

POLITICAL SCIENCE 100 - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Term I/Fall 2002-03

MWF 12:00-12:50

Victoria Mantzopoulos, Ph.D.

243 Briggs

Phone: 993-1056 Fax: 313-993-1166

e-mail: armstrov@udmercy.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-10:00, Friday 1-2:00, And by appointment

Purpose of the Course: Political Science 100 is an introduction to the study of politics. Its purpose is to introduce to and familiarize students with the basic concepts of politics by studying the main subfields of the political science discipline: political theory, or ideologies; political behavior; political institutions, or structures; comparative politics; and international relations.

In addition, the course subscribes to and is designed to emphasize and promote several broad educational goals germane to a liberal arts curriculum: (1) the ability to **think** logically, analytically, and independently; (2) the ability to **communicate** clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing; and (3) the ability to **learn** on one's own. The class format and assignments are structured to promote the achievement of these goals.

Text: Neal Riemer and Douglas W. Simon, *The New World of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*. 4th Edition. Collegiate Press, 1997. ISBN 0-939693-41-0.

Study Guides: The study guides are an integral part of this course. They are designed to be used in conjunction with the reading schedule, and have several purposes. First, they should help you focus your reading. When you sit down to read an assignment for the next class how do you distinguish what is really important from what is less important? The study guides give you some idea of what I think is important, and what I want to focus our class discussion on. My advice is to glance at the study guide before reading the assignment. That way you'll have some idea what you're looking for as you read. In addition to training you to be a smarter reader and preparing you for class discussion, the study guides are designed to make it easier for you to prepare for the exams. Many of the questions are taken from the ideas in the study guides, in some cases word-for-word. I suggest you begin your exam preparation by going over the study guides.

(**WARNING:** Never turn in, or attempt to turn in, a study guide without coming to class! This constitutes cheating, and will be treated exactly as if you are caught cheating on an exam: You will fail the class and face possible expulsion from the College and University for academic dishonesty. This applies as well to the student who turns in a study guide for someone else.)

Each study guide is numbered, gives you the relevant reading assignment for that particular class period, and the due date, which is the same day we will discuss this material in class. The **only** way to get credit for the study guide is to turn it in at the BEGINNING of class. **The only**

time you can turn in the assignment for credit is at the beginning of class the day it is due! Since one of the purposes of this assignment is to prepare you for class discussion, you can't get credit without being in attendance that day. Nor can you get credit for sitting through the class, filling out the study guide for that day, and turning it in after class. Nor can you give it to a friend and have her or him turn it in for you in your absence. Nor can you anticipate missing a class and turn it in in-advance for credit. Nor can you miss a class, for any reason, and turn it in later for credit. This assignment is designed to help you: read smarter, understand the material better, contribute to class discussion more confidently, attend each and every class, be ready for the exams, review for the exams, get a better grade, and, ultimately, learn more.

In addition to the study guides that are taken directly out the textbook, there will be another kind study guide. First, each student will select a country. You will report on that country every week throughout the semester. The last study guide for every chapter of reading requires you to describe a particular aspect of your country coinciding with the topics discussed in that chapter. There will not be a specific aspect that I am looking for. You must do some research on your country on one of the topics in the chapter. You must do this for every chapter and report it on the study guide. There are several Internet web-sites that may facilitate your research. The country itself may have a home page, there are U.S. State Department reports, and encyclopedia sites.

Course Requirements: There are **five**. Four are equally weighted: each counts 22.5% of your final grade, with the fifth requirement as 10%. The **first** is your cumulative study guide grade. The **second, third, and fourth** requirements are three examinations. Regarding grades in general: I encourage you to speak to me at any point in the term about any and all aspects of your grade. **NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule and assignments as the situation may warrant. The **fifth** requirement is service learning.

Service Learning: In line with the University's mission to serve the community, students are required to do 10 hours of service learning as arranged by the Leadership Institute. The service learning activity provides a unique opportunity to gain grass roots insights into many of the major issues that we will discuss in this course. The activity must relate to political science and must be approved by the instructor by the end of the second week of classes. More discussion about the service learning option will be presented in class. This requirement is worth 10% of the final grade.

In addition to the 10 hour service requirement, there will be an in-class reflection session facilitated by university personnel. Finally, students are required to submit a **2-3 page reflection paper** on your service learning experience. Possible topics for the reflection paper are: What were the social conditions that surrounded your service work? What social justice issues were involved with your work? Would you describe any of these conditions as sinful (that is, caused by human failings, injustice, etc.)? This paper will be due the class session after the in-class reflection session near the end of the semester. Service Learning is directed by the Leadership

Institute (phone 993-1776).

Students that may have time conflicts with work or family must speak to the instructor for a possible waiver of this requirement. This waiver must be approved by the instructor. The waiver must be obtained before the end of the fourth week of the semester. The student that obtains a waiver must complete a 10 minute oral presentation on a topic approved by the instructor. This presentation will be worth 10 % (equivalent to the service learning requirement of 10%) of the final grade.

Attendance: Class attendance is especially important in this class. Besides the point deduction for missed study guides, you may incur a double penalty if you have a number of absences. Points will be deducted from the final grade based on the following absences (any student arriving late or leaving early will be considered absent):

0-1 0% deduction, 2-3 5% deduction, 4-5 10% deduction, 6 or more 20% deduction

The instructor reserves the right to deny any student missing 5 or more class meetings participation on any project or exam. The student may be required to withdraw from the course.

University athletes: Students representing the University on any athletic teams that may require missing class sessions are required to submit any study guides prior to the approved leave and complete any exams that are required during any approved absences. Athletes missing class sessions during these approved absences will not be penalized according to the attendance policy.

Grading Scale The following grading scale will be applied to the following grade:

92-100%	A	78-79	C+
90-91	A-	72-77	C
88-89	B+	70-71	C-
82-87	B	68-69	D+
80-81	B-	60-67	D
		0-59	F

Extra Credit: An extra credit opportunity will be discussed in class. Extra credit will be added to your lowest score in the amount of ½ point to every approved extra credit submission. However, the extra credit is limited to a full letter grade score and may not be counted in absence of required work. That is, extra credit is not to take the place of missed work. Otherwise, if a student has a 70 on an exam score, for example, extra credit may increase this grade to a maximum of 10 more full points to an 80.

Readings and Exams

Sept.	4	Introduction
	6	Service Learning presentation
	9	Games Politicians Play, Chapter 1
	11	Politics and Choice, Chapter 2
	13	Politics and Choice
	16	Political Science: Components, Tasks, and Controversies, Chapter 3
	18	The Physical, Social, and Cultural Environment, Chapter 4
	20	The Physical, Social, and Cultural Environment
	23	The Quest for the Good Political Life, Chapter 5
	25	The Quest for the Good Political Life
	27	The Quest for the Good Political Life
	30	Liberal Democracy, Chapter 6
Oct	2	Liberal Democracy
	4	Liberal Democracy
	7	Communism, Chapter 7
	9	Communism, Democratic Socialism, Chapter 8
	11	Democratic Socialism
	14	Exam 1- Chapters 1-8
	16	The Political Values of Political Actors, Chapter 11
	18	The Political Values of Political Actors
	21	National Politics 1: Constitutions, Voters, ...Chapter 12
	23	National Politics 1: Constitutions, Voters
	25	National Politics 1: Constitutions, Voters
	28	National Politics 1: Constitutions, Voters
	30	National Politics 1: Constitutions, Voters
Nov	1	National Politics II: Legislatures, Executives.... Chapter 13
	4	National Politics II: Legislatures, Executives
	6	National Politics II: Legislatures, Executives
	8	National Politics II: Legislatures, Executives
	11	Exam II Chapters 11-13
	13	International Politics and The Global Community, Chapter 14
	15	International Politics and the Global Community
	18	War and Peace in the Modern World, Chapter 16

	20	War and Peace in the Modern World
	22	War and Peace in the Modern World
	25	The Birth on Behalf of the Least Free, Chapter 17
	27	Reflection Session
	29	No Class, Thanksgiving
Dec	2	The Struggle for Economic Well-Being, Chapter 18
	4	The Imperative of Ecological Health, Chapter 19 (Reflection report due)
	6	The Challenge Future of Politics and Political Science, Chapter 20

Final Exam: Thursday, December 12, 2002 -- 11:00-12:50 am--Chapters 14-20