



Department of Political Science and International Relations

POLS 101 Introduction to Political Science

Fall 2016

I. Course Description:

Students examine the concepts and methodology of Political Science as well as the various fields of the discipline including comparative politics, international politics, political sociology and political philosophy and the origins of our political values. Students analyse political ideas, theories, ideologies, systems and policies in order to focus on and investigate political problems on a national and global level as well as define central concepts related to the study of political science.

II. Basic Course Information

Professor: Michelangelo Guida
Office: Room Ü208
Office Phone Number: 0126 4740860 ext. 1625
E-MAIL: mguida@29mayis.edu.tr
Office Hours: Monday 16-17, Thursday 15-17.

III. Course Text

Andrew Heywood, *Politics* (New York: Palgrave, 2013). The textbook is available at www.pandora.com.tr and www.homerbooks.com.

IV. Course Rationale

In today's world, it is critical that the students have a solid comprehension of government and politics. The objective of this course is to familiarize students with a framework of the various fields and topic areas in Political Science including political sociology, comparative politics, international politics and political philosophy. Students examine the origins of our political values, analyse political ideas, theories, ideologies, systems and policy, and then investigate political problems on a national and global level. This course is designed to promote citizenship and understanding of political issues and events.

V. Evaluations



Participation: it is an essential activity based on the principle that students learn from one another. You are required to participate in the discussions by answering questions, taking part in debates or posing questions to the lecturer and the class. Those who attend less than 70% of the classes, **cannot take final and make-up exams**. In case of illness or difficulties please contact me.

Reaction papers: Please see the schedule. The deadlines must be respected; **no assignment will be accepted after the deadline**. Moreover, answer exactly to the question.

For the Department evaluation policy, please refer to the *Department of Political Science and International Relations Handbook*. Your final grade will be calculated as shown below:

Assignments (4 x 10%)	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	40%

VI. Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignment
1 (19-22 September)	What is Politics; Political Ideas and Ideologies	Andrew Heywood, <i>Politics</i> , Ch. 1 and 2	-
2 (26-29 September)	Politics and the State	Ch. 3	-
3 (3-6 October)	Democracy and Legitimacy	Ch. 4	500 words. Answer to ONE of the following questions: 1- Could you define the state? 2- Can you think of a society without a state? 3- Does globalization mean that the state has become irrelevant?
4 (10-13 October)	Nations and Nationalism	Ch. 5	-
5 (17-20 October)	Political Economy and Globalization	Ch. 6	-
6 (24-27 October)	Politics, Society and Identity; Political Culture and the Media	Ch. 7-8	500 words. Answer to ONE of the following questions: 1- Does politics shape economy, or does economy shape politics? 2- Does a globalized economy mean opportunity for all, or greater insecurity and deeper inequality? 3- Can we have an ecologically sustainable economy?
7 (31 October 3 November)	Representation, Elections and Voting	Ch. 9	-
8 (7-10 November)	Midterm exams		
9 (14-17 November)	Parties and Party Systems	Ch. 10	-
10 (21-24 November)	Groups, Interests and Movements	Ch. 11	500 words. Answer to ONE of the following questions: 1- What is the best electoral system for your country? 2- Are all contemporary political parties essentially catch-all parties? 3- Could government function in contemporary circumstances without political parties?

11 (28 November- 1 December)	Government, Systems and Regimes; Political Executives and Leadership	Ch. 12-13	-
12 (5-8 December)	Assemblies; Constitutions, Laws and Judges	Ch. 14-15	-
13 (12-15 December)	Public Policy and Bureaucracy; Multilevel Politics	Ch. 16-17	500 words. Answer to ONE of the following questions: 1- Should strong leaders be feared or admired? 2- Is there any longer such a thing as the 'Third World'? 3- Why have liberal-democratic political regimes proved to be so effective and successful?
14 (19-22 December)	Security: Domestic and International	Ch. 18	-
15 (26-29 December)	World Order and Global Governance	Ch. 19	-

VII. Follow the Global Agenda

- ✓ A student of politics must follow the global political events. So please follow daily the international media. This is a short list of the main and most reliable media platforms:

Aljazeera: <http://www.aljazeera.com/>

The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/>

Jadaliyya: <http://www.jadaliyya.com/>

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>

The Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/>

- ✓ Moreover, use the Student Zone of the webpage dedicated to our textbook, which has interesting materials and further links: <http://www.palgrave.com/companion/Heywood-Politics-4e/student-zone/>
- ✓ On November the 8th, Presidential elections will be held in the US. This is a major event. All students of political science should follow closely this election because it shapes American and World politics. Please follow the news closely. Many news website have pages dedicated to the elections (<http://www.aljazeera.com/topics/events/election-2016.html>; <http://www.usatoday.com/section/global/elections-2016/>; <http://edition.cnn.com/election/>; <http://nypost.com/tag/2016-presidential-election/>; <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/>; <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>) but first have a look to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2016.