

Fall 1996

Introduction to Political Science Syllabus

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INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS 1315

Autumn 1996

Dr. Samson

Hardy 10

Office: MWF 8-10, MF 2-4; TR 9-9:30, 12-1, 2:30-3

Phone: 939-4551

DESCRIPTION

A study of the scope and methods of political science, including such topics as systems analysis, political culture, political behavior, governmental structures, and governmental processes.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student is responsible for assigned readings and should keep a looseleaf notebook of class materials.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Reading assignments should be completed before the class meets. Be prepared to discuss textbook material, readings, and current events.
3. Regular attendance is required. Lengthy absences (more than one week) and erratic attendance tend to affect grades. Exams must be taken at the scheduled date and time.
4. Students will be tested on the lecture, reading, and discussion material through three objective exams. Each exam represents 30% of the grade.
5. Each student will take a pass/fail political geography quiz
6. Each student will present a brief report or area study (5-7 pages), typed and double-spaced, on a country of his/her choice (10%). Since only one student may do a report on a particular country, sign up early. [The United States may not be chosen]. Written reports are due November 22. Do not use plastic covers or tabs. Presentations may be made during last two weeks of class.

READING

Textbook

Ranney, Austin. Governing: An Introduction to Political Science. [R]

Reserve Desk

Notebook: Study Aids and Supplementary Readings. [N]

SCHEDULE

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION (September 4-11)

Readings: R. (Ranney, etc., chapter) 1-2

PART TWO: POLITICAL CULTURE AND IDEOLOGIES (September 13-30)

Readings: R. 3-5; N. Declaration of Independence; Constitution of the United States; Herbert W. Titus, "America's Declaration of Independence: A Christian Legacy;" The Federalist, Nos. 10, 51.

PART THREE: PUBLIC OPINION AND THE MEDIA (October 2-11)

Readings: R. 6 (first exam); R. 7 (second exam)

FIRST EXAM: Wednesday, October 9

PART FOUR: POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS (October 14-25)

Readings: R. 8-10

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY QUIZ: October 23 (last 25 minutes of class)

PART FIVE: LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE PROCESSES (October 28-November 6)

Readings: R. 11-12

SECOND EXAM: November 8

PART SIX: ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL PROCESSES (November 11-20)

Readings: R. 13-14

PART SEVEN: HUMAN RIGHTS (November 22-27)

Readings: R. 15-16

PART EIGHT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (December 2-11)

Readings: R. 17-18

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 16, 1:00 PM