

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

GOVT 130-001: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE (3 CREDITS)
Fall 2020

Instructor: Weldon Jackson

Building Location: MLK 0209

Office Hours: Hours designated for student consultation include Tuesday / Thursday from 2:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m., and Friday from 1p.m. -- 3p.m. (Virtual)

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“No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline.”

--Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations

General Description

This course is an introduction to the field of Political Science through a survey of the major issues, questions, and ideas of politics from a comparative and international perspective. The class provides an overview of the discipline and its subfields. Key concepts and topics include: power, the state and the nation; political change, resistance, violence (including terrorism), and human rights; ideologies of liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, feminism, and environmentalism; the organization of major political systems; institutions of governance: executives, legislatures, and courts; and the international dimensions of politics and economics from the local to the global level. These themes provide frameworks to both interpret current events and evaluate the proper nature of domestic and international society

Parallel goals of this course include developing effective research, analysis, and writing skills. The class also aims to foster a global understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, difference, and inequality through critical thinking. Together, these objectives help form the basis for future coursework in and out of the discipline and should help students make informed judgments about the political world.

I. Course Prerequisites: None

II. Course Description: An introduction to the basic concepts, theories, and perennial issues of the discipline of political science.

III. Required Text
Ethridge, Marcus E and Howard Handelman, eds. Politics in a Changing World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science (7th ed.) Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2015.

Additional required readings will be assigned and made available via BSU Blackboard or electronically.

Recommended/Supplemental Texts

Colomer, Joseph M. The Science of Politics. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Danziger, James N. Understanding the Political World. 11th ed. New Jersey: Pearson, 2013.

Shivley, Philips W. Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science. 13th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc. 2012.

IV. Emerging Issues: Students will examine the politics of immigration and global warming and the corresponding impact on the human race.

V. General Education Competencies (with Corresponding Learning Objectives):

a. Written and Oral Communication

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

b. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning

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

c. Critical Analysis and Reasoning

- i. Develop paper that evaluate facts and opinions in the area of political science (5 and 6)
- ii. Apply critical thinking and analytical reasoning in developing quality essays and papers (5)

d. Technology Competency

- i. Use the internet to locate materials via BSU Online pertaining to the course (6)
- ii. Use the library software to identify relevant resources for course assignments (6)

e. Information Literacy

- i. Use of library to locate and access information from the University Consortium (6)
- ii. Select appropriate materials for assignments (5 and 6)

VI. Student Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- a. Define the basic concepts and themes of political science such as: politics, power, authority, freedom, equality, justice, political socialization, interest groups
 - b. Discuss the nature of political ideologies such as conservatism, liberalism, socialism, and fascism
 - c. Distinguish the motives for political participation and party politics
 - d. Identify the dynamics of international politics
 - e. Use the requisite skills for research in political science; and
 - f. Demonstrate the knowledge in the use of technology and library resources
- VII. Students Expected Outcomes
Students will be required to complete:
- a. Four unit examinations on key terms and concepts [GENED 1(a), 3(b)]
 - b. 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)]
 - c. A comprehensive assessment designed to evaluate an understanding of the subject [GENED 1(a), 2(a), 3(a), 3(b)]
 - d. Critical Thinking essay and an Argumentative Essay
- VIII. Knowledge Bases
- a. Understand key concepts of politics: power, political order, leadership, and governing
 - b. Critical examination of the political world in which we live
- IX. Curriculum Themes
- a. Academic Scholar (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
 - b. Effective Practitioner (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
 - c. Technological Application (Objective 6)
 - d. Multiple Forms of Assessment (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
 - e. Multicultural and Global Perspectives (Objectives 1, 2, 4)
 - f. Special Population Perspectives (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
 - g. Reflective Practitioner (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
 - h. Personal and Interpersonal Perspectives (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5)
- X. Instructional Modes: Methods and activities for the course include:
- a. Class discussions based on assigned pertinent readings
 - b. Lectures and videos that aim to illuminate the major themes raised in the readings
 - c. Writing exercises
 - d. Other teaching/learning modalities
- XI. The examinations will be a combination of multiple choice, definitions, short answer questions and/or multipart questions. They will cover the lectures, reading assignments, and any class discussions or handouts.
- XII. All examinations 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 the family, child birth, auto accident, hospitalization). Make-up exams are given at the discretion of the professor with an approved excuse. 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 me prior to an exam in case of emergency/illness which would be a cause for an official excuse from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

- XIII. Students are expected to maintain regular and punctual attendance. Attendance will be taken for each class session. Therefore, excessive tardiness or unexcused absences will be negatively impact 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."
- XIV. The course instructor reserves the right to modify the organization of the course schedule and content.
- XV. Ethical and Professional Standards
According to the Code of Student Conduct, students are to achieve high standards of ethical and professional academic standards. This includes behavior and appearance in the classroom. For written and non-written scholarship. Students are encouraged to be creatively responsible for making a contribution to the body of knowledge. This is accomplished through individual and group effort according to assigned activities. Students who commit acts of plagiarism or copying from other scholarship and/or violating academic standards in the classroom will be penalized according to the Code of Student Conduct for students as outlined by Bowie State University. In cases involving academic dishonesty, a failing grade or a grade of F for either an assignment and/or course may be administered. Students who are expelled or suspended for academic dishonesty are not admissible to other institutions within the University System of Maryland. Students engaging in academic dishonesty will fail this course.
- XVI. Classroom Decorum
Please arrive on time and be settled in your seat before the beginning of class. Bowie State University prohibits disorderly or disruptive conduct on University premises or at University-sponsored activities, which interfere with the activities of others, including studying, teaching, and administrative operations. Students must not disrupt class for any reason such as excessive talking or continuously entering/exiting the classroom. Students should be dressed appropriately for an academic setting. Offensive or revealing clothing is not acceptable in a learning environment. All cell phones and other electronic devices must be put on silent. Students cell phones during class will be marked as absent. If there is an emergency situation that requires you to have access to your cell phone during class, please contact the Course Instructor before the beginning of class. Laptops and tablets are permitted for taking notes and viewing websites related to the course material. Students using laptops or tablets to view non-class related websites or for any other purpose (e.g., social media, playing games, and/or watching videos) will be marked absent. During class discussion, students are encouraged to participate and be respectful of others at all times.
- XVII. Class Attendance
Attendance is required to complete the course successfully. University rules and regulations state that a student may fail a course if he or she misses a certain number of classes [six (6) for a course that meets three (3) times a week; four (4) for a class that meets twice (2) a week; and two (2) for a class that meets once a week. Students are expected to attend (on time) and participate in all scheduled classes and activities.
- XVIII. Assistance with the Course
I want you to excel in this course. If at any point you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. In most instances, questions about assessments, assignments, and grades are easier to address in person rather than over email. If your schedule conflicts

with the posted hours, send me an email to schedule an appointment.

XIX. Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Statement

Any student who feels he or she may need accommodations based on the impact of a disability should contact Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator (301-860-4067) to privately discuss your specific needs. The Office of Disability Support Services is located in Room 079 on the lower floor of the Thurgood Marshall Library.

Special Note: Contemporary Context

I expect everyone to be following news on domestic and international politics. Reliable news and commentary sources include:

1. The News and Politics section of Slate: <http://www.slate.com>
2. The politics section of The Nation: <http://thenation.com/politics>
3. BBC News: <http://bbc.com/news/>
4. The politics section of The Washington Post: <http://washingtonpost.com/politics>
5. The politics section of American Conservative: <http://theamericanconservative.com/web-categories/politics/>

Student Requirements

1. Four Unit Examinations
2. Participation: Your participation grade is divided into two main components:
 - a. Class Attendance. Successful class participation requires your physical presence in the classroom.
 - b. In-class participation—class discussions. Your contributions in class discussions are imperative. Come to class with something to say. Have an opinion. Ask detailed questions. Make explicit reference to key passages in the readings. Agree or disagree with the points raised by your classmates. I will keep track of who participates, how often, and the quality of your contributions.
3. Argumentative Essay

This essay requires you to take a position on an issue related to politics and government. You are expected to incorporate the assigned readings into your essay as you develop your argument. This means that to do well, you must do the readings. Excellent essays will present a cogent, concise argument, supported with evidence from the assigned readings, and other sources to refute various counterarguments.

 - a. 6-page minimum requirement (not including bibliography)
 - b. Paper must be typed, double-spaced, using New Times Roman 12 font
 - c. A minimum of 8 sources to support your position and issues is required. You should adhere to the following:
 - i. You should state your issue or problem in a clear and concise statement, in the first paragraph of your paper
 - ii. Current Data (no more than 3 years old) from at least two different sources to demonstrate that your issue/problem is not only significant, but also a public and not private matter.
 - iii. Data used in your paper must come from a federal, state, or local agency or public policy think tank
 - iv. At least 3 scholarly, university peer reviewed journal articles
 - v. Bibliography or works cited page
 - vi. APA format

Grading Scale

A total of 100 possible points can be earned for all coursework. Letter grades are as follows: A (90-100 points); B (80-89 points); C (70-79 points); D (60-69 points); F (0-59 points).

Activity	Possible Points	Weighted Percentage
Examination #1	100	15
Examination #2	100	20
Examination #3	100	15
Examination #4	100	20
Argumentative Essay	100	15
Attendance	100	5
Class Participation	100	10
Total Possible Points	700	100

Course Outline, Requirements, and Due Dates

Week 1: September 1, 2020

INTRODUCTION

- Review of course and introduction

Week 2: September 8, 2020

POLITICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

- Politics and Government Defined
- Consequences of governmental action
- Why study politics?
- Intersectional approaches to analyzing political issues

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 1, “Politics, Government, and Political Science”

(Required)

United Nations Commission on Human Rights,
<http://www.ohchr.org/> (Required)

Week 3: September 15, 2020

POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

- How do ideologies shape the political community and political conflict?
- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Marxism
- Socialism
- Environmentalism
- Sexism
- Other Ideologies

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 2, “Ideologies, Images of Political Life” (Required)

David Talbot, “Growing Wealth Gap Is A Recipe For Disaster,” San Francisco Chronicle, January 19, 2017,
<http://sfchronicle.com/news/article/Growing-wealth-gap-is-a-recipe-for-disaster-10867108.php> (Required)

Week 4: September 22, 2020

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

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 3, “Political Culture and Socialization” (Required)
 William Reed, “Callie House and the Struggle for Reparations,”
 Institute of the Black World, <http://ibw21.org/commentary/callie-house-and-the-struggle-for-reparations/> (Required)

Martin Slann, Introduction to Politics: Governments and Nations in the Post- Cold War Era. New York: Thompson Corporation, 2008. See Chapter 3 “Political Culture.” (Recommended)

Note: September 22, 2020 – Examination #1

Week 5: September 29, 2020

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- Public Opinion and Voting Choice
- Voter Turnout
- Public Opinion Polling

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 4, “Public Opinion and Elections” (Required)

Guy Molyneus, “Mapping the White Working Class,” The American Prospect, Winter 2017 (Required)

Week 6: October 6, 2020

POLITICAL PARTIES

- Definition and Function of Political Parties
- The Origins of Political Parties
- The Importance of Political Parties in the United States

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 5, “Political Parties” (Required)

Gabriel Gurley, “Voter Suppression Works Too Well,” The American Prospect, Winter 2017 (Required)

Robin D. G. Kelly, “The Black Belt Communist,” Jacobin, August 20, 2015, <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/08/alabama-hammer-and-hoe-robin-kelley-communist-party/> (Required)

George Washington, "Farewell Address 1796," The Avalon Project Documents in Law, History, and Diplomacy, Yale Law School, Lillian Goldman Law Library. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washington.asp (Required)

Seth Masket, "Why Political Parties Never Die," Politico Magazine, June 9, 2016. <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/06/2016-political-science-parties-gop-republican-democratic-213937> (Required)

Week 7: October 13, 2020

INTEREST GROUPS

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

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 6, "Interest Groups" (Required)

Shively, "Structured Conflict, Interest Groups & Politics" (Chapter 12) (Recommended)

Moral Monday, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PASIMPsqwI>

Week 8: Note: October 20, 2020 – Examination #2

Week 9: October 27, 2020

LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS

- Lawmaking
- Legislatures: Features, Functions & Structures, Violence?
- Representation – Impact of Descriptive Representation
- Party Responsibility and Legislative Behavior

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 7, "Legislative Institutions" (Required)

The 115th Congress will be the most Diverse in History, The Hill, <http://thehill.com/homenews/house/306480-115th-congress-will-be-the-most-racially-diverse-in-history>

Week 10: November 3, Election Day

Week 11: October November 10, 2020

EXECUTIVE INSTITUTIONS

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

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 8, “Executive Institutions, Political Leadership, and Bureaucracy,” (Required)

Molly Ball, “Welcome to the Trump Presidency,” The Atlantic, January 20, 2017.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/01/welcome-to-the-trump-presidency/513893/>

Week 12: November 17, 2020

JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS

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

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 9, “Judicial Institutions” (Required)

Internet Source: <http://www.findlaw.com/case.code/supreme.html>

Week 13 : November 19-24, 2020 Examination #3

Week 14: December 1, 2020

DILEMMAS OF DEMOCRACY

- The Founding Period
- Governmental Institutions
- Participation in U.S. Politics
- U.S. Politics: Prospects for Change

Reading Assignments:

Text: Chapter 10, “U.S. Government: The Dilemmas of Democracy” (Required)

Howard Zinn, “How Democratic is America,”

<http://www.ditext.com/hook/zinn-hook.html>

Week 15: December 8, 2020

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- International Relations versus Domestic Politics
- Idealists and Realists
- War and International Relations
- Foreign Policy Decision Making
- War, Trade, Foreign Policy

Reading Assignment:

Text: Chapter 16

Week 16: December 15, 2020

GLOBAL POLITICS: A CHANGING WORLD ORDER

- From the End of the Cold War to an Uncertain Future
- Policing Trouble Spots: The Border Controversy
- Human Rights
- International Terrorism
- Protecting the Environment

Reading Assignment:

Text: Chapter 17, "A Changing World" (Required)

Note: December 17, 2020 – Examination #4

Argumentative Essay due date: December 5, 2020

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Ball, Terrance and Richard Dagger. Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader. (8th edition). New York: Pearson Longman 2011.

Ball, Terrance and Richard Dagger. Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal. (8th edition). Pearson Longman, 2011.

Bell, Van, Douglas A. and Kenneth Mash. A Novel Approach to Politics. Washington, D. C: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2007.

Coulter, Edwin M. Principles of Politics and Government. 6th edition. Guilford, CT: Brown and Benchmark, 1997.

Dahl, Robert A. and Bruce Stinebrickner. Modern Political Analysis. 6th edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hal, 2003.

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- Levine, Herbert. Political Issues Debated: An Introduction to Politics. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1993.
- Maagstadt, Thomas M. Understanding Politics (8th edition), Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2009.
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- Roskin, Michael G. et al. Political Science: An Introduction. 10th edition. New York: Prentice Hall, 2008.
- Shively, Phillips W. The Craft of Political Research. 6th edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2005.
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- Tinder, Glenn. Political Thinking: The Perennial Questions. (6th edition). New York: Harper Collins, 1996.
- White, Stephen K. and J. Donald Moon (editors). What is Political Theory? CA: Sage, 2004.1992.

Weisberg, Herbert F. (editors). Political Science: The Science of Politics. New York: Agathon Press, 1986.

Winter, Herbert R. and Thomas J. Bellows Conflict and Compromise: An Introduction to Political Science. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.