy. Lanham, MD: Rowan and Littlefield, 1993.