Course Description

What is democracy? Why are some citizens more likely to participate in politics than others? How do states try to address global problems? Political scientists seek to provide answers to these questions. This course offers an introduction to the study of politics. The course is divided into three parts. The first part of the course examines the essence of various political regimes and analyzes political processes around the globe. The second part focuses on public opinion and political participation in the United States. The course concludes with the discussion of international relations and, in particular, the role of international organizations in world politics.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will

- advance their knowledge of main theories and research methods in the field of political science
- gain a better understanding of world politics
- develop their communication and analytical skills

Course Requirements

- Participation 10 percent
- Presentation 10 percent
- Midterm Exam 20 percent
- Short Paper 1 15 percent
- Short Paper 2 15 percent
- Final Research Paper 30 percent
**Participation**
Student participation is critical to effective learning. Students are expected to read assigned readings prior to each class and meaningfully contribute to classroom discussions of the material. Students are also expected to attend student presentations at the end of the course and ask thoughtful questions regarding student research projects.

**Research Presentation**
Based upon one’s research for the final research paper, each student will make a short presentation on the assigned date.

**Midterm Exam**
There will be a midterm exam consisting of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The exam will cover the course material, including assigned readings, lectures, and classroom discussions. A make-up exam will be administered only in case of a medical emergency.

**Short Papers**
Each student will write two short papers on a specific topic. In the first short paper, the student will provide a review of political science literature on the topic of interest. In the second short paper, the student will present an overview of one’s research project. Each short paper should be no longer than five double-spaced pages long, using 12-point Times New Roman font. Further details will be provided in class.

**Final Research Paper**
At the end of the course, each student is expected to complete a research paper that provides an explanation for a political phenomenon observed in two countries or two US states. The final paper should be 14-17 double-spaced pages long, including the title page and references. Students will be responsible for dropping off a hard copy of the final paper at the instructor’s office (Faber Hall, Rm. 677) no later than 3:00 pm on December 12, one week after the last class in the course. There is no final exam.

**Important Dates**

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<td>October 7</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Short Paper 1 Due</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
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**Late Penalty**
You are responsible for submitting a hard copy of each assignment at the beginning of the class on due date. Email submissions will not be accepted. Short papers handed in after the class will be considered late. The late assignment will receive a ten percent penalty per each day of lateness.
Academic Integrity

Failure to properly acknowledge the intellectual contribution of others constitutes plagiarism and is a very serious academic offence. Please consult the Fordham University Undergraduate Policy on Academic Integrity to get familiar with the standards of academic integrity.

Required Textbook


Additional readings will be available through the Blackboard. You are responsible for downloading the assigned material and reading it prior to the class. You are also strongly encouraged to read *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, or another reputable newspaper to keep track of world politics. Most classes will include a discussion of current events.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

**Sept 4. Introduction (no readings)**

**Sept 5. Key Concepts: Power, Order and Justice**
Magstadt, pp. 2–12, 15–19


**Sept 9. The Concept of Democracy**
Magstadt, pp. 59–61


**Sept 12. Constitutional Democracy: The Case of the United States**
Magstadt, pp. 61–84

Sept 16. Authoritarianism: The Case of Egypt
Magstadt, pp. 87–93, 103–114


Sept 19. The Totalitarian Model: The Case of North Korea
Magstadt, pp. 116–131, 133–139


Sept 23. States in Transition: The Case of Russia
Magstadt, pp. 180–199


Magstadt, pp. 94–103, 131–133


Sept 30. Democracy and Development: The Case of India
Magstadt, pp. 211–236


Oct 3. Failed States: The Case of Afghanistan
Magstadt, pp. 237–245


Oct 7. MIDTERM EXAM

Oct 10. Using Library Resources
NOTE: *Meeting at the Walsh Library*

Oct 17. Writing a Literature Review
Oct 21. Quantitative Research Methods
Magstadt, pp. 12–15, 273–276


Oct 24. Qualitative Research Methods


Oct 28. Political Socialization
Magstadt, pp. 249–271

Oct 31. Political Participation
NOTE: First Short Paper Due
Magstadt, pp. 277–304


Nov 4. Causes and Consequences of War
Magstadt, pp. 398–428

Nov 7. Writing a Research Paper

Magstadt, pp. 491–496, 501–511

Nov 14. The European Union
NOTE: Second Short Paper Due
Magstadt, pp. 497–501

Nov 18. International Law
Magstadt, pp. 513–523

Nov 21. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Nov 25. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Dec 2. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Dec 5. Wrap-Up Discussion
NOTE: *Please bring your laptop for web-based course evaluation*