

PS100: Introduction to Political Science (3 credits)

Fall 2021

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Please note that:

- Some information given on the syllabus is subject to change on an as-needed basis throughout the term. Students will be notified by email or by announcement in class when revisions are made.

Lecture:

- Monday & Wednesday, 10:00 - 10:50 am
- Lecture Hall: 101 Armory

Office Hours:

- Mon/Wed 1:30 - 3 pm or by appointment
- Sign up: <https://calendly.com/yujeongyang/officehour>
- Students can sign up for more than one (15-minutes) slot if students need extended office hour (up to 4 slots). Please make sure that the appointment should be made at least 1 hour ahead of time. Students can choose between a virtual meeting and an in-person meeting.

Section:

- Friday, 9:00 - 9:50 am or 10:00 - 10:50 am or 11:00 - 11:50 am

1. Course Description

How should a state resolve various conflicts between individuals? Who do American voters vote for and what factors affect their voting behavior? How do political institutions vary across countries and why? How does globalization change the way states interact with citizens? Political science provides some useful tools and debates to examine these issues. This course is designed to provide a broad overview of the discipline of political science. Students will have opportunities to browse various political issues and questions through the lenses of four major subfields of political science, including political theory, American politics, comparative politics and international relations.

The student is expected to devote at least 9 hours per week learning the topics of the course through lectures and readings, and at least 6-9 additional hours per week on homework assignments and weekly quizzes.

2. Prerequisites

No prerequisites expected.

3. Student Learning Outcomes

- Understand fundamental concepts and core ideas of Political Science
- Differentiate the empirical and normative approaches to the study of politics
- Be ready and feel comfortable with taking upper-level courses in any subfield of political science.
- Apply core political science concepts to real-world problems

4. Course Materials

- **Textbook**

Douglas W.Simon, et al (eds.), *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*, CQ Press, 2019 (6th Edition).

All other readings will be made available on Canvas. Please ensure that you have completed all readings before lecture.

- **i-clicker remotes**

I am going to check students' attendances and participation using I-clicker. Students can participate in class activities using either **the iClicker student mobile app**, or using a **handheld iClicker remote**. Remotes can be purchased from campus bookstores or online. Students who use the app can purchase an iClicker subscription by signing in to your account on the iClicker student web app (<https://student.iclicker.com>).

5. Course Website

You can find this syllabus, supplementary readings, assignments, grades and course announcements on the Illinois Learning Management System, Canvas (<https://canvas.illinois.edu/>). Please use your U of I NetID and password to log on.

6. Course Requirements and Assignments

Midterm 1 (September 29, 2021)	40 points
Midterm 2 (November 3, 2021)	40 points
Final (December 13, 2021)	70 points
Essay 1 (September 26, 2021)	50 points
Essay 2 (October 31, 2021)	50 points
Essay 3 (December 5, 2021)	50 points
Reading Assignments (8 × 10 points)	80 points
Weekly Quizzes (8 × 10 points)	80 points
Section participation	20 points
Lecture Attendance and participation	20 points
Total	500 points

- **Midterm 1&2 (40 points each) and Final (70 points)**

The format of the two midterm exams and final will consist of a combination of T/F questions, multiple choices, short answers. Examples of T/F questions and multiple choices will be shared during the lecture. The short answer questions will be drawn from the key terms identified at the beginning of each set of lecture notes. Students are expected to provide 4-5 sentences which define the concept and explain its relevance to the study of international politics). The final exam is **cumulative**.

- **Essays (50 points × 3 essays)** Students are required to submit three essays (word count between 500 and 550 each). The deadline of each essay is stated in this syllabus. In the essays, students are expected to express their thoughts about the topics covered in the class. Detailed instructions and rubrics will be available on the course website two weeks before the deadline.
- **Reading assignments (10 points × 8)**
There are 11 reading assignments throughout the semester. Student may skip up to **3 reading assignments**. For those who submit more than the required ten sets, only their most successful ten sets will be used when calculating their final grades. Students who completed all reading assignments without skipping any would receive 5 extra-credit points.
- **Weekly quizzes (10 points × 8)**
 - There will be online quizzes at the end of every week (Friday 11:59pm). Samples of the quiz questions will be shared during the lecture. Some of the quiz questions will be recycled and will show up in the Midterm and Final. In this regard, the weekly quizzes are great study guides for students. Students are encouraged to review the quiz questions when they prepare the midterm and final.
 - I only count **eight sets of quiz scores** to calculate the final quiz grades. Students who miss or do not do well on the quizzes for whatever reasons are automatically excused up to three times.
- **Section participation (20 points)**
20 points of course grade will be based on student's preparation for, attendance of, and participation in discussion sessions led by the TA.
- **Lecture attendance and participation (20 points)**
20 points of course grade will be based on student's preparation for, attendance of, and participation in lecture and class discussion.
 - I will use I-clicker to check student's participation and attendance.
 - Full attendance at all lectures without active participation in either will earn students no higher than 15 points (out of 20 points).
 - Students can opt to miss up to **three lectures** per semester without penalty. Every each subsequent absence will be penalized (- 1 point for each subsequent absence). If students habitually miss lecture without excuse (8 or more times per semester), they will receive zero of 20 points.
- **Assignment of Grades**
Letter grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

A+	(490-500)	B+	(435-449)	C+	(385-399)	D+	(335-349)
A	(465-489)	B	(415-434)	C	(365-384)	D	(315-334)
A-	(450-464)	B-	(400-414)	C-	(350-364)	D-	(300-314)

7. Classroom Policies

- **Late policy**
Any assignments (weekly quizzes, essays, and/or reading assignments) should be submitted by the deadline. There will be no make-up quizzes. Assignments turned in

within an hour of the due date will lose 10 percent of total points. Assignments turned in within a day of the due date (i.e. 24 hours past the deadline) will lose 20 percent of total points. Any assignments turned in after that will receive zero (0) points. The student alone is responsible for uploading assignments on time and in a readable format (either PDF or word).

- **Email Policy**

If you have a question about the course or an assignment, **check the syllabus first** to see if the answer to your question is there. For email correspondence, I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours—but please allow me a reasonable response time. I may not respond on weekends and holidays. Also, please include “**PS 100**” in the subject line so I can see that it’s an email from my student in PS100 class.

- **Academic Honesty**

All work that a student submit and complete in the course must be the student’s own. It is students’ responsibility to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. “I did not know” is not an excuse. Please refer to the Academic integrity policy and procedure. <https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/>

- **Students with Disabilities**

The instructor will do their utmost to make appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. As explained in the University of Illinois Student Code, these accommodations can be coordination through the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services, reachable at (217) 333-4603 or disability@illinois.edu

8. Course Outline and Reading Schedule

Week 1. Conceptualizing Political Science - Introduction

Monday, August 23 - Introduction

Wednesday, August 25 - What is Political Science

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 3 (pp. 55-77).

Friday, August 27 - First Session Meeting

Week 2. Part I : Political Theory

Sunday, August 29: Reading Assignment #1 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, August 30 - Political Philosophy vs. Empirical Political Science

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 3 (pp. 55-77).

Wednesday, September 1 - Prominent Thinkers in History of Political Thoughts

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 5 (pp. 109-133).

Friday, September 3 - **Online Weekly Quiz #1 by 11:59pm**

Week 3. Part I : Political Theory

Sunday, September 5: Reading Assignment #2 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, September 6 - Labor Day (No class)

Wednesday, September 8 - Liberal Democracy

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 6 (pp. 135-158).

Friday, September 10 - **Online Weekly Quiz #2 by 11:59pm**

Week 4. Part I : Political Theory

Sunday, September 12: Reading Assignment #3 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, September 13 - Marxism

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 7 (pp. 170-186).

Wednesday, September 15 - Democratic Socialism

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 7 (pp. 162-170).

Friday, September 17 - **Online Weekly Quiz #3 by 11:59pm**

Week 5. Part II : Political Science Methods

Sunday, September 19: Reading Assignment #4 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, September 20 - What does "Science" mean in Political "Science"?

- William Clark, Matt Golder and Sona Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. "What is Science?". pp. 19-48.

Wednesday, September 22 - Empirical Approaches to Political Science

- Maryann Barakso, Daniel M. Sabet and Brian F. Schaffner. 2014. *Understanding Political Science Research Methods: The Challenge of Inference*. New York: Routledge. "The Challenge of Inference." pp. 11-27.

Friday, September 24 - **Online Weekly Quiz #4 by 11:59pm**

Week 6. Review and Midterm 1

Sunday, September 26: ESSAY 1 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, September 27 - Exam Review

Wednesday, September 29 - Midterm 1

Friday, October 1 - No session

Week 7. Part III : Comparative Politics & American Politics

Sunday, October 3: Reading Assignment #5 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, October 4 - What is a State

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 10 (pp. 204-215; 273-277).

Wednesday, October 6 - Constitutional Features

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 8 (pp. 197-204).

Friday, October 8 - **Online Weekly Quiz #5 by 11:59pm**

Week 8. Part III : Comparative Politics & American Politics

Sunday, October 10: Reading Assignment #6 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, October 11 - Political Institutions: American Political Institutions

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 9 (pp. 229-250).

Wednesday, October 13 - Political Institutions : Parliamentary Governments

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 10 (pp. 258-264).

Friday, October 15 - **Online Weekly Quiz #6 by 11:59pm**

Week 9. Part III : Comparative Politics & American Politics

Sunday, October 17: Reading Assignment #7 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, October 18 - Electoral Institutions and Party Systems

- William Clark, Matt Golder and Sona Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. (pp. 641-657).

Wednesday, October 20 - Political Culture and Values

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 8 (pp. 189-197; 215-220).

Friday, October 22 - **Online Weekly Quiz #7 by 11:59pm**

Week 10. Part III : Comparative Politics & American Politics

Sunday, October 24: Reading Assignment #8 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, October 25 - Authoritarian Regimes

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 10 (pp. 264- 273).

Wednesday, October 27 - Populism

- Uri Friedman. 2017. [What Is a Populist?](#). *The Atlantic*.

Friday, October 29 - US Authoritarian Populism

- Dalibor Rohac, Liz Kennedy, and Vikram Singh. 2018. [Drivers of Authoritarian Populism in the United States](#)
- **Online Weekly Quiz #8 by 11:59pm**

Week 11. Review and Midterm 2

Sunday, October 31: ESSAY 2 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, November 1 - Exam Review

Wednesday, November 3 - Midterm 2

Friday, November 5 - No Session

Week 12. Part IV : International Politics

Sunday, November 7: Reading Assignment #9 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, November 8 - Actors and Core Concepts in International Politics

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 11 (pp. 281-309).

Wednesday, November 10 - Peace and Conflicts

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 12 (pp. 315-340).

Friday, November 12 - **Online Weekly Quiz #9 by 11:59pm**

Week 13. Part IV : International Politics

Sunday, November 14: Reading Assignment #10 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, November 15 - Core Concepts in International Political Economy

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 14 (pp. 373-381).

Wednesday, November 17 - Trade and Economic Inequality

- Thomas Oatley, *International Political Economy*, Chapter 16. *Globalization: Consequences and Controversies*. 2012.

Friday, November 19 - **Online Weekly Quiz #10 by 11:59pm**

Week 14. Part IV : International Politics

Sunday, November 21: Reading Assignment #11 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, November 29 - Collective Action Problems

- Frieden, Jeffrey, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. 2009. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. W.W. Norton & Company. Part of Chapter 2 (pp. 51-63).

Wednesday, December 1 - Environmental Politics and Collective Action Problems

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 15 (pp. 400-410).

Friday, December 3 - **Online Weekly Quiz #11 by 11:59pm**

Week 15. Review and Final

Sunday, December 5: ESSAY 3 is due on Canvas by 11:59pm

Monday, December 6 - The Battles on Behalf of Human Rights

- *The Challenge of Politics*, Chapter 13 (pp. 343-370).

Wednesday, December 8 - Course Review

Monday, December 13 - Final Exam (1:30pm-3:30pm)