INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Course Aims

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a broad array of issues and concepts that are central to the study of political science. During the course of the semester we will examine the nature of political authority, the philosophical foundations of different types of political systems, and the various responsibilities and obligations that constitute democratic citizenship. While we will explore each of these issues in different historical contexts, we will also consider how they inform our understanding of contemporary political issues, such as voting, civil disobedience, and the war on terrorism. The reading, writing, and classroom assignments are designed to bring together the theory of politics with the actual practice of it in ways that I hope will be both interesting and fun. In addition to providing students with the basic tools to analyze politics, this course will also enable students an opportunity to establish their own opinions, or challenge existing opinions, on the ultimate aims of politics.

Course Requirements

Your daily participation is one of the most important features of this course. Each of us will bring different ideas to class discussions and the course is designed for us to share our different opinions in an intense, yet polite, manner. I do not claim to dispense Truth with respect to political science, and it is my hope that we will learn from each other over the course of the semester. Thus, there will be very few traditional lectures given. Instead, each class I will choose - at random - two to three students to lead class discussion for that day. I will ask questions concerning the assigned readings and students will be expected to have read the material closely enough to respond in a thoughtful manner. Because you never know when your number may turn up, it is best to be prepared each class for your turn in the “hot seat.” Your class participation grade will depend on how prepared you are when you are one of the leaders of class discussion. You are allowed to pass on your role as class leader one time without any penalty. If you pass more than once, your class participation grade will be lowered. If you are absent when called on, it will be counted as a pass. Regular attendance is required for this course and more than one absence will lower your class participation grade.

While this process may seem intimidating at first, it will become more familiar to you over the course of the semester and will help you learn how to construct, and deconstruct, arguments. One of the major reasons the class is designed in this manner is because the ability to make reasoned arguments and engage one another in serious conversation is one of the hallmarks of effective citizenship. In addition, practicing these skills on a daily basis will prove to be helpful for the midterms, the short paper, and the final exam.

There will be two midterm examinations on October 8 and November 19. These examinations will cover all the material assigned up to that date unless specified differently by the instructor. The final will be cumulative and will be on December 15 (2:00 pm -4:00 pm). Both the midterm and final will be closed book exams.

The short paper will be discussed more in class but here is some basic information until then. It will be no more than 5 pages, double-spaced and will examine an aspect of the upcoming American elections. The paper will be due on November 12. You will be given both a grade and detailed comments on this draft. If you choose, you can resubmit the paper to me no later than the last day of class – December 13. Grades cannot be lowered if you turn in this second draft. In other words, if you don't like the grade on your first paper, you can turn it in again - incorporating the suggestions on the paper - and your grade will either
remain unchanged or improve. But you are not obliged to turn in the paper a second time if you are content with the grade you received on the first paper.

Your final grade will be based on the midterms, the short paper, the final exam and class participation.

Under no circumstances - except serious illness or serious family emergency - will you be allowed to take the midterm or final at an earlier or later date. You may not email assignments unless I have given you prior permission. Missed exams or late papers will not be accepted unless students notify me before the absence or late paper and have a written verifiable medical excuse. If you do not provide such notification, all late papers or missed exams will receive a zero. Those who present me with a verifiable medical excuse will be allowed to take a makeup exam that will be scheduled for the last day of the semester.

**Academic Integrity**

I expect you to comply fully with the standards of academic integrity set forth by the University of San Diego. Any incident of academic dishonesty (as defined in the Undergraduate Bulletin) will be punished to the full extent allowed by the University.

**Grading**

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
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<td>Midterm 2</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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**Books and Other Materials**

All of these books should be available in the bookstore. The other materials for the course are on E-Reserve and traditional reserve with Copley Library. These materials are designated with an “ER” in the syllabus. The class password to access the E-Reserve readings is: ps100. Please notify me as soon as possible if any of these materials are not available.

- Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale* (1985)
- Readings on E-Reserve [ER]

In order to keep up with political issues you should read regularly one or more of the following: *New York Times, Los Angeles Times, or the Economist.*
Course Outline and Assigned Readings

9/3 Intro to class

Section I: Political Power, the Aim of Politics, and the Study of Politics

9/6 No Class
9/8 Anouilh, Antigone (12-37)
9/10 Anouilh, Antigone (37-71)
9/13 Nozick [ER]
9/15 Rawls [ER]
9/17 Sandel [ER]

Section II: Philosophical Justification for Authoritarian and Oligarchy Regimes

9/20 Hobbes [ER]
9/22 Burke [ER]; Bellow [ER]; Letters between Adams and Jefferson [ER]
9/24 Aristotle [ER]
9/27 Machiavelli [ER]
9/29 Arendt [ER]
10/1 Movie (Osama)
10/4 Movie (Osama)
10/6 Atwood, The Handmaid’s Tale [entire]
10/8 Midterm

Section III: Philosophical Justification for Democratic Regimes

10/11 Locke [ER]
10/13 Mill [ER]
10/15 Rousseau [ER]
10/18 Madison and Hamilton [ER]
10/20 Glendon [ER]
10/22 Glendon [ER]; Tocqueville [ER]
Section IV: The Origins and Meanings of Democratic Citizenship

10/25 Nathanson [ER]
10/27 Kestnbaum [ER]
10/29 Huntington [ER]

Section V: Political Participation I: Persuading Government

11/1 Keyssar [ER; 256-280]
11/3 Discussion of election
11/5 Tocqueville [ER]; Putnam [ER]
11/8 Mitchell [ER]
11/10 Raskin [ER]
11/12 Movie (Taking on the Kennedy’s); Election Papers Due
11/15 Ibsen (Acts 1-3) [ER]
11/17 Ibsen (Acts 4-5) [ER]
11/19 Midterm

Section VI: Political Participation II: Resisting Political Authority

11/22 Thoreau [ER]; King [ER]
11/24 Morris [ER]
11/26 Thanksgiving Break
11/29 Vanden [ER]
12/1 Scott [ER]
12/3 Du Pisani, Broodryk, and Coetzer [ER]

Section VII: Liberty and Security in Times of Insecurity

12/6 Bird and Brandt [ER]
12/8 Cole [ER]
12/10 Hamdi v. Rumsfeld (2004) [ER]
12/13 TBA