

FA15_POLSCI-110-501_MELZERR

THE POLITICAL WORLD

POLITICAL SCIENCE 110

FALL 2015

Instructor: Richard Melzer, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.;
Tuesdays, 1:00-1:30 p.m. & 4:15-5:00 p.m.; & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to politics, with emphasis on the ways people can understand their own political systems and those of others. (Students who have already had courses in Political Science may not count PS 110 towards a major in Political Science.)

OPTIONAL TEXTBOOK:

SPECIAL ORDER IN THE BOOKSTORE (OVER \$100)

OR

BUY VIA AMAZON.COM (\$.01 AND UP) OR RENT FOR \$30 AND UP

Michael G. Roskin, Robert L. Cord, James A. Medeiros, & Walter S. Jones, *Political Science: An Introduction* (Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, **ANY EDITION**).

NOT OPTIONAL:

Course Binder: **essential** course material

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce students to the basic terms and concepts of Political Science;
2. To introduce students to the world's major political philosophies and ideologies;
3. To introduce students to the world's main political systems;
4. To introduce students to the role of political violence, especially terrorism;
5. To introduce students to international relations;
6. To help students develop the habit of keeping up-to-date on political developments as they occur in the United States and around the world.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK #1 Tuesday, August 18:
Syllabus Review; Basic Political Terms & Concepts;
Why do we study political science?

WEEK #2 Tuesday, August 25:
Plato and the Republic
Monarchy & Machiavelli's *The Prince*
Students who opt to purchase the textbook should read about each day's topic by finding the appropriate pages in the textbook. If students need

help in identifying the appropriate pages, they should see the instructor for assistance.

WEEK #3 Tuesday, September 1:
Map Quiz (first 10 minutes of class)
Political Philosophy: Classic Liberalism
Political Philosophy: Modern Liberalism

WEEK #4 Tuesday, September 8:
Political Philosophy: Conservatism

WEEK #5 Tuesday, September 15:
Political Philosophy: Marxism
Political Philosophy: Fascism

WEEK #6 Tuesday, September 22:
Review Sheet #1 due
Review in class

WEEK #7 Tuesday, September 29:
Exam #1 (first 45 mins. of class)
Comparative Government: American Democracy

WEEK #8 Tuesday, October 6:
Comparative Government: American Democracy (continued)

WEEK #9 Tuesday, October 13:
Comparative Government: English Parliamentary Democracy

WEEK #10 Tuesday, October 20:
Comparative Government: Multi-party Parliamentary Democracy

WEEK #11 Tuesday, October 27:
Review Sheet #2 due
Review in class

WEEK #12 Tuesday, November 3: **ELECTION DAY**
Exam #2 (first 45 mins. of class)
National Political Violence

WEEK #13 Tuesday, November 10:
International Relations

WEEK #14 Tuesday, November 17:
International Relations
Optional Extra Credit Projects due

WEEK #15 Tuesday, November 24:

Review Sheet #3 due

Review in class

WEEK #16 Tuesday, December 1:

Exam #3

GRADING:

<u>GRADED ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE</u>
Political Updates	every class	10%
Map Quiz	Tuesday, September 1	10%
Review Sheet #1	Tuesday, September 22	3.3%
Review Sheet #2	Tuesday, October 27	3.3%
Review Sheet #3	Tuesday, November 24	3.3%
Exam #1	Tuesday, September 29	20%
Exam #2	Tuesday, November 3	20%
Exam #3	Tuesday, December 1	30%
Optional Extra Credit Project	Tuesday, November 17	+1
TOTAL.....		100%

REVIEW SHEETS:

Review sheets are distributed about a week before each exam to help you prepare and study well. Review sheets are *not corrected*. They are graded in the following manner:

- A if **all** questions are thoroughly answered
- C if **most** questions are thoroughly answered
- D if **some** questions are thoroughly answered
- F if a review sheet was **not submitted**

TUTORING

Students who seek assistance in studying should

1. ask questions in class, during office hours, via phone, or via email;
2. seek tutoring assistance at the Learning Center (925-8907).

EXAMS:

All exams are objective and include the following 3 parts:

- Part 1: 35 Matching Ids 35 points
- Part 2: 30 Short Answer Questions 60 points
- Part 3: 5 Political Map Questions 5 points
- TOTAL..... 100 points

Sample exams (with answer keys) are in the course binder.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students cannot use I-Pods, cell phones, earphones, or other electronic equipment during quizzes or tests.

Students found cheating will receive a zero for the quiz or exam in question.

GRADE LEVELS:

FOR EXAMS & FINAL COURSE GRADES

98-100: A+

Students must have a 98 or above average and do an extra credit paper to qualify for an A+ in the course.

93-97 : A

70-76 : C

90-92 : A-

67-69 : D+

87-89 : B+

63-66 : D

83-86 : B

60-62 : D-

80-82 : B-

0-59 : F

77-79 : C+

Incomplete: I

LATE POLICY

Students who miss exams or turn assignments in late will lose 5 points for every day they do not make-up the missed quiz or exam.

This penalty is not enforced only if the student lets the instructor know *prior to* the due date that he/she has an emergency and will be unable to take the test or submit the assignment by the scheduled time.

If the instructor agrees that there is in fact an emergency, a new due date will be scheduled as soon as possible.

POLITICAL UPDATES:

Each class will include a discussion of recent political events or issues in the United States or the world.

Each student should be prepared to *present at least 2 such events or issues* in case they are called on to do so during these sessions. This will require regularly reading newspapers and/or newsmagazines and/or the internet and/or listening to radio and/or TV news broadcasts.

Students receive 100% for each day they report on a Political Update. They received 0% for each day they do not report on a Political Update, either because they don't have one or because they are absent. Political Updates are worth 10% of your final grade.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Students are *not graded on their general class participation*. However, those who participate regularly and well in class will benefit if they are within one point of the next higher grade level. In such a case the student would receive the higher grade.

For example, if a student had an 89 average and had participated regularly and well

he/she would receive an A- rather than a B+ for the course.

PAIR & SHARE MOMENTS:

You will be asked to identify a person sitting near you to be your Pair & Share Partner. In fact, Pair & Share groups are asked to give themselves flashy (but appropriate) names.

Periodically, questions will arise in class that you will be asked to discuss with your Pair & Share Partner. After a few moments of discussion (called Pair & Share Moments), you may be asked to share your group's ideas with the class as a whole. In this way we'll try to get as many people as possible involved in class discussions.

Pair and Share Partners are also valuable in case you miss a class and need to get the notes for the material you missed. Partners can be helpful when you are completing your review sheets and studying for exams.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Students can earn *one extra credit point* to be added to their final average by writing an acceptable one-page reaction paper on one of the following:

VIDEOS:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| "Good Night and Good Luck" | "All the Kings Men" |
| "Ghosts of Mississippi" | "Mississippi Burning" |
| "The Prize: America's Civil Rights Years" | "The Secret Government" |
| "Inside the CIA" | "High Crimes & Misdemeanors" |
| "Classics of Political TV Advertising" | "13 Days" |
| "The Butler" | "42" |
| "The Face of Terrorism: Protecting a Free Society" | |
| "Delicate Balance: The 1st Amendment and Hate Speech" | |
- or other political videos agreed on with the instructor

BOOKS:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Robert Penn Warren, <i>All the Kings Men</i> | George Orwell, <i>1984</i> |
| Edwin O'Connor, <i>The Last Hurrah</i> | Brad Meltzer, <i>The 10th Justice</i> |
- or other political novels agreed on with the instructor

Most of these books and videos are available in the campus library.

Reaction papers should briefly describe the video or book and comment on its main points as they relate to our discussions in class and your readings.

Students can also earn 1 extra credit point by registering to vote and submitting a copy of your voter registration document to the instructor.

Extra credit reaction papers can be submitted no later than November 17.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with special needs based on learning disabilities are encouraged to discuss these needs with the instructor.

To be tested for learning disabilities, contact the Student Enrichment Center in the Library Building or at 925-8560 or at <http://www.unm.edu/~vcadvise/equalaccess.htm>.

Students who have been tested and have special needs should present their documentation to the instructor as early in the semester at possible.

CELL PHONES:

Students can bring cell phones into class to receive emergency calls. However, they must be set to "discreet" and should not ring during class. If you receive an emergency call you should leave the room, deal with the situation, and return.

PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS

Students who need to have personal conversations during class time will be told to leave the room and return when their conversations are over.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, from 1:30 to 4:15 p.m. Attendance is ***taken both before and at the end of each class session*** by students initializing the attendance book.

Late arrivals can not sign in, although they can stay to participate and take notes in class. Late arrivals are considered *absent*.

Students with 2 consecutive absences or 3 absences overall will be dropped from the class by the instructor.

There are no excused absences.

If you are forced to miss a class due to an emergency, you are encouraged to get the notes for the day you missed from your Pair and Share Partner (or any other reliable member of the class) and carefully reread the reading assignment for the day.