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Political Science 111, CRN # TBA

Summer 2017

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE (How to Think for Yourself about Politics)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

In the information overload of the 21st century we are bombarded with messages and images telling us what to think about politics at local, state, national, and international levels. The aggressiveness and noise of political life lead many to simply tune out.

This course offers you the tools to sort through and grasp politics on your own terms. Rather than telling you *what* to think about politics—one way of analyzing or judging the world—it teaches you *how* to think about politics in a critical, thoughtful way. It teaches you to see the alternatives from which we can choose in political life: alternative ideologies, alternative institutions and policies around the world, and alternative ways to explain the politics that surround you.

With these tools we will survey and debate a variety of key topics in political life: the sovereign state, democracy, collective action, representation, policy-making, the politics of the economy, authoritarian governments and democratization, war and terrorism, and globalization. On most of these topics we will give special attention to how politics in the United States today compares to politics in other places and times, giving you opportunities to develop your own critical thinking about what to appreciate, defend, criticize, or change in the politics around you.

The expected learning outcomes from this course are that students will be able to:

- 1) Understand alternative arrangements of political institutions and practices around the world, including kinds of governments, forms of political participation, systems of representation, policy-making processes, patterns of political violence, and economic policies and regulations.
- 2) Identify the defining principles of major political ideologies like liberalism, conservatism, socialism, fascism, environmentalism, political Islamism, and apply their perspectives to political issues.
- 3) Propose multiple different basic explanations of any political event or action and suggest what kind of evidence would support each one.

As a broad introduction to a core social-science discipline that covers a wide range of issues across history and places, this course satisfies the **Social Sciences group requirements**.

COURSE MATERIALS

This online course requires that students have access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. You will be able to do most readings and even some assignments on other devices if necessary (phone, tablet), but for some things you will need a connected computer.

A few short readings will be posted on the Canvas site, but most of the reading comes in one required textbook, *Introduction to Political Science: How to Think for Yourself about Politics*, written by Prof. Parsons.

You are required to purchase the online “REVEL” version of **Parsons, *Introduction to Political Science*, 1e** for this course. REVEL is the online e-book platform created by Pearson Publishing. It is set up to work easily on any platform with internet access—computer, tablet, phone.

While access to REVEL is required, the printed version of this text is optional (see purchasing options below). There are two ways to purchase REVEL access. Choose the option that works best for you:

Option #1: Purchase a REVEL access code directly online. \$65, with optional binder-ready hard copy mailed free to you for another \$19.99. (Must pay with credit card or PayPal).

1. In your browser, enter this Invite Link: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/a6ginv>. Please use a recommended browser like Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari.
2. Sign in with your Pearson Account. If you already have a Username and Password for another Pearson technology (i.e. MyMathLab), go ahead and sign in. If you do not have one, you’ll need to create one using a valid email that you check regularly, like your school email address. Once you’ve signed in or created your Pearson Account, you’ll immediately be directed to your REVEL account. Here you’ll see your course appear.
3. Choose this course (PS 111) under “My Courses” and choose the “purchase access online” option access option. There is a free trial if you are waiting for financial aid. You can also add the option of the print upgrade at this point.

Option #2: Purchase a REVEL access code and the binder-ready print version at the UO bookstore for \$96.00. (Here you can pay in any way the UO Bookstore accepts).

1. Go to the textbook section of the bookstore (upstairs) and buy a hard copy of the book. It will contain a REVEL access code.
2. In your browser, enter this Invite Link: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/a6ginv>. Please use a recommended browser like Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari.
3. Sign in with your Pearson Account. If you already have a Username and Password for another Pearson technology (i.e. MyMathLab), go ahead and sign in. If you do not have one, you’ll need to create one using a valid email that you check regularly, like your school email address. Once you’ve signed in or created your Pearson Account, you’ll immediately be directed to your REVEL account. Here you’ll see your course appear.
4. Choose this course (PS 111) under “My Courses” and choose the option to redeem an access code you bought at the bookstore. There is a free trial if you are waiting for financial aid.

If you have any questions about this process, you can watch a short video on how to register for REVEL: (www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/registration)

To access REVEL throughout the semester log onto <http://console.pearson.com>. Make sure to bookmark this URL and NOT the course invite link. Remember to always use the same username and password to logon.

If any issues arise, check out www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/support/index.html, which includes a call-in number: 855-875-1801.

OTHER NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY/SKILLS FOR THIS COURSE

Learning online requires some basic knowledge of computer technology. At a minimum, you need to be able to:

- Navigate in and use Canvas. Student questions about Canvas can be directed to the UO Libraries Computer Help Desk. Phone: (541) 346-1807 Location: Knight Library, 1st floor – just past the Reference Desk.
- Create and save MS Word documents.
- Find basic resources on Internet.
- Create and organize files and folders on your computer.
- Send, receive, and manage email.
- Stream or watch videos/movies (some will be required)

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THIS COURSE

The course is 11 weeks in length: 10 weeks of instruction and one for the final. It includes activities in a weekly cycle of instruction—with readings, a mini-essay and a substantial quiz every week—but deadlines are on a two-week cycle (so that you can conceivably shift some work from one week into the next if you need that flexibility at some point).

All these deadlines are ON SUNDAYS AT 11:59pm, with all assignments for the preceding TWO WEEKS due by then. While I want to offer you this flexibility, **I RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT YOU DO THE WORK AT AN EVEN PACE ACROSS ALL 10 WEEKS.**

You must look at Canvas regularly to see what you need to be doing each week and to access the quizzes, videos, and essay instructions.

Evaluation will be based on the following assignments and weights in your grade:

REVEL reading and embedded quizzes	10%
Weekly mini-essays (10)	30%
Weekly chapter quizzes (10)	20%
Weekly tiny quizzes on videos	5%
Take-home final	30%
Participation	5%

The **REVEL reading/quizzes** grade is an automatic calculation in the REVEL e-book system; you get points for having read sections, and points for the little embedded quizzes.

The **weekly mini-essays** will be submitted in text boxes on Canvas. They are 250-300 word essays. See Canvas for the instructions.

The **weekly multiple choice chapter quizzes** will be on Canvas as well.

The **final exam** will be a take-home, short-answer written exam, where you respond to questions with answers that are no more than a couple of paragraphs in length. You will have some choice among a set of possible questions.

The **participation** grade is based on weekly commentary on two videos that will be posted for each week: a short video lecture by Prof. Parsons, and an additional topical video. You must make at least one comprehensible comment on each item each week. That adds up to 20 required comments that will add up to 5% of your grade.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES

Give 24 hours advance notice or doctor's letter to request assignment extension. Extensions requested within 24 hours of a deadline will generally not be granted. Late assignments lose a half letter grade each day. Assignments are due at the beginning of class, and a late penalty of one day (half grade) applies for assignments handed in later on the due date.

Use your own words and don't cheat. I use software to compare essays and exams to multiple databases. Plagiarism is serious business, as is cheating on closed-book exams like our midterm and final. At the very least cheating or plagiarism will result in failing the class; such cases will also be brought to the attention of the university, as required by university policy. See details at http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/.

Submit grading disputes in writing. If you want to dispute a grade on an essay or exam, please submit *in writing* a description of your concerns at least 24 hours after you have received the grade in question. The 24 hours should be used as a cooling off period. Please note, however, that if I or a GTF review your work, we will review the entire exam or paper. This can also result in a lower grade.

No incompletes will be possible in this course, except in the most dire health emergencies.

SPECIAL NEEDS AND UO SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

UO is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as possible. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall, 346-1155, disabsrv@uoregon.edu.

On discrimination and sexual harassment, all faculty and staff share in the responsibility to create a safe learning environment for all students and for the campus as a whole. As members of the campus community, all faculty and staff (other than those designated as confidential reporters) are designated as *responsible employees* and therefore have the duty to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If a student would prefer to share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, a list of those individuals can be found at <https://safe.uoregon.edu/services>. Each resource is clearly labeled as either "required reporter," "confidential UO employee," or "off-campus," to allow you to select your desired level of confidentiality.

Course schedule follows.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Reading schedule is also posted in both REVEL and Canvas, and all assignments are also posted on Canvas.

WEEK	TOPIC	READ	WATCH	DO	WRITE	DUE
1	Foundations	Ch. 1	Machiavelli vid Ch. 1 lecture	Vid quiz 1 Ch. 1 quiz	Essay 1	7/2
2	Ideologies	Ch. 3	Locke vid Ch. 3 lecture	Vid quiz 2 Ch. 3 quiz	Essay 2	7/9
3	The State Governments I	Ch. 4 Ch. 5, up to 5.2	Hobbes vid Ch. 4 lecture Ch. 5 lecture	Vid quiz 3 Ch. 4 quiz	Essay 3	7/16
4	Governments II Participation	Ch. 5 rest Ch. 6	Socrates vid Ch. 6 lecture	Vid quiz 4 Ch. 5 quiz Ch. 6 quiz	Essay 4	7/23
5	Representation	Ch. 7	Tocqueville vid Ch. 7 lecture	Vid quiz 5 Ch. 7 quiz	Essay 5	7/30
6	Policy-making	Ch. 8	Smith vid Ch. 8 lecture	Vid quiz 6 Ch. 8 quiz	Essay 6	8/6
7	Political Econ. Development and Growth	Ch. 9 Ch. 10	Marx vid Ch. 9 lecture Ch. 10 lecture	Vid quiz 7 Ch. 9 quiz Ch. 10 quiz	Essay 7	8/13
8	Political Change	Ch. 11	Hayek vid Ch. 11 lecture	Vid quiz 8 Ch. 11 quiz	Essay 8	8/20
9	War & Terrorism	Ch. 12	Rawls vid Ch. 12 lecture	Vid quiz 9 Ch. 12 quiz	Essay 9	8/27
10	Globalization	Ch. 13	Rousseau vid Ch. 13 lecture	Vid quiz 10 Ch. 13 quiz	Essay 10	9/3
11	Final				Final	9/10