**FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLEGE (A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)**

**Department of Political Science**

**PLSC 101: Introduction to Political Science**

Instructor: Dr. Abeeda Qureshi

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Student Hour: Monday to Wednesday: 2pm -3pm (or by appointment)

Office Location: E-036

**Course Details**

Room E345/ 15.00 - 15.50pm – M.W. F**.** This is a major course and amounts to 3 credit hours and will be held in-person.

**Course Description**

This introductory course seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of basic concepts and ideas of Political Science. The course takes a comparative approach while studying the scope of political science, elements of state, structure of the government, and political dynamics. Along with advanced western democratic systems, governmental frameworks in developing countries will also be explored. More importantly, the course will help students in developing an understanding of how the discipline studies power relations in diverse social settings.

**Learning outcome:**

After taking this course, students will be able to:

* Gain knowledge of the nature and scope of Political science
* Define and explain basic concepts and ideas in the study of Political science.
* Develop a comparative understanding of real-world politics by applying concepts, theories and methods studied in this course.
* Appreciate the diversity in systems of the government across time and space
* Develop an appropriate political science vocabulary needed to study more advanced courses of Political Science and International Relations

**TEACHING METHODS**

The course will be taught by using Inquiry based learning techniques. Students will be asked to read the reading material given in advance and take an active part in discussions during the class. An environment of close student-teacher interaction encourages students to develop independent analytical perspectives which enable us to identify their academic interests, strengths and weaknesses at a very early stage. With this in mind, teaching approaches are more inductive than expository. This means that students need to come to class more prepared to contribute to the learning process through participation in discussions and presentations. The assessment will be based on a research-based on 4 Quizzes (20%), 1 PowerPoint presentations (10%) on topics of their choice from the topics listed in the course outline, midterm (30%) and Final Term Examination (40%).

**Power Point Presentation**

Students are required to give power point presentation from the topic listed in the course outline. The purpose of the power-point presentations is to keep students engaged in learning from the very beginning and to ensure two-way traffic of knowledge. Depending on the class size, the presentation can be individual or in a group of 3 students. The power-point presentation by the student or a group of students will be followed by question answer session. Students will be assessed on the basis of the clarity and coherence of the content, meticulousness in the presentation of the ideas and analysis as well as the effective use of slides and images. 3 marks will be reserved to judge how student handle and respond to the questions. Students are required to keep their presentation within the 10 minutes. Negative marking will be applied in case student exceed their time limit. The criteria used for assessing the presentation are as follows.

The degree of knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.

The ability to present a coherent and systematic argument.

The ability to communicate effectively in a clear and cogent manner.

The extent to which the time limits are observed.

The effectiveness with which oral questions are dealt with.

The clarity of delivery (pace, audibility, etc.)

Depending on the size of the class intake, students will be required either to make one individual presentation or contribute to one group presentation. If group presentations are required, student will also need to submit a log of their contribution to the group. Each contributing group member is awarded the same mark, which is 10% of the total mark.

**Quizzes**

Student are required to give 4 quizzes based on short question answer, two before the mid-term and two after the mid-term from the readings assigned in advance from the course outline. The purpose of the quizzes is to check student’s conceptual clarity and to ensure that they are engaged with the readings from the very beginning.

**Mid – Term and Final Term**

On university’s prescribed dates Mid Term and Final Term Examinations will be held. In online instruction, student will be assigned **Take-Home Mid-Term.** The instructor will assign a question for a take-home midterm exam. The take-home midterm exam will make students answer a question by applying the concept that they would have covered in their readings. This paper must be submitted online through Moodle; no other modes of submission are allowed. The grading rubric for the research paper is available on Moodle.

**Important Course Policies**

**Mode of Instruction:** This course will be taught in-person, but will heavily make use of Moodle and Microsoft Teams (for individual online meetings); kindly ensure that you are familiar with using both.

**Submission of Assignments and Plagiarism**: All written assignments must be submitted through Moodle, and will be checked for plagiarism via Turnitin. This software ensures that the work submitted is the student’s own, and plagiarism and cheating in any class discussion or assignment will be dealt with a failing grade, and further disciplinary action will be taken according to FCC policies. Please read the relevant sections in your Student Handbook for further details.

**Asynchronous Online Notification:** If you have permission from the Vice Rector’s Office (VRO) to attend the course online asynchronously for the entire semester, please contact the course instructor immediately.

**Contacting the Instructor:** The best way to reach the instructor is through email. During the scheduled office hours, the instructor will respond within 45 minutes of the query being sent; response time outside of office hours is 12 hours max. If a student is participating in the course online, individual meetings can be arranged online via email. The instructor will be readily available for such meetings during office hours (listed above) and all a student needs to do is send a request for an individual meeting through email.

**Response Time for Emails:** The instructor will respond to all emails during 9am to 5pm during Mondays to Fridays, with a maximum reply time of 12 hours. If you have urgent matters that need discussion, try to participate during scheduled office hours (in-person or online).

**Submission of Assignments and Plagiarism:** All written assignments must be submitted through Moodle, and will be checked for plagiarism via TurnItIn. This software ensures that the work submitted is the student’s own, and plagiarism and cheating in any class discussion or assignment will be dealt with a failing grade, and further disciplinary action will be taken according to FCC policies. Please read the relevant sections in your Student Handbook for further details.

**Late Submissions:** Late submission of the research paper, midterm exam, and research paper will result in automatic penalties. Each day that passes after the deadline for submission will result in a 5% overall grade reduction.

**Re-take Policies:** Absolutely no re-takes for any assignment are allowed, and no extensions will be given for any assignment as well. Under extreme circumstances beyond the student’s control - such as electric or internet outages during online quizzes - s/he should inform the instructor.

**Participation Etiquette:** Students are expected to come to class on time. Personal attacks on other participants - including the instructor - through class discussions or other means will garner strict punishments. A written warning will be issued after one transgression, and further transgressions will result in an automatic failing grade in the course.

**Electronics Policy:** Usage of cell phones and other electronic or recording devices is strictly prohibited in class. If you need to use your laptop or tablet to take notes, please see the instructor to obtain permission beforehand.

**Language of Instruction:** The language of instruction for the course is English, as required by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). As such, the instructor is not responsible for delivering the lecture or disseminating class-related reading materials in a language other than English; however, reasonable accommodations can be made on an individual basis. All assignments are to be completed and submitted in English as well. Students facing difficulty with the medium of instruction should contact the instructor and seek help during office hours (or by appointment).

**Accommodation for Disabled Students:** If a student is facing difficulty in the course due to a disability or handicap, please contact the instructor immediately to arrange for an appropriate instruction method.

**Health Emergencies**: If a student or a student’s family member encounters a health emergency that can have significant impact on the student’s performance in the course, s/he should immediately inform the instructor. Failure to do so will result in absolutely no accommodations being made towards the course assessments.

**Modifications in Syllabus:** This syllabus was designed to convey course information and requirements as accurately as possible. It is important to note however that it may be subject to change during the course depending on the needs of the class and other situational factors. Such changes would be for the students’ benefit and they will be notified of them as soon as possible.

**Required Textbooks**

1. Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, and Stephanie Lawson (2016), Introduction to Politics.
2. Rod Hague and Martin Harrop (2016) Comparative Government and Politics- An Introduction
3. Michael G. Roskin et al (2017), Political Science- An Introduction

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIDNMENTS**

(Note: This course schedule is subject to revisions under some unavoidable circumstances)

**Week 1-2 -** What is Political Science?

* What is Political Science?
* Theories or approaches in Political Science

**Required Readings**

Ch 1 Politics and Political Science, Michael G. Roskin et al (2017), Political Science- An Introduction

**Week 3-4 –** Political Concepts

* Politics - Government
* Classification of Governments
* Power- Authority
* State
* Legislature
* Sovereignty
* Ideologies - Nation and Nationalism

**Required Readings**

Ch 1 Political Concepts (Comparative Government and Politics- Rod Hague and Martin Harrop (2016) Comparative Government and Politics- An Introduction

**Week 5-6–** Regimes – Democratic-Authoritarian

* Democracy
* Forms of Democracy
* Authoritarian Rule
* Kinds of Authoritarian Rule

**Required Readings**

Ch 5 Regimes-Political Science- Michael G. Roskin et al (2017), Political Science- An Introduction

**Week 7 – Mid-Term Exam.**

**Week 8 –** Parts of Government - Legislature

* Legislature - Unicameral and Bicameral legislatures
* Functions of legislature - Parliamentary and Presidential systems

**Required Readings –**

Ch 12 - Legislatures - Michael G. Roskin et al (2017), Political Science- An Introduction

**Week 9 -10 –** Executive – Judiciary

* Executive
* Judicial review -Judicial activism and restraint - Judicial independence

**Required Readings –**

* Ch 13 Executives and Bureaucracies- Michael G. Roskin et al (2017), Political Science- An Introduction.
* Ch 7 Constitutions and Courts - Rod Hague and Martin Harrop (2016) Comparative Government and Politics- An Introduction

**Week 10 -** Multilevel Governance-Federal State-Unitary State

* Federalism - Strengths and weaknesses of Federalism
* Unitary states

**Required Readings**

* Ch 11 Sub-National Government- Rod Hague and Martin Harrop (2016) Comparative Government and Politics- An Introduction

**Week 12 –** Political Dynamics-Elections, Political Parties

* Elections - Types of electoral systems
* Political parties - Functions of parties - Party Systems

**Required Readings**

Ch 11 Votes, Elections, Parties - (Introduction to Politics by Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, and Stephanie Lawson)

**Week 13 –** Introduction to Global Politics

* States and Nations in Global Politics

**Week 14 –** Final Exams

**Recommended Readings**

* Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, and Stephanie Lawson (2016), Introduction to Politics.
* Ethridge, M. E. and Handleman, H. (2004).*Politics in a Changing World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science.*London: Thomason Wardsworth.
* Grigsby, E. (2009). *Analysing Politics: An Introduction To Political Science.* London: Wadsworth.
* Munroe, T. (2002). *An Introduction to Politics: Lectures For First Year Student.*Barbadoes: Canoe Press.
* Tansey, S. D.(2004). *Politics: The Basics* London: Routledge.