
Department of Political Science
Forman Christian College

Course Outline PLSC 101:
Introduction to Political Science

Fall Semester 2021/2022

MWF 11:00 to 11:50

Venue: E-344

Section: F

Instructor: M. Usman Farooq
usmanfarooq@fcollege.edu.pk

Office: E-114A

Office Hours: TR 14:00 to 15:30



Overview

This course introduces students to the basic concepts and ideas of Political Science. It surveys the area covered in political science including the nature of political science, the nature and forms of the state, structure of government, political dynamics, and the development of an appropriate political science vocabulary.

Learning Objectives/Goals

By the end of the course the students will be able to

- Define and describe the basic concepts
- Explain the concepts, distinguish and analyze their kinds
- Describe and compare & contrast the merits and demerits of the concepts
- Identify, analyze, argue and discuss solutions to problems in class discussions
- Communicate effectively in writing
- Demonstrate self-organization and time-management during exams
- Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of political science to the
- Analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices.

Requirements

- > **Week 1: Introduction**
Topic: What is Political?
Reading: No reading required. Participation is mandatory.

- > **Week 2: What is Political Science? Theories or Approaches in Political Science**

Topics: Political Science as discipline, Behaviouralism, Dialectic, Discourse, Functionalism, Idealism, Institutionalism, Political Philosophy, Political Theory, Positivism, Rationalism, Realism, Systems Theory, Utilitarianism, Utopianism

Reading: Ch. (1) Politics and Political Science (Political Science- An Introduction by Michael G. Roskin et al).
Ch. (4) Approaches in “*Key Concepts in Politics*” by Andrew Heywood (2000).

> **Week 3: Political Concepts I**

Topics: Politics, Polity (Government), Policy, Governance, Classification of Governments, Power, Civil Society, Consensus

Reading: Ch. (2) Political Concepts (Comparative Government and Politics- An Introduction by Rod Hague and Martin Harrop).

Ch. (1) Basic Concepts in “*Key Concepts in Politics*” by Andrew Heywood (2000).

> **Week 4: Political Concepts II**

Topics: Authority, Legislature, State, Sovereignty, Nation and Nationalism, Ideology

Reading: Ch. (2) Political Concepts (Comparative Government and Politics- An Introduction by Rod Hague and Martin Harrop).

Ch. (1) Basic Concepts in “*Key Concepts in Politics*” by Andrew Heywood (2000).

> **Week 5: Regimes I: Democratic Regimes**

Topics: Democracy, Forms of Democracy

Reading: Ch. (5) Regimes (Political Science- An Introduction by Michael G. Roskin et al).

> **Week 6: Regimes II: Authoritarian Regimes**

Topics: Authoritarian Rule, Kinds of Authoritarian Rule

Reading: Ch. (5) Regimes (Political Science- An Introduction by Michael G. Roskin et al).

> **Week 7: Mid-Term Exam**

> **Week 8: Parts of Government I: Legislature**

Topics: Legislature, Origin, Parliamentary and Presidential systems, Unicameral and Bicameral legislatures, Functions of legislature

Reading: Ch. (12) Legislatures (Political Science- An Introduction by Michael G. Roskin et al).

- > **Week 9: Parts of Government II: Executive**
Topics: Executive, Presidents and Prime Ministers, Cabinets

Reading: Ch. (13) Executives and Bureaucracies (Political Science- An Introduction by Michael G. Roskin et al).

- > **Week 9: Parts of Government III: Judiciary**
Topics: Constitutions, Judicial review, Judicial activism and restraint, Judicial independence

Reading: Ch. (7) Constitutions and Courts (Comparative Government and Politics- An Introduction by Rod Hague and Martin Harrop).

- > **Week 10: Multilevel Governance I: Federal State, Unitary States**
Topics: Federalism, Strengths and weaknesses of Federalism, Unitary States

Reading: Ch. (11) Sub-National Government (Comparative Government and Politics- An Introduction by Rod Hague and Martin Harrop).

- > **Week 11: Political Dynamics I: Elections**
Topics: Elections, Types of electoral systems

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

- > **Week 12: Political Dynamics II: Political Parties**
Topics: Political parties, Functions of parties, Party Systems

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

- > **Week 13: Introduction to Global Politics**
Topics: States and Nations in Global Politics

Reading: Ch. (14) Introducing Global Politics (Introduction to Politics by Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, and Stephanie Lawson).

> **Week 14: Introduction to Modern State**

Topic: Modern State

Reading: Modern State in “*The Modern State*” by Christopher Pierson (2nd Edition) 1996 pp. 4-26.

> **Week 15: Political Ideologies**

Topic: Anarchism, Communism, Communitarianism, Conservatism, Ecologism, Fascism, Feminism, Liberalism, Marxism, Religious Fundamentalism, Social Democracy, and Socialism.

Reading: Ch. (3) Ideologies in “*Key Concepts in Politics*” by Andrew Heywood.

Font Details for Papers/Essays

Font Style: Time New Roman

Font Size: 12

Spacing: Double Space

Reference/Citation: Chicago Style

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, cheating or any other violation will be dealt with according to FCC policies

GRADE TABLE PLSC 101: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE**SEMESTER:** FALL 2021**Section:** F**Marking style:** Mix (Please see the marking style for individual activity below)**INSTRUCTOR:** M. USMAN FAROOQ

No.	Course Activity	Marks	Percentage of final grade	Assessment criteria	Time and Date of the Exam	Marking Style
1	Mid-Term	30	30%	Oral Exam	Will be held on the dates according to our academic calendar	Absolute Marking
2	Final Exam	30	30%	Oral Exam	Will be held on the dates according to our academic calendar	Absolute Marking
3	Class Participation 1	10	10%	Group Presentation on an assigned text by the instructor	Will be assigned according to our weekly course plan	Absolute Marking
4	Class Participation 2	10	10%	Individual Presentation on a text, outside of our course readings but related to our course material	In the last two weeks of our classes	Relative Marking
5	Class Participation 3	10	10%	Cross-Questioning all the presentations	In every presentation held in the class	Relative Marking
6	Class Participation 4	10	10%	Attendance and active participation in each class	Every Class Session	Absolute Marking
Total	6 Activities	100 Marks	100%			

Details of Each Class Activity

1) Mid-Term Exam (30 Marks): Oral Exam

Your midterm exam will be oral and will be assessed in absolute marking style. It will be structured into around 10 subjective questions, extracted from your course readings that we already discussed in the class, and will be research induced in their nature and you will be required to do good research on the phenomenon asked in the question. Further details of your mid-term are as followed:

- I. I will assign you all the exam questions at least 1 week prior to our official midterm date for this semester
- II. I will give you 15 minutes time for your oral exam on zoom the structure to which will be as followed:

I will give you the first 5 minutes to present an answer (to speak about the answer) to the question that you will be assigned in your final exam. One good quality answer will be enough for this exam. But if your answer to the first question won't be that impressive I will ask you a 2nd question (This way you will know that I am not satisfied (you already know what grade is not-satisfied) with your performance so far in the exam, and you should also know that if I ask you a 2nd question it means you have already lost some marks in your midterm/final exam.)

If there is only one question asked then the next 5 minutes I will cross question you. And the last 5 minutes I will like to have a general discussion and will ask for your personal analysis of the phenomenon discussed in the question.

If there is, a need for a 2nd question then we will increase 5 minutes time and our exam will take its maximum time which 20 minutes

I will announce your result right at the end of our oral exam (before disconnecting our zoom call).

2) Class Participation 1 (10 Marks): Group Presentation on an assigned text by the Instructor

For every class session, there is a reading. Each reading of the course will be assigned to a particular group to prepare a comprehensive 10 minutes powerpoint presentation (audio/video both are allowed) on it. We will have a lecture on that phenomenon by the instructor and later question answer session on the text. The students will make the groups and the instructor for this activity will assign reading.

3) Class Participation 2 (10 Marks): Individual Presentation on a text, outside of our course readings but related to our course material

You are required to select a research article, research essay, research paper, book chapter etc that is not part of our class readings but directly related to our course content and prepare a comprehensive 10 minutes powerpoint presentation (audio/video both are allowed) on it. This is not a group activity rather individual. You will select the topic and the dates to present in the last two weeks of our class.

4) Class participation 3 (10 Marks): Cross-Questioning all the presentations

All participants of the course are required to cross-question wherever is asked by the instructor. In this course students can cross-question every presentation without any exception. Your cross-questioning will be recorded by the class representative and instructor and you will be assessed based on the number of good academic question you will ask.

5) Class Participation 4 (10 Marks): Attendance and Active Class Participation

6) Final Exam (20 Marks): Oral Exam

Your midterm/final exam will be oral and will be assessed in absolute marking style. It will be structured into around 10 subjective questions, extracted from your course readings that we already discussed in the class, and will be research induced in their nature and you will be required to do good research on the phenomenon asked in the question. Further details of your mid-term are as followed:

I will assign you all the exam questions at least 1 week prior to our official midterm date for this semester. I will give you 15 minutes time for your oral exam on zoom the structure to which will be as followed:

I will give you the first 5 minutes to present an answer (to speak about the answer) to the question that you will be assigned in your final exam. One good quality answer will be enough for this exam. But if your answer to the first question won't be that impressive I will ask you a 2nd question (This way you will know that I am not satisfied (you already know what grade is not-satisfied) with your performance so far in the exam, and you should also know that if I ask you a 2nd question it means you have already lost some marks in your midterm/final exam.)

- 1) If there is only 1 question asked then the next 5 minutes I will cross-question you. And the last 5 minutes I will like to have a general discussion and will ask for your personal analysis of the phenomenon discussed in the question.
- 2) If there is a need for 2nd question then we will increase 5 minutes time and our exam will take its maximum time which 20 minutes
- 3) I will announce your result right at the end of our oral exam (before disconnecting our zoom call)

