College of Liberal Arts
De La Salle University – Manila

Syllabus

Department: **Political Science Department**   **Room:**

Course Code: **POLISCI**

Course Title: **Introduction to Political Science**

Schedule:

Instructor(s):

Contact Details:

Consultation Days and Time:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course to the study of politics, and its accompanying institutions, the state and government. It attempts to build on the students' prior knowledge and questions on politics, and then seeks to describe and explain them by providing real-life examples. Hence, the course offers a thematic, problem-oriented and learner-centered treatment of political science that seeks to educate to participate.

One way of defining *politics* emphasizes the process of choosing among different values, with the *state* and *government* as the structures by which polity works with or towards the chosen values. The features and characteristics of this process are important, affecting the types and magnitudes of issues that different societies face at the local, national, regional, and global levels. In this course, students shall be exposed to how political scientists attempt to systematically analyze various political phenomena. Emphasis will be placed on equipping students with introductory theories, concepts, and approaches in political science and governance. The ultimate goal is to enable students to develop a more informed and critical view of historical and contemporary socio-political issues in the Philippines, the region, and the world.

LEARNING OUTCOME

As a general education course, POLISCI is designed to contribute to the well-rounded intellectual development of Lasallians through exposure in the social sciences. Course objectives are anchored on three of the five Expected Lasallian Graduate Attributes (ELGAs) identified by the College of Liberal Arts.

CLA ELGAs	LEARNING OUTCOME
A DLSU graduate is a: • Critical and creative knowledge producer; • Socially responsive and collaborative citizen; and • Diversity-sensitive communicator.	On completion of the course, students are expected to be able to design and create a mass media product (e.g., newspaper/magazine, video documentary, website, portfolio of public campaign ads, etc.) that effectively applies various analytical frameworks in examining contemporary national and/or international socio-political issues.

FINAL COURSE OUTPUT

As evidence of attaining the learning outcome stated above, students are required to accomplish and submit the following during the indicated dates of the term.

LEARNING OUTCOME	REQUIRED OUTPUT	DUE DATES
On completion of the course, students are expected to be able to design and create a mass media product (e.g., newspaper/ magazine, video documentary, website, portfolio of public campaign ads, etc.) that effectively applies various analytical	Final course output: A mass media product (e.g., newspaper/magazine, video documentary, website, portfolio of public campaign ads, etc.) that applies analytical frameworks in political science in the examination of contemporary national and/or international socio-	

	political issues	
frameworks in examining contemporary national and/or international socio-political issues.		
	Component outputs:	
	1. Two- to three-page concept paper that discusses the proposed issue/s to be tackled and explains how a chosen mass media product can be effective in presenting the issue/s and reaching a particular target audience	Third week of the term
	2. Three analytical essays to be included in the final mass media product	Eighth week of the term
	3. Finalized mass media product	Last week of classes

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR FINAL COURSE OUTPUT

The following rubric shall be used to assess the final project submitted by students. You are advised to self-check your work based on the assessment criteria identified below prior to submission.

CRITERIA	EXEMPLARY (Grade: 90 and above)	SATISFACTORY (Grade: 80-89)	DEVELOPING (Grade: 70-79)	BEGINNING (Grade: 69 and below)
ISSUES AND TARGET AUDIENCE:	The submitted work	The submitted	The submitted	The submitted

25% The <u>issues chosen for discussion are timely and relevant</u> to politics and governance. These issues are <u>discussed clearly</u>, demonstrating <u>careful research of the facts from multiple sources</u>. The form of mass media product chosen to communicate these issues is <u>appropriate for the intended audience</u>. The product is <u>creative</u> and <u>captures the interest of the intended audience</u>.	manifests qualities which go beyond the requirements. *In particular, the research is very extensive, covering multiple primary and secondary sources. There is an effective synthesis of the multiple facets of the issues emerging from the research.*	work manifests the required qualities.	work partially manifests the required qualities. Certain aspects are either incomplete or incorrect.	work does not manifest any of the requirements.
ANALYTICAL CONTENT: 50% The issues are <u>analyzed carefully and systematically</u>. Attention is placed to <u>segregating known facts from biased views</u>. <u>Unsubstantiated opinions are avoided</u>. A <u>balanced perspective</u> is offered based on the use of a <u>variety of analytical frameworks</u> and an <u>appropriate understanding of the views of the variety of stakeholders</u> in the issues. <u>Key concepts and theories in politics and governance</u> are <u>appropriately used and applied</u> in the analysis. <u>Novel ways of thinking about old issues</u> are presented.	The submitted work manifests qualities which go beyond the requirements. *In particular, there is an effective examination and synthesis of the similarities and differences emerging from the application of different analytical frameworks.*	The submitted work manifests the required qualities.	The submitted work partially manifests the required qualities. Certain aspects are either incomplete or incorrect.	The submitted work does not manifest any of the requirements.
FORMAT, ORGANIZATION AND LANGUAGE: 25%	The submitted work manifests qualities	The submitted work manifests	The submitted work partially	The submitted work does not

The final product is <u>clean and well-organized</u>. Whether in written or audio-visual form, essays (and scripts within the control of producers) must <u>follow accepted standards of university-level writing</u>, with <u>no grammatical and spelling errors</u>. The language used is <u>respectful of diversity</u> and <u>sensitive to the conditions faced by a variety of stakeholders, especially marginalized groups</u>. External sources used are <u>cited appropriately</u>.	which go beyond the requirements. *In particular, the final output is excellently produced, demonstrating careful attention to details.*	the required qualities.	manifests the required qualities. Certain aspects are either incomplete or incorrect.	manifest any of the requirements.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Aside from the final output identified above, students will be assessed at other times during the term through participation in class discussions and activities, including various group work, individual assignments, recitation, and quizzes.

GRADING SYSTEM

The passing grade in the course is 70%. You will be graded based on the following:

- Group final project   40%
  - Group grade for the final project (30%)
  - Individual contributions to group output (10%)

- _____   ____
- _____   ____
- _____   ____

LEARNING PLAN

The emphasis of this course is on enabling students to ask meaningful questions about politics and to acquire the tools with which to answer these questions analytically. The course is organized around the key concepts used by political scientists in analyzing the political world.

Most of the learning activities throughout the term are based on group work that allows you to examine various perspectives on the topics we shall explore. Lecture-discussions will also be conducted to introduce core concepts and to synthesize key points explored during the learning activities.

The schedule for the term is as follows:

LEARNING OUTCOME	TOPIC	REFERENCES	WEEK	LEARNING ACTIVITIES
On completion of the course, students are expected to be able to design and create a mass media product (e.g., newspaper/ magazine, video documentary,	**What is Politics?** Understanding *politics* Power Order, the state, and government Authority, legitimacy, and justice Issues of social justice and the role of the state Studying politics	Chapter 1, Magstadt Chapter 1, Heywood *Additional readings taken from selected columns/op-eds in Philippine newspapers will be assigned.*	Weeks 1, 2, and 3	Lecture-discussions Group-based discussions Identification of issues for group projects
	Competing visions of the *public good* Political ideologies	Chapter 2, Magstadt Chapter 2, Heywood	Weeks 4, 5, and 6	Activity: The political compass Film showing Lecture-discussions

website, portfolio of public campaign ads, etc.) that effectively applies various analytical frameworks in examining contemporary national and/or international socio-political issues.	Utopian visions of the state and society Group politics, social movements, and revolutions	Chapter 3, Magstadt Chapter 3, Heywood Chapter 11, Heywood *Additional readings on Philippine political groups and social movements will be assigned.*		Group-based discussions
	Democratic politics and governance Democracy and authoritarianism Representation and elections Parties and party systems Political socialization and participation Challenges of democratization and democratic consolidation	Chapters 4-6, Magstadt Chapter 4, Heywood Chapter 9, Heywood Chapter 10, Heywood Chapters 10-11, Magstadt Chapter 12, Magstadt *Additional readings on Philippine democracy will be assigned.*	Weeks 7, 8, and 9	Lecture-discussions Activity: Democracy scorecards Film showing Group-based discussions
	Political and governmental systems Forms of government: presidential, parliamentary and hybrid governments Forms of government:	Chapters 7-9, Magstadt Chapter 12, Heywood	Weeks 10, 11, and 12	Lecture-discussions Group-based discussions Library and internet research Class debates on

	Unitary and federal governments, and issues of local autonomy Challenges of governance			forms of government
	Course synthesis		Week 13	Lecture-discussions Group-based discussions Presentation of final mass media products

REFERENCES

The basic texts we will be using for key concepts about politics and governance are the following:
- Heywood, Andrew. 2013. *Politics*. Fourth edition. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Magstadt, Thomas M. 2009. *Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions, and Issues*. Eighth edition (International student edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Other useful references are the following:

- Danziger, James N. 2004. *Understanding the Political Word: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. Seventh edition. New Jersey: Longman.
- Lipson, Leslie. 1997. *The Great Issues of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science.* Tenth edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Ethridge, Marcus and Howard Handelman. 2008. *Politics in a Changing World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. Fourth edition.
- Hague, Ron and Martin Harrop. 2001. *Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Students are encouraged to explore the many resources about various aspects of politics available in the internet. The following are some examples:

On political beliefs and ideologies
Political beliefs are important motivating forces for individual and group-based political action. A variety of systems of political beliefs – called political ideologies – have emerged throughout human history, and many are still quite influential in contemporary politics. For a simple discussion of how political beliefs can be "mapped" into an ideological "system," see the website of the Political Compass project: http://www.politicalcompass.org/.
To learn more about specific ideologies/beliefs, see the following:
   On anarchism: http://flag.blackened.net/daver/anarchism/anarchism.html
   On libertarianism: http://www.libertarian.org/
   On the religious right: http://www.cc.org/
   On communism: http://cominternet.org/ and http://www.marxists.org (See http://www.marxists.org/subject/students/ for
      a beginner's guide to Marxism.)
   On democratic socialism: http://www.dsausa.org/
   On nihilism: http://www.ws5.com/nihilism

On utopias
Utopias – or visions of an "ideal" society – have historically formed the basis for much political action. Some have led to disastrous consequences and have been called "dystopias." An online presentation, "Utopia: The Search for the Ideal Society in Western Civilization," is available in the New York Public Library's website: http://utopia.nypl.org/.
To read about classical utopias, see the following:
   On Plato's *Republic*: http://www.friesian.com/plato.htm
   On Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis*: http://www.levity.com/alchemy/atlantis.html

On democracy

Many international organizations continuously monitor the state of democracy in various countries. Their websites include a description of the methods they use to "measure" democracy, the scores they've assigned to various countries in different years, and country case reports on the state of democracy. For examples, see the following:

    On the Freedom House Index: http://www.freedomhouse.org/
    On Amnesty International: http://www.amnesty.org/

On the Philippine government

Many Philippine government organizations are now online. See the following, for instance:

    On the Philippine President: http://op.gov.ph/
    On the Philippine Congress: http://www.congress.gov.ph/ and http://senate.gov.ph/
    On the Philippine Supreme Court: http://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/