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School of Social Sciences

2020-2021 Term II

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL AND POLICY STUDIES POSC003

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 Office Hours: By appointment

CLASS TIMING & TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Class	Day	Time	Venue	TA
G1	Tuesday	12:00-3:15	SOE/SOSS SR 3.5	TBA
G2	Wednesday	8:15-11:30	SOE/SOSS SR 3.7	TBA
G3	Wednesday	3:30-6:45	SOE/SOSS SR 3.7	TBA

PRE-REQUISITE/ CO-REQUISITE/ MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COURSE(S)

No pre-requisites

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to political science. It will cover a wide range of issues, including the formation of the nation-state, authoritarianism, democratization, ideology, political culture, institutions, conflict, development, and globalization. In the class we will discuss some of the major debates in politics that are important for policy-making. Why are some countries more democratic than others? Can civil society affect political change? What causes war and how can we prevent it? Why are some countries poor while others are wealthy? Is globalization making the world a wealthier and safer place? Through this course you will learn the main concepts and approaches in political science and apply them to recent events, such as the Arab Spring, the rise of China, the spread of Islamic fundamentalism, and the election of populist leaders like Donald Trump. While the course covers a number of regions,

there will be a particular focus on Asia.

COURSE GOALS

The main goal of this course is to provide students with the tools and skills to understand the political world. This course is ideal for students who want to establish a foundation for further study in political science or for students who want to attain a deeper understanding of important political issues and contemporary events in order to become more informed and politically engaged.

Specific Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Comprehend and critically analyze fundamental concepts in political science
- Apply these concepts in a variety of countries
- Recognize how historical, cultural, and institutional differences influence politics
- Evaluate the evidence for arguments on political issues
- Construct alternative arguments and interpretations
- Demonstrate the ability to present and support their arguments and ideas both verbally and in writing

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Component	Regularity	Individual/Group	Percent
Class participation	Every week	Individual	15
In-class pop quizzes	Random weeks	Individual	5
Midterm exam	Week 7	Individual	30
Take a Stand! Presentation	Week 13	Group (4-5 students)	15
Final exam	Week 15	Individual	35
Total			100

No questions verbatim from past year papers or published test banks will be used for the graded continuous assessments and examinations in this course.

Class Participation (15%): Class participation includes attendance, and contributions to the class discussion. Students must actively and regularly participate in discussion during class meetings, and their contributions should be thoughtful, well-informed, and aimed at promoting the overall discussion. Constructive participation requires advance preparation and evidence that you have completed the assigned reading prior to class.

In-Class Pop Quizzes (5%): There will be a few in-class quizzes on random weeks. These will be held before the lecture begins and will test your knowledge on key concepts and ar-

guments from the required readings for that day. If you have done the required readings they should be no problem. The quizzes are closed-book tests. They will be held at the start of the class, if you arrive after the quiz begins or are absent, you will be given a score of 0. If you have an excused absence, I will use an average of your total quiz scores for the quiz you missed. If you have excused absences for all the quizzes, you will get a 0, sorry. You cannot attend a different section of the class and take a quiz.

Take a Stand! Presentation (15%): In the last class (week 13) we will have group presentations on a number of important debates in political science. Two groups of students (5 students per group) will be assigned the same statement (e.g. “Globalization has gone too far and must be reversed”). During the term, one group will have to prepare arguments in support of the statement and the other against. For the final class, groups will present a 10-15 minute presentation using software such as Powerpoint, Keynote, Prezi etc. Those in support of the statement will go first, and those against, will go second. Presentations will be timed by the TA. A good presentation is a persuasive one. It should clearly communicate the key points, provide logical and empirical evidence in support, and engage the audience. To develop your argument you can draw on course readings, discussions, and outside literature. The in-class presentation can be split up among all group members or you can decide to select members to present. The same grade will be given to all group members.

Midterm Exam (25%): The midterm exam will include multiple choice questions, a crossword, short answer questions and an essay. The questions will cover material from weeks 1-6.

Final Exam (35%): The final exam will comprise of multiple choice questions, a crossword, and essays.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to abide by SMU’s policy on academic integrity. They should complete their own work and cite ideas information, data, and words that they have obtained elsewhere. Plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with strictly. Let me know if you have questions on how to properly cite sources. See <http://www.smuscd.org/resources.html> for information on SMU’s Code of Academic Integrity.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND EXPECTATIONS

There will be one three-hour class a week. Please arrive on time. The class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and presentations, the order of which will be dictated by what we need to cover on the day. There will be a break in the middle of the class.

Readings: The readings are essential for each class. There are approximately 50-70 pages of readings per week.

Laptops and Cell Phones: In the class students are not allowed use laptops. Put cell phones, PDA’s, on silent mode. If you do have an urgent call that you must take, take it outside the room.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

SMU strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers due to disability, please let me know immediately. You are also welcome to contact the university's disability support team if you have questions or concerns about academic accommodations: included@smu.edu.sg

Please be aware that the accessible tables in our seminar room should remain available for students who require them.

Emergency Preparedness for Teaching and Learning (EPTL)

As part of emergency preparedness, Instructors may conduct lessons online via the WebEx platform during the term, to prepare students for online learning. During an actual emergency, students will be notified to access the WebEx platform for their online lessons. The class schedule will mirror the current face-to-face class timetable unless otherwise stated.

RECOMMENDED TEXT AND READINGS

NOTE: THERE WILL BE SOME UPDATING OF THE READINGS IN THE NEXT DRAFT OF THE SYLLABUS.

Readings for this course are from the textbook, journal and magazine articles, plus newspaper reports and political science blog posts. If you have any difficulty in accessing the textbook or other readings contact me or the TA. I usually have an optional reading each week. I might discuss this reading in class, but do not expect that all students have read it. I will not directly test your knowledge on the optional reading in any exam or quiz question, however material in them could be helpful in as evidence in an exam question.

- Links to the journal articles, magazine and newspaper reports, and blog posts are on the syllabus.
- The textbook for this course will be on 3hr reserve at the library:

O'Neil, Patrick H. *Essentials of Comparative PoliticS*. New York; London: W. W. Norton and Company.

WEEKLY LESSON PLANS

PART I. STATES & INSTITUTIONS

Week 1. The Study of Politics

Required Reading

- ▶ O'Neil, Essentials, Chapter 1: Introduction, 2-29
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Week 2. States & Nations

Required Reading

- ▶ O'Neil, Essentials, Chapter 2: States, 30-60 only
- ▶ O'Neil, Essentials, Chapter 3: Nations and Society, pages 63-74 only
- ▶ Ortmann, Stephan. 2009. "Singapore: the Politics of Inventing National Identity." *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs* 28(4): 23-46. [Link >](#)

Optional Reading

- ▶ Lieven, A. 2016. "Clinton and Trump: Two Faces of American Nationalism." *Survival* 58(5): 7-22. [Link >](#)
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Week 3. Democratic & Nondemocratic Regimes

Required Reading

- ▶ O'Neil, Essentials, Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes, 137-143 only
- ▶ O'Neil, Essentials, Chapter 6: Nondemocratic Regimes, 175-204 only
- ▶ Nathan, Andrew J. 2015. "China's Challenge." *Journal of Democracy* 26(1) 156-170. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Foa, Roberto Stefan, and Yascha Mounk. 2016. "The Democratic Disconnect." *Journal of Democracy* 27(3): 5-17. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Voeten, Erik. 2016. "No, People Really Aren't Turning Away From Democracy." *Washington Post*: 1-4. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Guo, Jeff. 2016. "Debunking the Myth That Millennials Are Ushering in the End of the Western World." *Washington Post*: 1-3. [Link >](#)

Optional Reading

- ▶ Ortmann, Stephan, and Mark R Thompson. 2016. "China and the 'Singapore Model'." *Journal of Democracy* 27(1): 39-48. [Link >](#)
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Week 4. Democratization

Required Reading

- ▶ O’Neil, Essentials, Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes, p143-148
- ▶ Gause, F. Gregory. 2011. “Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring: The Myth of Authoritarian Stability.” *Foreign Affairs* 90. (Jul/Aug 2011): 81-90. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Masoud, Tarek. 2015. Has the Door Closed on Arab Democracy? *Journal of Democracy*, 26(1). [Link >](#)
- ▶ Pei, Minxin. 2016. “Transition in China?: More Likely Than You Think.” *Journal of Democracy* 27(4): 5–19. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Risse, Thomas, and Nelli Babayan. 2015. “How (Il)Liberal States Promote Democracy and Autocracy.” *Washington Post*: 1–3. [Link >](#)

Optional Reading

- ▶ Barany, Zoltan. 2015. “Exits from Military Rule: Lessons for Burma.” *Journal of Democracy* 26(2) 86-100. [Link >](#)

Week 5. Political Institutions

Required Reading

- ▶ O’Neil, Essentials, Chapter 5: Democratic Regimes, 152-167 only
- ▶ Linz, Juan J. 1990. “The Perils of Presidentialism.” *Journal of Democracy* 1 (1): 51–69. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Lijphart, Arend. 2004. “Constitutional Design for Divided Societies.” *Journal of Democracy* 15 (2): 96–109. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Weiss, M L, H Y Loke, and L A Choa. 2016. “The 2015 General Election and Singapore’s Political Forecast: White Clouds, Blue Skies.” *Asian Survey* 56(5): 859–78. [Link >](#)

Optional Reading

- ▶ Horowitz, Donald L. 1990. “Comparing Democratic Systems.” *Journal of Democracy* 1 (4): 73–79. [Link >](#)
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PART II. SOCIETY

Week 6. Ideology & Religion

Required Reading

- ▶ O'Neil, Essentials, Chapter 3: Nations and Society, 83-91 only
- ▶ Huntington, Samuel. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Affairs* 72 (3): 22–49. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris. 2003. "The True Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Policy* 135 63–70. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Krastev, Ivan. 2016. "The Unraveling of the Post-1989 Order." *Journal of Democracy* 27(4): 88–98. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Norris, Pippa. 2016. "It's Not Just Trump. Authoritarian Populism Is Rising Across the West. Here's Why.." *Washington Post*: 1–4. [Link >](#)

Optional Reading

- ▶ Fukuyama, Francis. 2014. "At the 'End of History' Still Stands Democracy." *Wall Street Journal*. [Link >](#)

Week 7. Midterm Exam and Group Presentation Preparation

Week 8. Recess

Week 9. Political Culture & Civil Society

Required Reading

- ▶ O'Neil, Essentials, Chapter 3: Nations and Society, 91-95 only
- ▶ Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Bowling Alone." *Journal of Democracy* 6 (1): 65–78. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Foley, Michael, and Bob Edwards. 1996. "The Paradox of Civil Society." *Journal of Democracy* 7 (3): 38–52. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Hewison, Kevin. 2014. "Thailand: The Lessons of Protest." *Asian Studies: Journal of Critical Perspectives on Asia* 50 (1): 1–15. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Bennett, Lance. 2014. "Connective Action: the Public's Answer to Democratic Dysfunction." *The Conversation*: 1–5. [Link >](#)

Optional Reading

- ▶ Hui, Victoria Tin-bor. 2015. "The Protests and Beyond." *Journal of Democracy* 26(2) 111-121. [Link >](#)
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PART III. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, CONFLICT, AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

Week 10. International Relations, War, and the Democratic Peace

Required Reading

- ▶ Walt, Stephen. 1998. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories." *Foreign Policy* 110 29–46. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Ray, James Lee. 1997. "The Democratic Path to Peace." *Journal of Democracy* 8 (2): 49–64. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Betts, Richard K. 2010. "Conflict or Cooperation? Three Visions Revisited." *Foreign Affairs* 89(6): 186–94. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Pijovic, Nikola. 2016. "How Trump Will Test International Relations Theory: Will the Realists or the Constructivists Be Proved Right?." *Policy Forum*. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Voeten, Erik. 2015. "Putin and Obama Clash Over International Relations Theory." *Washington Post*: 1–3. [Link >](#)

Optional Reading

- ▶ Bass, Gary J. 2006. "Are Democracies Really More Peaceful?." *The New York Times*: 1–3. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Banks, David, and Joseph O'Mahoney. 2016. "After Brexit, Britain Is Free - but It Will Never Be a Global Power Again." *The Independent UK*: 1–7. [Link >](#)

Week 11. Political Violence & Terrorism

Required Reading

- ▶ O'Neil, Essentials, Chapter 7: Political Violence, 207-236
- ▶ Walt, Stephen M. ISIS as Revolutionary State. *Foreign Affairs*. Nov/Dec2015, Vol. 94 Issue 6, p42-51 [Link >](#)
- ▶ Stern, Jessica, and J M Berger. 2015. "ISIS and the Foreign-Fighter Phenomenon." *The Atlantic*: 1–12. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Feaver Peter D., and Hal Brands. "Trump and Terrorism: U.S. Strategy After ISIS." [Link >](#)
- ▶ Birnir, Johanna Kristin, Christian Davenport, and Erika Forsberg. 2016. "Is Diversity Inherently Dangerous." *Washington Post*: 1–2. [Link >](#)

Week 12. Political Economy and Globalization

Required Reading

- ▶ O’Neil, Essentials, Chapter 4: Political Economy, 112-133 only
- ▶ O’Neil, Essentials, Chapter 10: Developing Countries, 322-340 only
- ▶ O’Neil, Essentials, Chapter 11: Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics, 343-370
- ▶ Naim, Moises. 2009. “Think Again: Globalization.” *Foreign Policy* 171 28–34. [Link >](#)
- ▶ Rodrik, Dani. 2016. “Put Globalization to Work for Democracies.” *The New York Times*: 1–5. [Link >](#)

Optional Reading

- ▶ Scheve, Kenneth, and David Stasavage. 2014. “Why Hasn’t Democracy Saved Us From Inequality?.” *Washington Post*: 1–3. [Link >](#)
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Week 13. Group Presentations

Week 14. Study Break

Week 15. Final Exam

Date: Tuesday April 27th
Time: 1:00-3:00 pm
Venue: TBA
