

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

Session: 2006F
Time: Tuesday 6-10 p.m.
Room: D221

Instructor: J. White
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Office Hours: By appointment

PSC 110-70 - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE (3)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

PSC 110 Introduction to Political Science - An introduction to the principles and methods of political science, focusing on the nature and development of political science as a discipline, the political process, political institutions and the interrelationships among elements in the political system. IAI S5 903

TEXT: Thomas M. Magstadt, *Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions, & Issues*, 7th ed., Thomas Wadsworth, Inc., 2006.

Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

A. Goals: To gain a better understanding of Political Science.

To better understand basic terminology involved with Political Science.

B. Course-based Student Learning Objectives (CSLOs). The following CSLOs are addressed:

Explore the role of government and politics when dealing with the creation of policies and laws. (CK-1)

Learn how people can and do drive the government. (CK-1)

Discuss and interpret the U.S. Constitution. (CK-1)

C. Course-based Student Learning Objectives (CBSLOs) Upon completing this class, students will be able to complete the following:

Apply new found knowledge of Political Science. (CK-2, CK-3, PS-1)

To have a better understanding of Political Science, specifically, the Constitution, American Democracy, Federalism, and the true meaning of “politics”. (PS-2, SR-1, SD-1)

ATTENDANCE

Session F is only eight weeks long. Attendance is very important. Tests will be given over information discussed in class.

Please make every attempt to attend class. If you must miss class, please contact the instructor **prior** to the class meeting. Unexcused absences may result in the lowering of your final grade.

GRADING

There will be three take home exams worth 50 points each.	150 points
Completion of the first assignment (attached)	50 points
Final Exam	100 points (?)
Class participation (5 points per class) This will include participation in class discussions from the book as well as discussion of any current issues discussed.	40 points

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in college-sponsored programs, activities, and services or to meet course requirements should contact the instructor or Dean of Student Affairs as early as possible.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as follows: “The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writing, or the ideas of language of the same and passing them off as the product of one’s own mind. To be liable for plagiarism it is not necessary to exactly duplicate another’s literary work, it being sufficient if unfair use of such work is made by lifting of substantial portion thereof”. Black’s Law Dictionary 1035 (5th ed. 1979). The SCI Student Handbook lists plagiarism as a serious breach of conduct standards and will result in disciplinary action.

Assessment: Classroom Assessment Techniques

Goals, objectives and learning outcomes that will be assessed in the class are stated in this syllabus. Instructor will use Classroom Assessment Techniques as deemed necessary in order to provide continuous improvement of instruction. Students are required to take part in all assessment measures.

IAI Statement: Introduction to Political Science (PSC 110) has been approved by the Illinois Articulation Initiative as meeting the criteria stipulated for S5 903: Principles of Political Science.

S5903: Principles of Political Science (3 semester credits).

Introduction to the principles and methods of political science, focusing on the nature and development of political science as a discipline, the political process, political institutions and the interrelationships among elements in the political system.

CLASS CALENDAR

This serves as a guide to the structure of the class. It may be altered according to need.

- Oct. 17** Class introductions / Syllabus
Turn in assignment #1.
COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS
- What are the main theories regarding society?
 - What can the study of utopian thought teach us about contemporary politics?
 - Different models of democracy and how they differ.
 - Locke's contribution to American Democracy.
- Oct. 24** Take home test #1 due.
COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS
- The basic types of nondemocratic government.
 - Machiavelli on power.
 - Consolidating power in a totalitarian state.
- Oct. 31** **DEMOCRACY**
- The basic operating principals of the parliamentary system.
 - Comparing and contrasting democracies.
 - Strengths and weaknesses of parliamentary versus presidential rule.
- Nov. 7** Take home test #2 due
DEMOCRACY
- Common models of states in transition to democracy
 - Democratization and development around the world.
 - Models of dysfunctional states.
- Nov. 14** **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**
- What is the concept of citizenship to Aristotle and other political thinkers?
 - What factors influence the political socialization of citizens?
 - Different forms of electoral systems.
 - The differences among one-, two- and multiparty systems.
- Nov. 21** Take Home test #3 Due
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
- The study of leadership as an aspect of the overall study of politics.
 - What is a demagogue?
 - What is the nature of exemplary leadership?
 - Why is liberty valuable?

Nov. 28

REVOLUTION & WAR

- Defining revolution.
- Compare and contrast the American and French Revolutions.
- Theories on revolution (Pain, Locke and Burke)
- Theories on disenchantment.
- Terrorism versus common crimes.
- The psychological roots of terrorism.

Dec. 5

Final discussion(s)

FINAL EXAM:

ASSIGNMENT #1

DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST CLASS

In typed, essay form, answer the following questions:

1. In what town do you live? (according to your address)
2. What is the number of your Congressional District?
3. Who is your current U.S. Representative?
4. Who are the two current U.S. Senators for Illinois?
5. What do you think the purpose of the United States Federal Government is or should be?