
Department of Political Science
Forman Christian College

Course Outline PLSC 101:
Introduction to Political Science

Spring Semester 2023
MWF 10:00 to 10:50

Venue: E-104

Section: A

Instructor: M. Usman Farooq
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Office: E-114A

Office Hours: TR 11:00 to 12:30



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

