

Political Science 200: Introduction to the Study of Politics

Instructor: Josiah Rath

Course Hours: Tu/Thu 8:30–9:45 a.m.

Course Location: GH 248 (when not on Zoom)

Office Location: LH-408C

Telephone: (657)-278-6577

Office Hours: Wed 2:00–3:00 p.m. on Zoom or by appointment

Email: jrath@fullerton.edu

Course Description

This class is designed to introduce political science as a discipline. We will focus on both (1) overarching questions that political science attempts to study (and perhaps answer) as well as (2) the history and development of political science as a branch of the social sciences. We will study the major divisions of political science—American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. We will also introduce the many methodologies used by political science practitioners with a particular emphasis on data literacy.

Grade Components

Quizzes:	20%
Midterm:	20%
Final Exam:	30%
Term Paper:	30%

Grading Policy

Grades are done on a +/- system. Any changes to these thresholds will be done in your favor. I automatically round up grades at the .5 mark (e.g., an 89.5 would be rounded up to an A- but an 89.49 would stay a B+).

$\geq 98\%$	A+	78 – 79%	C+
93 – 97%	A	73 – 77%	C
90 – 92%	A-	70 – 72%	C-
88 – 89%	B+	60 – 69%	D
83 – 87%	B	≤ 60	F
80 – 82%	B-		

Quizzes

There will be weekly quizzes on the readings. They are graded on a pass/fail basis and include both multiple choice as well as short answer questions. I will automatically drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

Midterm

The midterm will cover the first two units of the course, (1) political theory and philosophy, and (2) American politics. It is tentatively scheduled for 3/24 and will take place during class time, 8:30-9:45 a.m. It will use a mixture of multiple choice and short/longer essay questions.

Final Exam

The final exam is comprehensive, but greater weight will be given towards the last unit of the class, comparative politics and international relations. It will take place 5/19, 9:00-10:50 a.m. It will use a mixture of multiple choice and short/longer essay questions.

Term Paper

For the term paper, you will take a side on a controversial issue on a topic we have discussed in the course. There will be a pre-approved topic list posted online, but you are free to create your own prompt *provided you get it approved by me*. This will require a short proposal paper that must be submitted by or before 4/7.

More detailed paper requirements will be posted on Canvas. I require a first draft due on 4/14 at 11:59 pm, and the final paper due at 5/12 11:59 pm. The first draft allows me to give feedback on your work; I further encourage you to meet with me throughout the process with any questions or concerns you may have.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit for this course.

Required Text

There is no required textbook. All readings will be provided via Canvas.

CSUF General Education Requirements for POSC 200

POSC 200 fulfills the general education requirements for D1: Introduction to the Social Sciences. The General Education requirement is met by two writing assignments, each of which is described above.

CSUF Social Learning Objectives for POSC 200

Students completing Political Science 200 shall be able to:

1. Understand the purpose of the social sciences and the distinguishing features of the social sciences
2. Understand and explain major social science concepts, methods, and theories and apply them to concrete problems of contemporary society
3. Reflect on what it means to be a social, historical, cultural, psychological, and political being
4. Reflect on their own social, cultural, and political experiences in light of social science concepts, methods, and theories.
5. Understand the integrated nature of social, political, and economic behaviors and institutions in different geographical and historical contexts.
6. Understand the process of social, political, and historical change and differentiation in a variety of cultural contexts.

Online Instruction

The first two weeks of instruction will be conducted virtually on Zoom. In the event that this extends throughout the semester, we will continue to meet on Zoom during the assigned coursetime, 8:30-9:45 on Tuesday and Thursday. I will record all meetings and post them on Canvas.

President's Directive & Health and Safety Guidelines

Cal State Fullerton (CSUF) is actively working to maintain the safety of our campus community in response to COVID-19. To stay current with information, please visit CSUF's Titan's Return: COVID Recovery [website](#). Please review the FAQs to help answer any of your questions. Below are requirements to review prior to our first-class session:

- Read [President's Directive No. 22 – COVID 19: Mitigation Measures and Guidelines](#), which outlines mitigation measures you are required to take, including use of face coverings, re-entry and surveillance testing, physical distancing/barrier requirements, case reporting, and other measures.
- Review the Titans Return: COVID-19 Recovery [website](#). There are important messages regarding the vaccine requirement, surveillance and testing information, as well as campus updates and messages from the Dean of Students Office that are important to review.
- In addition, CSUF requests that students who tests positive for COVID-19 or become aware that they may have been in close contact with someone who either has tested positive for or is suspected to have COVID19 report the positive result or exposure using the CSUF COVID-19 Self-Reporting Form. CSUF's Infectious Diseases Response Team reviews and verifies COVID-19 confirmed cases and responds to concerns from the campus community on COVID-19. Click [here](#) to report COVID-19 cases or exposure. Prior to arriving on campus and before entering class, you should conduct a personal health screening and self-monitor

for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of respiratory illness. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, you should stay home and notify me of your absence. I will work with you to address any COVID-19 related impacts to your participation in and completion of this course. Before entering the classroom, you should wash/sanitize your hands and have your face covering on. While in class, you are required to:

- Sit in your designated seat;
- Wear your facial covering that covers both the nose and mouth (e.g., masks or face shields);
- Always cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue;
- Use the materials provided to clean your desk and chair before and after use, and;
- Adhere to other health and safety protocols and directives for your specific classroom, lab, studio, and campus.

Students who do not follow these health and safety requirements may be reminded of the need to adhere to those measures. Failure to comply may constitute a violation of campus policy and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Thank you for your cooperation and assisting in the University's efforts to keep our community safe.

Students with Disabilities

Please inform me during the first week of class about any disability or special needs that you may have that may require specific arrangements related to attending class, carrying out class assignments, or writing papers and examinations. According to California State University policy, students with disabilities must document their disabilities at the Disability Support Services (DSS) office in order to be accommodated in their courses. Additional information can be found at the [DSS website](#), by calling 657-278-3112, or email dsservices@fullerton.edu.

Late Work Policy

Work that is turned in late will be knocked down 10% in its grading for each day it is late (e.g. an assignment turned in two-days late normally earning an 87% would be knocked down to 67%). Exceptions are granted for documented reasons.

Academic Dishonesty

I will follow university procedures when I suspect academic dishonesty has occurred. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism, and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. Please see [University Policy Statement 300.021](#) for further details.

Disclaimer

I reserve the right to revise any part of this course or syllabus. You will be informed in advance if this occurs.

Emergency Preparedness

To be able to respond effectively in an emergency, be sure to note (a) fire alarm pull station locations, (b) evacuation map including the class's outside meeting area, (c) emergency procedures for fire, medical emergency, hazardous materials release, earthquake and dangerous situations, and (d) location of nearest emergency phone. Any person with special needs is encouraged to speak with the instructor privately. All campus personnel are required to participate in all campus-wide drills. More emergency preparedness information can be found at the [Classroom Preparedness website](#). The emergency procedures (c above) that you need to follow in our class are detailed in the classroom guide at the end of this syllabus. If an emergency disrupts normal campus operations or causes the University to close for a prolonged period of time (more than three days), students are expected to complete the course assignments listed on the syllabus as soon as it is reasonably possible to do so.

Reading List and Course Outline

Introduction

- 1/25 Introduction to the Course
 - No Required Reading
- 1/27 Politics, Science, and Political Science I
 - No Required Reading
- 2/1 Politics, Science, and Political Science II
 - No Required Reading
 - Challenge Reading
 - * James Farr, “The History of Political Science”

Unit One: Political Theory and Philosophy

- 2/3 The Ancient Philosophers (I)
 - Required Reading
 - * Josiah Ober, “Learning from Athens” ([link](#))
 - * Plato, “The Republic” Chapter 1
 - Challenge Reading
 - * Aristotle, “Politics”
- 2/8 The Ancient Philosophers (II)
 - Required Reading
 - * Han Feizi, “The Way of the Ruler”
 - * Xunzi, excerpt from “The True King and the Hegemon”
- 2/10 The Enlightenment

- Required Reading
 - * David Hume, “Of the Origin of Government” ([link](#))
 - * Thomas Hobbes, excerpts from “Leviathan”
- Challenge Reading
 - * William Uzgalis, “Locke’s Second Treatise of Government” ([link](#))

2/15 The Founding

- Required Reading
 - * James Madison, “Federalist no. 10” ([link](#))
 - * Thomas Jefferson, “Letter to Henry Tompkinson” ([link](#))

2/17 Socialism, Marxism, and Communism

- Required Reading
 - * Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party”
 - * Thomas Paine, “Agrarian Justice”

2/22 Justice

- Required Reading
 - * John Rawls, “Justice as Fairness”
- Challenge Reading
 - * Robert Nozick, “Anarchy, State, and Utopia”

Unit Two: American Politics

2/24 Studying American Politics

- Required Reading
 - * Hibbing and Theiss-Morse, “What is Wrong with the American Political System?”

3/1 Institutions

- Required Reading
 - * Douglass North, “Institutions”
- Challenge Reading
 - * Ronald Coase, “The Problem of Social Cost”

3/3 The American Constitution

- Required Reading
 - * U.S. Constitution ([link](#))

3/8 Congress

- Required Reading

- * Brady and Theriault, “A Reassessment of Who’s to Blame”
- Challenge Reading
- * Cox and Katz, “The Electoral Consequences of the Reapportionment Revolution”

3/10 The Presidency

- Required Reading
- * Charles Jones, “Inventing the Presidency”

3/15 The Judiciary

- Required Reading
- * Segal and Spaeth, “Supreme Court Decision-Making”
- Challenge Reading
- * Gerald Rosenberg, “The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring about Social Change”

3/17 Electoral Politics (I)

- No required reading
- Challenge Reading
- * Edward Tufte, “The Relationship between Seats and Votes in Two-Party Systems”
- * Ansolabehere et al., “The Direct Primary and Competition in US Elections”

3/22 Electoral Politics (II)

- Required Reading
- * Wolbrecht and Corder, “Turning Rights into Ballots”
- Challenge Reading
- * Thierry Devos and Mahzarin Banaji, “American = White?”

3/24 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Unit Three: Comparative Politics and International Relations

4/5 The Comparative and International Approach

- No Required Reading
- Challenge Reading
- * Mark Blyth, “Great Punctuations: Prediction, Randomness, and the Evolution of Comparative Political Science”

4/7 The State

- **Term Paper Proposal Due**

4/12 Democratization and Authoritarianism (I)

– Required Reading

- * Schmitter and Karl, “What Democracy is and is not”
- * Michael Miller, “The Surprising Benefits of Autocratic Elections” ([link](#))
- * Lee Kwan Yew on Democracy ([link](#))

– Challenge Reading

- * Przeworski and Limongi, “Modernization: Theories and Facts”

4/14 Democratization and Authoritarianism (II)

– **First Draft of Paper Due (11:59 p.m.)**

– Required Reading

- * Mancur Olson, “Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development”

– Challenge Reading

- * Acemoglu et al., “Democracy Does Cause Growth”

4/19 Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism (I)

– Required Reading

- * Steven Lobell, “Structural Realism/Offensive and Defensive Realism”

– Challenge Reading

- * Kenneth Waltz, “The Stability of a Bipolar World”
- * Deudney and Ikenberry, “Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order”

4/21 Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism (II)

– Required Reading

- * Alexander Wendt, “Constructing International Politics”

– Challenge Reading

- * Steve Smith, “Wendt’s World”
- * Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is what States make of it”

4/26 Political Economy

– Required Reading

- * Douglass North, “Institutions and Economic Growth: A Historical Introduction”

– Challenge Reading

- * Russel Roberts, “Treasure Island: The Power of Trade” ([link](#))
- * Ronald Coase, “The Nature of the Firm”
- * Bueno de Mesquita, “Game Theory, Political Economy, and the Evolving Study of War and Peace”

4/28 The Case of China

– Required Reading

* Fareed Zakari, “The New China Scare”

* Feng Zhang, “Review of The Tianxia System: World Order in a Chinese Utopia”

– Challenge Reading

* Qin Yaqing, “Why is there no Chinese IR Theory?”

* Zhao Tingyang, “A Political World Philosophy in Terms of All-Under-Heaven”

5/3 War and Conflict

– Required Reading

* Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”

– Challenge Reading

* James Fearon and David Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War”

* Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism”

* John Mueller, “War Has Almost Ceased to Exist: An Assessment”

5/5 Statistical Methods in the Social Sciences (I)

– No Required Reading

5/10 Statistical Methods in the Social Sciences (II) or Paper Workshop

– No Required Reading

5/12 **Final Paper Due (11:59 p.m.)**

5/19 **FINAL EXAM (9:00–10:50 a.m.)**