

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

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Room: D230

Session 2008B
Thursday
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE (PSC 110-70)

I. Course Description

This course is 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.

II. Textbook and Materials

Required text: Ellen Grigsby, *Analyzing Politics*, 4th ed., Thomas Wadsworth, Inc., 2009.

Supplemental materials: *The New York Times* www.nytimes.com,
The Times (of London) www.the-times.co.uk

These materials are available, free, on the World Wide Web. You should make it a regular practice to read one of these newspapers to keep current on issues affecting government and politics.

III. Mission Statement

The mission of Springfield College in Illinois is to provide students the best liberal arts education in the Ursuline tradition of a nurturing faith-based environment. We prepare students for a life of learning, leadership and service in a diverse world.

IV. Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

A. Goals

1. To understand the principals and methods of political science.
2. To understand political processes and institutions, and appreciate how these elements interrelate within a political system.

B. Common Student Learning Objectives (CSLO's)

1. Content Knowledge [Lifelong Learning]
 - a. Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter. (CK-1)
2. Communication Skills [Lifelong Learning & Leadership]
 - a. Communicate effectively in oral and written forms (CS-1)
3. Problem-Solving Skills [Lifelong Learning & Leadership]
 - a. Seek information and develop an in-depth knowledge base, grounded in research. (PS-2)

C. Course-based student learning objectives. (CBSLO's)

CBSLO-1 explain the relationships between political life and cultural ideas (CK-1);

CBSLO-2 describe formal government institutions, legal structures, and political behavior and processes (CK-1, CS-1);

CBSLO-3 describe political systems, identify international organizations, and explain the relationships between nations (CK-1, CS-1);

CBSLO-4 analyze and evaluate political phenomena (CK-1);

CBSLO-5 demonstrate an understanding of the process of social scientific inquiry (CK-1, CS-1);

CBSLO-6 analyze value judgments about political decisions and policies (CK-1, PS-2);

CBSLO-7 explain the social-psychological sources and historical-cultural origins of political attitudes and values, and analyze critically the personal and social implications of alternative values (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2);

CBSLO-8 demonstrate an understanding of the capacities and skills needed to participate effectively and democratically in society (CK-1).

CBSLO-9 explain the historical significance of political ideologies and their relevance to contemporary issues of government structures, political processes, and public policy (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2).

V. Teaching Methods/Delivery System

Lectures supplement the material in the text. It is the student's responsibility to have read the assignments in advance. Having read the material prepares students for the lectures. If students do not read the text in advance, parts of the lectures will be much more difficult to understand. Applied activities, including both individual and group work, will supplement the subject matter.

VI. Course Requirements

Attendance policy:

Attendance will be taken during each class session. Given the unique nature of the Adult Accelerated courses, attendance is essential. Missing just one class will put a student severely behind. For that reason, attendance and participation make up a large part (20%, equal to the final exam) of the final grade.

Reading assignments

PLEASE NOTE: *All readings must be completed prior to class.*

Week #1:	Chapter 1 - Chapter 2 –	Introduction, Political Science and Scientific Methods in Studying Politics
Week #2:	Chapter 3-	Key Concepts in Political Science
Week #3:	SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS	
Week #4:	Chapter 4-	Political Theory: Examining the Ethical Foundations of Politics
Week #5:	Chapter 5-	Political Ideologies I: Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism
Week #6:	Chapter 6- Chapter 7-	Political Ideologies II: Fascism Political Ideologies III: Feminism, Environmentalism, and postmodernism
Week #7:	Chapter 8-	Comparative Politics I: Governmental Systems: Democracy and Nondemocracy
Week #8:	Chapter 9- Chapter 10-	Comparative Politics II: Interest Groups, Political Parties, and Elections Comparative Politics III: Governing Democracies: Executives, Legislatures and Judiciaries
Week #9:	FINAL EXAM	

Written assignments

CHAPTER OVERVIEW (PS-2, CBSLO-2)

Each student will be assigned a chapter from the text to review and direct an in-class discussion of. Chapter Overviews will be due at the beginning of the class period, on the day the assigned chapter is covered. Chapter Overviews will consist of a 1-2 page summary of the assigned chapter, along with your personal reactions to the material. The paper should include a brief synopsis of the major themes of the readings followed by your reaction and analysis. The paper should demonstrate an understanding of key concepts in the assigned readings (the paper will be photocopied and distributed to the class). Each student will then deliver one short (5-10 minute) overview of their assigned chapter and direct an in-class discussion of the relevant topics.

MOVIE REVIEW (CS-1, CBSLO-7)

Each student will prepare a 2-3 page review of one of the movies shown in class, or of another movie as approved in advance by the instructor. Reviews should include *a brief* summary of the plot followed by an analysis of the larger themes of the movie, including how they reflect the topic(s) of the course. Specific guided questions will be handed out prior to each screening.

CANDIDATE RESEARCH PROJECT (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2, CBSLO-2, CBSLO-3, CBSLO-9)

Student teams will research and prepare a Candidate Position Paper on one of the US presidential candidates. Students will then participate in an in-class debate on the major ideological positions of the given candidates.

VII. Means of Evaluation

1. Participation (including attendance)	50 points
2. Chapter Overview	50 points
3. Movie Review	50 points
4. Candidate Position Paper (team research)	50 points
5. In-Class Debate (team activity)	50 points
6. Final Exam	100 points
TOTAL	350 points

GRADING SYSTEM

TOTAL POINTS LETTER GRADE

315 – 350 A
280 – 314 B
245 – 279 C
210 – 244 D
Below 210 E

Note on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is defined as follows: "The deliberate and knowing presentation of another person's original ideas or creative expressions as one's own." Generally, plagiarism is immoral but not illegal. If the expression's creator gives unrestricted permission for its use and the user claims the expression as original, the user commits plagiarism but does not violate copyright laws. If the original expression is copied without permission, the plagiarist may violate copyright laws, even if credit goes to the creator. And if the plagiarism results in material gain, it may be deemed a passing-off activity that violates the Lanham Act." Black's Law Dictionary, 8th ed. (2004), p. 1187.

Diana Hacker notes, "three different acts are considered plagiarism:

- (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas,
- (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and
- (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words."

(A Writer's Reference, by Diana Hacker, Bedford St. Martin's Press, 2003, page 331.)

Some instances of plagiarism may, in fact, be violations of copyright law and subject to prosecution. The SCI Student Handbook lists plagiarism as a serious breach of conduct standards and will result in disciplinary action.

VIII. 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 Director of the Resource Center as early as possible.

IX. 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.

X. 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.

S5 903: 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 inter-relationships among elements in the political system.