

POLS 2523
Foundations of Government and Politics
Instructor: Dr. Sam Watson

2020 Spring Semester
Midwestern State University
209 Prothro-Yeager
1-1:50 pm M, W, F

Office: O'Donohoe 119
Phone: 397-4746
Hours: By appointment

Course Description

POLS 2523 is a lower division undergraduate lecture course which focuses on the major concepts, theories, and principles of government and politics. The course is designed to introduce students majoring and minoring in political science to the discipline.

Course Goals

The primary goal of this course is for each student to develop as complete an understanding as possible of the varied political institutions and processes at work in the world today. By so doing, the student will hopefully acquire a greater appreciation and enthusiasm for the work performed by the political scientist.

Required Materials

- 1) Magstadt, Understanding Politics, 13th ed. (Cengage)

Strongly Recommended Materials

- 1) A current map of the world and the United States.

Resource Materials

The University (Moffett) Library contains valuable resources which can aid students in their study and research for this course. In addition to many relevant books, a number of periodicals will be particularly useful (recent issues will be found on the current periodicals shelves; back issues are either bound or on microfilm/microfiche). A list of selected periodicals available in the library and local sources of broadcast media significant for political science research is attached to this syllabus.

Course Requirements

1 st Examination	Wednesday, February 26	25 percent
2 nd Examination	Monday, April 13	25 percent
Final Examination	Monday, May 11 (3:30 pm)	40 percent
Attendance		10 percent

The midterm and final examinations consist of a series of multiple choice, true/false, and short identification questions. The final exam is cumulative.

In order to pass this class, a student must participate. Participation means coming to and preparing for class. Attendance will be checked periodically by signature sheet.

Schedule of Assignments

1/27 - Introductory session
1/29, 31- Magstadt, Chapter 1
2/3, 5 - Magstadt, Chapter 2
2/7, 10- Magstadt, Chapter 3
2/12, 14- Magstadt, Chapter 4
2/17, 19- Magstadt, Chapter 5
2/21, 24- Magstadt, Chapter 6
2/26 - First Exam
3/2, 4- Magstadt, Chapter 7
3/6, 9- Magstadt, Chapter 8
3/11, 13- Magstadt, Chapter 9
3/23, 25- Magstadt, Chapter 10
3/27, 30- Magstadt, Chapter 11
4/1, 3- Magstadt, Chapter 12
4/6, 8 - Magstadt, Chapter 13
4/13- Second Exam
4/15, 17- Magstadt, Chapter 14
4/20, 22- Magstadt, Chapter 15
4/24, 27- Magstadt, Chapter 16
4/29; 5/1- Magstadt, Chapter 17
5/ 4, 6, 8- Magstadt, Chapter 18 and review

No class

1/22, 24
2/28
3/16, 18, 20 (Spring Break)
4/10 (Holiday Break)