



Lincoln University

POL SCI 15 – Introduction to Political Science.

COURSE SYLLABUS Department of Business and Economics Spring, 2013

Credit: 3 units (45 lecture hours)
Instructor: Dr. Alexander Anokhin
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Office Hours: By arrangement

Required textbook: Introduction to Comparative Politics, 6th Edition, Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, William A. Joseph
ISBN-10: 1111831823
ISBN-13: 9781111831820
(Previous editions are OK)

Revised: January 06, 2013

Catalog description

This course is an introduction to basic political thought and how thought has influenced political action. Much of the course will deal with interpretations of democracy. We will examine the basic ideas of democracy and citizenship in Greece and Rome. Also analyzed will be the writings of classic political thinkers such as Hobbes, Locke, Burke, Adam Smith, Rosseau and James Madison. The course will also cover the major alternatives to democracy in modern times such as Marxism, fascism and military rule. (3 units)

Course Objectives

The first half of the course will present students with a firm theoretical framework for understanding the world of politics. Through lenses of various ideologies and schools of thought we will examine such broad concepts as freedom, power, nation, institutions, culture, inequality, and democratization. The second half of this course

will borrow heavily from the practical application of the comparative politics subfield. We will study various political regimes that exist in the modern world with a special emphasis on the institutions, political actors and political processes of the United States of America.

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

1. Understand and evaluate the merits of political arguments.
2. Formulate a coherent and well justified opinion on various issues.
3. Identify relevant features of political regimes that present opportunities and/or create threats to business activities.
4. Acquire improved analytical and communicative skills.

Procedures and methodology

Lecture method is combined with in-class discussions, case studies and home assignments of various kinds. Core concepts identified from the textbook will be augmented with supplementary sources (made available to students on the class website) and applied to the real life situations during class activities.

Class Rules

Class attendance is required. Attendance will be taken each class at a time chosen by the instructor.

All quizzes, exams, assignments and projects must be completed and handed in on time. Late submissions will result in lower grade (each day of delay costs 5% points). Submissions of home assignments will be conducted via the course website only.

Most days of class, there will be a credit time or a short in-class writing assignment.

Make-up quizzes or exams may be allowed only in extraordinary circumstances.

Plagiarism is not tolerated and will result in F for the assignment, quiz, or exam.

Exams

The exams will consist of questions based on lectures, assigned chapters and supplementary reading.

Course Project

Every student must complete a research project for an in-class presentation. Specific format and research topics will be determined later and discussed in class. Research projects must comply with the Lincoln University guidelines.

Assessment Criteria

All assignments, quizzes, projects and exams are evaluated using the indicated system:

94-100	A	73-76	C
90-93	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	60-66	D
80-82	B-	0-59	F
77-79	C+		

Tentative Weights

Attendance	5%
Homework	20%
Project	20%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

Course Outline

	Topic
1	Introduction. Political Science: A Very Brief History
2	Freedom, Power, Ideology
3	Liberalism
4	Conservatism
5	Socialism, Marxism and Communism
6	Democratization Revolution
7	Review Midterm Exam
8	United States: The Constitutions and Political
9	United States: Political Institutions United States: Liberty/Equality and Current Issues
10	Britain France
11	Germany Japan
12	India Russia
13	China Iran
14	Course Project Presentation
15	Review Final Exam

