

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 105-601**  
**Introduction to Political Science**  
**Summer 2014**

**Instructor:** Soomin Chun-Hess, M.A.  
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**Office Hours:** Friday 10:00-12:00  
Friday 4:30- & by appointment

**Class Time:** 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm Jul 18, 2013 - Jul 1, 2013  
8:00 am - 05:30 pm Jul 19, 2013 - Jul 2, 2013

**Location:** East 2303

**Required Text:** Introduction to Politics. Second Edition 2012. By, Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, and Stephanie Lawson . Oxford University Press.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to a variety of frameworks and approaches that provide a better understanding of politics. Topics include the nature and use of power, ideologies, socialization, mass media, international relations, political violence, economics, and globalization. Current events will be used to illustrate how the political system operates. This class will provide you with an understanding of why politics is a real and important part of your life. It will help you to gain a broader perspective and a critical eye for what is going on around you. This course is premised on the belief that the study of politics prepares the individual for complete living.

**INITIAL OBJECTIVES:**

- A. Gain a solid foundation for further study in political science.
- B. Obtain a solid core of knowledge regarding political ideologies including conservatism, liberalism, socialism, and others.
- C. Become aware of how institutions, such as the media influence politics.
- D. Become familiar with a variety of governmental institutions and systems.
- E. Understand how citizens are represented in government.
- F. Examine contemporary international issues.
- G. Understand the relationships between politics, economics, and culture.
- H. Evaluate the process of globalization.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:**

Attendance & Participation  
(discussions/quizzes)

50

**GRADING SCALE:**

90-100% A\*\*

2 News analyses(2x 25)

50

80-89% B

Failed State

50

70-79% C

Final Exam

100

60-69% D

Total:

250 pts

59% and below F

**\*\* Student must complete all assignments to earn an A in class.**

### **NEWS ANALYSIS:**

You will submit two news analyses to me as writing assignments throughout the class, worth twenty-five points each. Keeping up with current events will enrich your understanding of the course, and well as the world around you. The purpose of this assignment is to follow the news throughout the semester, in order to connect what you are learning in class to your everyday life.

### **EXTRA CREDIT-POLITICAL EVENT:**

**You may attend one approved political events or lecture for extra credit.** You may attend on and/or off campus political films, debates, rallies, etc. You may also share information about events you think would be interesting and appropriate for your classmates to attend. You will submit a written review and analysis to earn the full 10 points.

### **EXAM:**

You will take one exam; the format of which will vary. The exam is worth one hundred points and is taken on D2L.

**TECHNOLOGY USAGE :** The use of cellphones and non-class related computer activities are strictly prohibited. Student will receive one warning about inappropriate usage. Cell phone use will result in a zero participation for the day and also the removal of the student from the class period. Computers are only permitted for note taking. If a student is caught using the computer for other purposes, s/he will lose their privilege to use a computer in class and may also lead to the removal of the student from the class period. **When in doubt, use the old fashion note-taking method- paper and pencil method.**

All technology use in class must be made known to the instructor and must meet the approval of the instructor and/or be made through special accommodations.

### **MAKE UP POLICY:**

Assigned homework is due **at the beginning of class** on the date indicated on the calendar. All assignments are due on D2L –in their appropriate DropBox.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Your presence in class is extremely important. Everyone's participation is crucial to learning and to the success of group activities. I will provide direct information that will ensure your success in class, as well as draw upon your input concerning course relevance. **You may not miss a class period (one day) and expect to pass the class with an A. Every hour you miss class while we are in session with cost you ten points.** If you know you will miss class ahead a time or if you have a serious illness or emergency, please inform me immediately.

### **TARDINESS POLICY:**

It is the instructor's responsibility to guarantee that you are able to learn in an environment as free from distraction as possible. For this reason, coming to class late is unacceptable. **You may be late to class two without penalty. After that, 5 points will be taken off your grade each time you are late.**

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Academic dishonesty will be dealt with at the instructor's discretion. Likely penalties include an "F" grade for the course and expulsion from the College. It is quite obvious to the instructor when you have not done your own work. I am confident that this will not be an issue.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY:**

RRCC advises all students of their right to services under the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students are responsible for making their needs known to their professors and SWD office to receive services.

### **INSTRUCTOR'S TIDBITS:**

1. **COME PREPARED!** Read the assignments prior to class and be ready for discussion. Your input to class discussion is required.
2. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the date indicated on the calendar. **That means you need to have a submitted your work before the "close date and time."**
3. Listen to and respect your classmate's views and ideas. Remarks of a personal or derogatory nature are always out of order. If you feel that you have been "put down" or otherwise not treated with respect, please talk to me.
4. Come with an open mind! The course content and the course environment are dedicated to an understanding of and acceptance of all.
5. This schedule is tentative and may be changed from time to time as we go through the semester.
6. Do not be distracted by cellphone and computers. When in doubt, leave your phones and computers in your bags. If you are distracted by other's use of computers and e-gadgets, please bring it to the instructor's attention.
7. This is a 45 hour course. You must complete more than half these hours to be eligible to earn a passing grade for this class.

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### **READING & LECTURE SCHEDULE (Instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule)**

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#### **WEEK 1 FRIDAY**

##### ***Introduction***

Review Syllabus

##### ***Who Gets What, When and How?***

##### ***READ for Friday : Introduction***

- What is Political Science?

##### ***READ for Saturday: Chapter 5: Traditional Ideologies***

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#### **SATURDAY**

##### ***READ for Saturday: Chapter 6: Challenges to the Dominant Ideologies***

- *How is ideology a utopia/dystopia?*

##### ***READ for Saturday: Chapter 1: Politics and the State***

- *State v. Nation*
- *Strong State v. Weak State v. Failed State*
- *Nation, State Quiz*

##### ***Comparative Politics***

##### ***READ for Saturday: Chapter 7: Institutions and States***

- *The European State System*
- *Rise of the Modern State*
- *Strong State v. Failed State*
  - *Foreign Policy Failed State Index (computer class exercise)*
  - *Present your failed state the following Friday*

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#### **WEEK 2 FRIDAY**

##### ***Failed State Presentation***

- *First News Analysis due by 7/25 11:59 PM*

## **SATURDAY**

**READ for Saturday: Chapter 13: Political Culture**

- **Civic Culture and Political Culture**
- **What makes us politically uniquely American?**
- **Film: Sick Around the World (2008)**

**READ for Saturday: Chapter 12: Civil Society, Interest Groups , and the Media**

- **The Impact of the Media**

**READ for Saturday: Chapter 4: Freedom and Justice**

- **Freedom v. equality**
- **American Ideology lecture**
- **Concepts and Ideologies**

**READ for Saturday: Chapter 8: Law, Constitutions, and Federalism**

- **Federal System v. Unitary System**
- **Codified Law v. Common Law**
- **Rule of Law**
- **Review US Bill of Rights & US Constitution**

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## **WEEK 3 FRIDAY**

**READ: Chapter 9: Legislatures, Legislators, and the Executive**

- **Parliamentary System v. Presidential System**

**READ: Chapter 11: Votes, Elections, Parties**

- **Proportional System v. Majoritarian System**
- **Second News Analysis due by 8/1 11:59 PM**

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## **SATURDAY**

**READ for Saturday: Chapter 14: Introducing Global Politics**

- **Security and Insecurity**
- **Legacy of Colonialism**
  - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/14chapter2.shtml>
- **Impact of WWII**

**READ for Saturday: Chapter 19: International Organizations in Global Politics**

**READ for Saturday: Chapter 20: Global Political Economy**

- **10 benefits and costs of the WTO**
- **10 benefits and costs of the U.N.**
- **10 benefits and costs of the E.U.**
- **FILM: Why Globalization is Good / Of Life and Debt**
- **Final due by Sunday 8/3 11:59 PM**



**Have a wonderful rest of the summer!**

## **NEWS ANALYSES:**

### **Overview:**

You will submit two news analyses to me as writing assignments throughout the semester, worth twenty-five points each. Keeping up with current events will enrich your understanding of the course, as well as the world around you. The purpose of this assignment is to follow the news throughout the semester, in order to connect what you are learning in class to your everyday life.

### **Requirements:**

- 1) Your analysis **MUST** address a topic that is being covered in class or is political in nature. You can use any news topic that has to do with national and/or international politics/government.
- 2) Locate an article from a reputable source on approved news topic (see above). Publications like the Washington Post, New York Times, Newsweek and/or Time are excellent sources. I also encourage you to find sources that add viewpoints beyond the mainstream, such as The Nation, Mother Jones, The Guardian, The National Review, and The American Conservative. You may not use on-line search engine articles, on-line network articles (e.g. Fox News, CNN News, MSN News etc.). You can find most of these magazines and newspaper sources in the library's resource center.
- 3) **Summarize the article:** Begin with a short overview (summary) of the article you are analyzing. A summary is written in your own words and captures the article's main point(s) or argument. (A reader who has not read the article should understand its overall point from your summary.) A summary is objective, meaning it does not include your opinion. Include the title and author of the article in the summary.
- 4) **Analyze the article:** After summarizing, analyze the article. Analysis involves thinking critically about the purpose, ideas, evidence, and presentation of the article. Be careful not to include your opinion of the issue addressed in the article.\* **Instead, focus on *how* and *why* the article was written.** Some questions you may ask yourself are:
  - *Why was the article written? What is the purpose of the article?*
  - *What is the context of the article? In other words, why was this article written now?*
  - *How is the article written? What type of evidence is presented? How is it organized?*
  - *What is the effect of the information presented? Does it evoke emotion? Does it appeal to logic and reasoning?*
  - *Do you detect bias? What is the agenda behind the article? Who wrote the article? What is their affiliation? What is the bias of the publication?* (You may need to do some Googling to find out the answers to these questions.)
  - *How does the article inform your understanding of the issue? How does the article connect to what you are learning in class?*

\*A response that merely states your opinion on the issue will not be given credit.

- 5) Provide evidence from the article to support your analysis. Focus on the article itself in your analysis, and support your responses with examples and evidence from the article.
- 6) You may rewrite one news analysis with the help of the Writing Center for a better grade. You may earn additional two points per assignment (a total of ten bonus points throughout the semester) if you have each analysis reviewed by the Writing Center before submission. <http://www.rccc.edu/writing/>

### **Format:**

- News analyses should be typed, proofread, and two to three pages long.
- Cite the source of your article; see written work guidelines.

### **Grading:**

Your grade is based on your ability to provide thoughtful analysis, connect the article to course material, and upon style and the proper use of grammar.