POLS 2101: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Class meets MWF at 10:00-10:50 pm in 203 Young Hall
Fall 2015

Instructor Info: Dr. Beth Rauhaus, Assistant Professor
315 Hansford Hall ~ (706) 867-2665 ~ beth.rauhaus@ung.edu
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11-noon
   Monday 8:45-9:45am
   Wednesday & Friday 1-2pm, or by appointment

Course Description: The purposes of this course are to define the discipline of political science, and to study political systems and their environments, political inputs, governmental structures, governmental authorities and processes and policy outputs and impacts.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Recognize the various academic fields of study in political science and understand how each area of study contributes to our understanding of governmental systems and politics
- Understand how government and politics operate in modern democracies
- Examine the various subfields of political science as well as the over-arching theories within each discipline used to explain current events
- Identify an area or areas of academic interests and illustrate that you have gained the necessary research and communication skills to pursue these studies with critical and analytical thought
- Develop writing and research skills that will be instrumental in future studies

Instructional Method: 3 hour lecture, technology enhanced course
Required Texts:


  - Any additional readings will be available through D2L or through the UNG library.

For our group project, we will all access the electronic book *Politics: The Basics* by Stephen Tansey and Nigel Jackson, which is available through the UNG Library.

Student Evaluation: In order to reach desired course outcomes, students will be evaluated in a variety of activities. Students will demonstrate skills and knowledge through writing, comprehension and critical thinking assignments and activities. In total, students may earn a possible 600 points in this course. All grades will be on a ten-point scale.

  - Examinations: Students will have three exams throughout the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Students will demonstrate an understanding of concepts, theories, and terms discussed in class and presented in assigned readings.

  - Theoretical Framework Group Project: Students will work together in assigned groups to write and present a short paper explaining and applying a fundamental theory used in the discipline. Students must actively participate in group meetings (in and out of class time) to complete the project. Student groups will have their photo taken digitally in order to have their photo “framed” with a theory. This portrait will be used as the opening power point slide for the presentation. Details will be forthcoming. This assignment is worth a total of 150 points. Please note attendance and active participation are instrumental in completion of this assignment. Students will have a chance to evaluate peer group members. This evaluation will be factored into your individual grade. (If you have an issue with being photographed with your group, please see me during office hours).

  - Reading Comprehension Assessment: For this 50 point assignment, students will demonstrate their research skills and understanding of content found in assigned scholarly readings and recognize how it applies to textbook readings and class discussions.

  - Academic Journal Analysis: For this 100 point written assignment, students will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of using academic journals in developing a research paper. Students will exhibit their ability to locate a thesis statement, relevant findings, and contributions to the field of study. Students will also
identify relevant works that may be used to complete a literature review. Detailed instructions will be forthcoming.

** Please note: All written assignments shall include necessary citations. Failure to have both in-text citations and a works cited list results in plagiarism and will not receive credit. Use the Writer’s Manual as your guide for all assignments.

- Late assignments will be receive a ten percent grade deduction, per day late.
- All assignments should be typed in 12 point font, Times New Roman, with standard margins and double-spaced. Always include page numbers on the bottom right corner. Failure to comply with these directions will result in a grade deduction.
- Proper grammar and presentation of clear ideas are instrumental in successful completion of assignments in this course. Use the resources available at the Writing Center for assistance.
- Student presentations in the group activity are required. Failure to present your work in class when called upon will result in a ten-percent grade deduction. Only documented excuses are allowed for making-up your presentation.
- The Political Science and International Affairs Department also has created a resource guide for your use. Please visit these tools at: https://my.ung.edu/departments/psia/Pages/Faculty-Research-Resources.aspx

Once at the webpage, you will be prompted to log-in. There, you can see a list of Political Science faculty and individual preferences in regards to research styles.

*** Students may be asked to upload assignments to Turnitin.com. Late submissions will be subject to grade deductions. It is your individual responsibility to ensure you have fully uploaded your document. To log-in, you will find our course and use the following information:

Class ID- 10262743
Password- nighthawks

Course Schedule

** The following schedule is a guideline for topics and/or classroom activities. It is your responsibility to attend class and make note of any changes announced.

Week 1 Introduction to the Course & Foundations of Political Science
- Review of the Syllabus & Overview of the Field
- D2L Walk through
- Read Roskin, Chapter 1

Week 2 Understanding Theory & Ideology
- Read Roskin, Chapter 2 & 3
- Read article on D2L -
Week 3  Basic Writing and Research Primer
- Read Scott and Garrison manual, p.1-29
- Friday, Sept. 4th- Initial Group Meeting and Issue/ Topic Discussion

Week 4  Research Tools for Political Scientists
- No class meeting on Sept. 7th! Happy Labor Day.
- Read Scott and Garrison manual, Ch. 3 and Ch. 5, p.67-86

Week 5  Research Week
- Groups 1-6 will attend a library seminar hosted by UNG Librarian Ms. Petersohn on Monday, Sept. 14th
- Groups 7-12 will attend a library seminar hosted by UNG Librarian Ms. Petersohn on Wednesday, Sept. 16th
** Library seminars are held during class time. When you are not scheduled to report to the library, you will report to the classroom to meet with your group. We will begin working on our group projects and have group photos taken.

Week 6  States, Constitutions, and Rights
- Exam 1, Sept. 21st
- Read Roskin text Ch. 4 and 5
- Read article on D2L---

Week 7  Regimes and Re-visiting Research
- Read Roskin text Ch.6
- Read Scott and Garrison manual, Ch. 8
- Reading Comprehension Assessment due, Oct. 2nd Submit to turnitin by 10:50am.
No Class Meeting.

Week 8  Political Culture, Socialization, Behavior & Opinion
- Read Roskin text Ch. 7 & 8
- Group Meeting in class, Oct. 9th

Week 9  Political Institutions
- Read Roskin text Ch. 13, 14, 15
- Group Meeting in class, Oct. 16th

Week 10  Role of Political Institutions
- Read Roskin text Ch. 16, p.295-301
- Exam 2, Oct. 21st
- Exploring Careers in Political Science, a presentation from UNG Career Service, Oct. 23rd
Week 11  
Role of Political Institutions
- Read Roskin text Ch. 17 & Ch. 18
- Read article TBA on D2L in preparation for Academic Journal Analysis

Week 12  
Group Presentations
ALL Group Projects due. Submit written portion to turnitin by 10am on Nov. 2\textsuperscript{nd}.
- Groups 7 & 8 will present Nov. 2\textsuperscript{nd}
- Groups 9 & 10 will present Nov. 4\textsuperscript{th}
- Groups 11 & 12 will present Nov. 6\textsuperscript{th}

Week 13  
Group Presentations
- Groups 1&2 will present Nov. 9\textsuperscript{th}
- Groups 3&4 will present Nov. 11\textsuperscript{th}
- Groups 5 & 6 will present Nov. 13\textsuperscript{th}

Week 14  
Exploring Political Science Theories in Application
- Watch film in class and apply Bureaucratic Politics
- \textbf{Nov. 20th: Academic Journal Analysis Due}

Week 15  
No Class- Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 16  
Course Review
- In-class Activities to prepare for the Final

\textbf{Final Exam} (Exam 3) will be held on Friday, December 11\textsuperscript{th} at 10:20-12:20.

\textbf{Classroom Rules:}
- Be courteous to others at all times. This includes respecting others’ ideas, not using your cell phone, or disrupting others in any fashion.
- Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class. Late arrivals and early departures will be marked as absent. It is imperative to be present for group meetings and presentations. Absences from group presentations will result in a grade deduction to your individual grade.
- In order to take a make-up examination, students must present documented excuses to the instructor in a timely manner. Excuses should be presented to me during office hours only.
- Make sure to be on time for exams. Failure to report on time may result in an inability to take your examination if students have previously submitted their work.
- If you need to discuss grades or your progress in the course, please see me during office hours or schedule an appointment with me. I can not discuss grades via email for confidentiality purposes.
Additional Information:

If you need this document in another format, please email Andrew Eade at Andrew.eade@ung.edu or call 706-864-1628.

Please visit the link below for additional information in the Supplemental Syllabus. http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php

For your information, the academic calendar is available here. http://ung.edu/academics/academic-calendar.php

All students enrolled in this course are expected and required to use APA style citations in ALL written assignments, including the Current Event Journal. For more information regarding the Department of Political Science and International Affair’s resources on APA citations and Research Resources, please visit https://my.ung.edu/departments/psia/Pages/Faculty-Research-Resources.aspx

For more information of using APA style citations and reference lists, I recommend using the following webpage. https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/