

HABIB UNIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Poli 102

"Get thee glass eyes; And, like a scurvy politician, seem to see the things thou dost not."
William Shakespeare

Fall 2019

Soorty Lecture Hall
Monday and Thursday, 8.30-9.45

Instructor: Dr. Massimo Ramaioli
Office Location: C-127
Contacts: massimo.ramaioli@ahss.habib.edu.pk or phone extension 5337
Office Hours: Monday 10-11 and Thursday 11.30-12.30 and by appointment
Course LMS URL: <https://lms.habib.edu.pk/portal/site/ce7a3bf4-2287-477f-a2ca-b4e582f0bafc/page/36f713aa-7b59-44fa-8867-7049fc6ee594>
Course Prerequisites: No prerequisite
Content Area: SDP lower level elective; concentration in Political Economy

I. Rationale

This course aims to introduce students to the study of politics. The fundamental question in political science is: How does political change come about? Or, conversely, how do regimes persist in the way they are? In order to address these questions, the course will ask: How are we to study politics? And then: What is social power, and how does it manifest?

The focus of the course will be on comparative politics, presenting those concepts (such as 'state', 'regime', 'institutions', 'democracy', 'rule of law', 'political culture', 'revolution', 'interest groups', etc...) which are key to understand political outcomes and dynamics in different settings and across different countries.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes

Aims:

This course will introduce how to analyze politics from a social scientific perspective. A diverse, vast and complex subject, the student will learn how to approach political science, developing in particular the appropriate and basic vocabulary when it comes to its concepts, ideas and sub-

fields of inquiry. This course aims to serve as a preparatory exercise for more advanced courses in the social sciences.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, the student will be able to

1. Define the main modern political institutions (state, government, elections, representation, assemblies, etc...) and political actors (parties, social movements, elites, pressure groups, etc...)
2. Identify the main political regime types.
3. Apply the basic vocabulary of political science (social power, authority, ideology, regime, revolution, coup, dictatorship, democracy, constitution, etc...) to historical and current events and processes.
4. Write clearly to describe and assess the political arrangements of a given polity.

Above and beyond this, and most importantly, it must be kept in mind that understanding politics is essential to come to a more comprehensive and engaged perspective of the world as citizens who live within it.

This syllabus represents the *anticipated* scheduling of lectures and readings. I may change it to suit the actual composition, competencies and interests of the class.

Course philosophy:

"... why am I so interested in politics? If I were to answer you very simply I would say this: why shouldn't I be interested? That is to say, what blindness, what deafness, what density of ideology would have to weigh me down to prevent me from being interested in what is probably the most crucial subject to our existence, that is to say the society in which we live, the economic relations in which it functions, and the system of power which defines the regular forms and regular permissions and prohibitions of our conduct? The essence of our life consists, after all of the political functioning of the society in which we find ourselves." - Michel Foucault

In ancient Athens, those who did not care about the life of the city and the community (the 'polis', whence the word 'politics'), but who were only interested in their personal lot, were called 'idiots'. The term has finally reached our shores, losing its original meaning but not its negative connotation. Indeed, *you may not care about politics – yet politics will care about you.*

In order to be able to care about politics in an informed, aware, and mature fashion, we must become literate in its fundamental jargon, in its basic procedures, in its recurrent issues and dilemmas. While the course will make no one an 'expert' about politics, it will seek to equip you with tools on the way to become active, critical, engaging and independent citizens.

Ultimately, *what you are going to get out of the class is dependent upon what you put in it.*

III. Format and Procedures:

During each session, I expect students to follow the lecture with *active participation* in each session, asking questions and offering answers, engaging your fellow students and the instructor.

Students must come to class having completed the assigned readings and be ready to discuss them.

Students must maintain at all times a respectful and proper attitude towards their peers and the instructor. This includes also being in class on time (it would be preferable a few minutes before class start) and avoid premature preparation when about to leave class. Being late frequently is not accepted, as it is disruptive and disrespectful behavior.

I take attendance *only once* at the scheduled beginning of class. Latecomers may seat in class, but I will not register their presence and it will not count towards their attendance grade (see below section IV).

During the in-class examinations (Midterm and Final exams), no books, notes, articles, or any kind of electronic device are allowed.

During regular classes, no electronic devices are allowed. *Cell phones*, in particular, must be *turned off and put away*. Students failing to comply with these rules may be required to leave the classroom.

Copying and cheating will result in an automatic F (see below section X).

I am more than happy to meet with you outside class to discuss whatever issue or problem you might have with the class. Do not hesitate coming to my office hours; if you cannot make it at that time, send me an email at least one day prior to schedule a meeting. *Walk-ins are strictly not allowed!*

You can reach me easily via emails; however, do not expect I will be reading and answering your emails after 6pm or before 8am. Do not write me over the weekends: just wait for the class to resume on Monday or send it at the very latest on Friday. I will delete emails I receive over weekends. *I do not reply to questions whose answer can be found in the syllabus.*

IV. Course Requirements:

Class attendance policy

You have two excused absences per semester (they will not count against your final attendance grade). Beyond those, I need documented proof (medical or otherwise) to amend your absence. Habib University attendance requirements apply in relation to your status (see section VI below).

Readings:

The course will refer to the following textbook:

Roskin, Michael G., et al. *Political Science: An Introduction*. Pearson, 2017.

A pdf copy will be provided. Students who wish to either purchase it are free to do so of course.

Readings listed in the syllabus together with a web link can be found directly online. The other readings will be uploaded on the LMS system as word or pdf documents.

It is up to the student to either read them on an electronic device or print them out. As indicated above, readings may be changed over the course of the semester.

The grade will be determined as follows:

1. Attendance:	10%
2. Participation:	10%
3. Mini-autobiography	5%
4. Readings reporting	25%
5. Midterm	20%
6. Final	30%

Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance will count 10% towards your final grade.

Participation will count 10% towards your final grade.

During class lectures and discussions, we are not simply going to re-examine what the readings are about, but we are going to expand upon them. Hence, both active class participation and completion of the readings are essential.

Your *mere presence* in class will not count towards evaluating participation: your *active participation* in class will. You must engage the instructor and fellow students with questions, thoughts and considerations. The more consistent, thoughtful and enriching your contribution, the more your class participation will be positively evaluated.

Mini-autobiography

The mini-autobiography will count 5% towards your final grade.

This assignment is due at the end of Week 2. It consists of a two page, double spaced, Times New Roman Font 12 essay about your interest in politics and the study of politics. Include answers to as many as possible of the following questions in your response. Essays will be graded on language and following directions, not for content. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions:

1. How would you define politics?
2. When did you first become interested in politics?
3. What political events have you followed with the most attention?
4. How did you follow them? Did you read newspapers? Did you watch the news? Did you listen to the radio? Did you follow updates on social media?
5. What is your current system for following the news?
6. What current or recent news stories are you most interested in, and why?
7. What are your current study skills?
8. Evaluate your high school experience. What did you do well? What would you like to do differently in your college career?
9. What are some of the short-term (at college and/or in your twenties) and long-term career goals?
10. What skills or knowledge do you hope to acquire from the study of politics?

Readings reporting

The readings reports will count towards 25% of your final grade.

For each week, starting on Week 2 and ending on Week 14, students must submit a brief memo ranging between 200 and 250 words about a sentence or a paragraph from the readings they found interesting, stimulating, challenging, or also, debatable, surprising, or just unacceptable or wrong. Students, for each week, can choose whether to write about Monday readings or Thursday readings (hence, you write one memo per week). If in one week there is only one set of readings, students must comment on those. If a movie is showed, student must provide a brief commentary on it.

The memos will be graded on a distinction, pass or fail basis. Memos will be evaluated in terms of relevance in relation to the reading, precision and clarity.

Each memo will be worth 2% of your final grade until the tenth memo submitted. For every distinction you earn, you get an additional 1% until your fifth distinction. If no memo is submitted, it will result in an automatic fail. If fewer than 10 (ten) memos with a distinction or passing mark are submitted, the student will earn 0% on the overall assignment.

The memos must be uploaded on LMS at least 24 hours prior to the readings they refer to are due. For readings due Mondays at 8.30, the memo must be submitted by Sunday at 8.30; for readings due Thursday at 8.30, the memo must be submitted by Wednesday at 8.30.

Midterm and Final Exams

In each exam, students will have to answer one essay question out of a pool of four; and six identification questions (ID) out of a pool of twelve. Further details will be provided during the course of the semester. The midterm exam will count 20% towards your final grade, while the final 30%..

The essay questions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Are you answering the question?
- Is there a clear thesis and argument?
- Is there evidence that you have done the readings?
- Is there evidence of critical, personal engagement with the topic at hand? Or are you just reiterating and summarizing the readings?
- How well are you mastering the topics we dealt with in class?
- Is the language used appropriate?

The ID questions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Have you identified clearly and unequivocally the term?
- Are you providing a sufficient, concise, and clear definition?
- Have you added information or details that are either not relevant or just wrong?

V. Grading Scale:

GRADING SCALE		
LETTER GRADE	GPA POINTS	PERCENTAGE
A+	4.00	97 – 100
A	4.00	93 – 96
A-	3.67	90 – 92
B+	3.33	80 – 89
B	3.00	75 – 79
B-	2.67	70 – 74
C+	2.33	67 – 69
C	2.00	63 – 66
C-	1.67	60 – 62
F	0.00	0 – 59

VI. Attendance Policy:

Habib University requires that all freshmen and sophomores must maintain at least 85% attendance and all juniors and seniors must maintain at least 75% attendance for each class in which they are registered. Non-compliance with minimum attendance requirements will result in automatic failure of the course and may require the student to repeat the course when next offered. This policy is at a minimum. Departments, schools, and individual faculty members may alter this policy to include stronger attendance requirements and/or implement them for all levels of students. It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of their own attendance and speak with their faculty member or the Office of the Registrar for any clarification.

Attendance to class is mandatory. Per Habib University policy, Freshmen and Sophomores must attend at least 85% of the course and Juniors and Seniors must attend at least 75% of the course.

Per the specific policy of this class, students will sign in every session. I may excuse one (2) absence over the semester, regardless of your year of enrollment; beyond that, I need documentation proving you could not be in class that day. There is no need to inform me about your absence in advance. Of course, unexcused absences will negatively impact your attendance and participation grades

VII. Accommodations for students with disabilities

In compliance with the Habib University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first two weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with the Office of Academic Performance to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

VIII. Inclusivity Statement:

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. Habib University is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- share their unique experiences, values and beliefs
- be open to the views of others
- honor the uniqueness of their colleagues
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community
- value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature
- use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the Habib community

IX. Office hours:

During these hours the course instructor will be available to answer questions or provide additional help. Every student enrolled in this course must meet individually with the course instructor during course office hours at least once during the semester. The first meeting should happen within the first five weeks of the semester but must occur before midterms. Any student who does not meet with the instructor may face a grade reduction or other penalties at the discretion of the instructor and will have an academic hold placed by the Registrar's Office.

X. Academic Integrity:

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Habib University Student Honor Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

Scholastic dishonesty shall be considered a serious violation of these rules and regulations and is subject to strict disciplinary action as prescribed by Habib University regulations and policies. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on exams, plagiarism on assignments, and collusion.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is the act of taking the work created by another person or entity and presenting it as one's own for the purpose of personal gain or of obtaining academic credit. As per University policy, plagiarism includes the submission of or incorporation of the work of others without acknowledging its provenance or giving due credit according to established academic practices. [If you have read this far, send me an email with object 'read syllabus intro poli sci' and no text. Upon receiving that email, your first two memos will be an automatic pass if submitted]. This includes the submission of material that has been appropriated, bought, received as a gift, downloaded, or obtained by any other means. Students must not, unless they have been granted permission from all faculty members concerned, submit the same assignment or project for academic credit for different courses.

CHEATING: The term cheating shall refer to the use of or obtaining of unauthorized information in order to obtain personal benefit or academic credit.

COLLUSION: Collusion is the act of providing unauthorized assistance to one or more person or of not taking the appropriate precautions against doing so.

All violations of academic integrity will also be immediately reported to the Student Conduct Office.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 - Introduction

26 August - Organization of the class

Negy, Charles. "What is university about? A letter"

29 August - What is Political Science? Methods of inquiries and social sciences

Textbook, pp. 1-28 (Ch. 1)

Week 2 - Foundational Concepts in Political Science

2 September - Politics and social power

"Power of Politics: Meaning, Types and Sources of Power", available at

<http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/power-of-politics-meaning-types-and-sources-of-power/31356>

Weber, Max. *Politics as a vocation*. Published as "Politik als Beruf," *Gesammelte Politische Schriften* (Muenchen, 1921), pp. 396 - 450. Originally a speech at Munich -University, 1918, published in 1919 by Duncker & Humblodt, Munich. Read only the first 4 pages.

5 September - The Modern State

Harrison, Kevin, and Tony Boyd. "The State and Sovereignty" in *Understanding political ideas and movements: a guide for A2 politics students*, Manchester University Press, 2018.

Mini-autobiography due.

Week 3 - The State and the Law

9 September – NO CLASS

12 September - State branches and state types

Textbook, pp. 49-67 (Chapter 3)

Week 4 - Regime types: Democracy

16 September - Constitutions

Textbook, pp. 68-85 (Chapter 4)

19 September - Definitions of democracy

Textbook, pp. 86-97 (Chapter 5)

Week 5 - Regime types: Authoritarianism

23 September - Dictatorships

Movie: *The Lives of Others*

26 September – Dictatorships

Orwell, George. *What is Fascism?*

Movie continued

Week 6 - Regime types: Authoritarian and Hybrid regimes

30 September – Authoritarian regimes

Textbook, pp. 97-106 (Chapter 5)

3 October - Between democracies and authoritarianism: hybrid regimes

Zakaria, Fareed. "The rise of illiberal democracy." *Foreign Affairs*, 76 (1997): 22.

Week 7 – Political Institutions

7 October - Legislatures

Textbook, pp. 228-47 (Ch. 12)

10 October - Executives and bureaucracies

Textbook, pp. 248-68 (Ch. 13)

Week 8 - Political Ideology

14 October - Midterm exam

17 October - What is a political ideology?

Textbook, pp. 28-48 (Ch. 2)

Week 9 – Political Ideologies and Political Economy

21 October - Political ideologies: content and ideas

Choose one of the chapters from 8 to 15 available at

<https://www.manchesteropenhive.com/view/9781526137951/9781526137951.xml>

24 October - Political Economy

Textbook, pp. 290-310 (Ch. 15)

Week 10 - Political attitudes

28 October - Political culture

Textbook, pp. 108-126 (Ch. 6)

31 October – Public Opinion

Textbook, pp. 127-146 (Ch. 7)

Week 11 - Civil society: political parties

4 November - Political parties

Textbook, pp. 187-206 (Ch. 10)

7 November - Politics of Pakistan

Readings TBA

A conversation with Tariq Ali, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFDcGnupj8E>

Watch the video prior to class. You may write your weekly report on it.

Week 12 - Civil society: pressure and interest groups

11 November - Interest groups

Textbook, pp. 168-186 (Ch. 9)

Movie: *Thank you for smoking*

14 November - Interest groups and our position in society

Gramsci, Antonio. *I hate the indifferent*. Available at <https://elcomunista.net/2017/01/23/antonio-gramsci-i-hate-the-indifferent/#prettyPhoto>

Movie continued

Week 13 - Contentious politics

18 November - Contentious Politics and Political Mobilization

Tarrow, Sidney and Charles Tilly. *Contentious Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.
Chapter 1.

21 November - Revolutions, rebellions, coups

Textbook, pp. 311-330 (Ch. 16)

Week 14 – Identity and Youth politics

25 November – Identity and Youth Politics

Bayat, Asef. “Reclaiming Youthfulness” in *Life as Politics*, Stanford University Press, 2010.
Chapter 6.

Movie: *The Wave*

28 November - Identity and Youth Politics

Movie continued

Week 15 - IR and war making

2 December - From state systems to systems of states

Textbook, pp. 331-345 (Ch. 17)

5 December - Review