



Foundations of Government and Politics - POLS 2523 Section 101
College of Humanities & Social Science
Prothro-Yeager Rm 209
MWF 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
Fall 2022 | Aug 22 - Dec 10

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Gabriela Okundaye
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Course Description

Study of major concepts, theories, and principles of government and politics. Designed to provide a basic understanding of the institutions and processes of government.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Essentials of Comparative Politics text (w/InQuizitive Access Code) 7th edition
ISBN: 9780393532777

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

Table 1: Percentage of each assignment.

Assignments	Percent
InQuizitive	20
Midterm Exam	30
Policy Paper	30
Final Exam	30
Total Points	100

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	Less than 60

InQuizitive

The main assignments this class will be from InQuizitive. Each chapter will feature an InQuizitive assignment that can be found in D2L and will be due each Friday at 11:59 PM.

Exams

This class will have two exams: one midterm and one final exam. Both exams will consist of short answer identification questions and an essay. Each exam will have five terms (each are 15 points each) that need to be defined and identified as to why it is important to Government and Politics. The essay will ask you to analyze a certain topic and demonstrate why the topic is important to Government and Politics. The essay will count for 25 points.

Policy Paper

In this class you will need to write a policy paper that does the following: 1.) Identifies an international policy issue related to the course. 2.) Provides the reader of the policy paper with context regarding the issue. 3.) Uses appropriate literature to analyze the issue. 4.) Propose a way to mitigate or solve the issue. Each week in this course students will turn in an installment of the paper. Each installment is intended to build from the previous installment and culminate on the creation of a paper by installment three. Each installment that is turned in must contain the previous installment added on as you are building towards a complete paper. You are highly encouraged to make changes as I give feedback on each installment of the paper. Each installment should be no longer than

three-pages double-spaced and should use 12-point size Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins. Below are the expectations for each installment. The sources you use in each portion of the paper must use in-text citations (e.g. Okundaye 2022). The reference style used for this class is the American Political Science Association (APSA) format. The APSA style manual is linked here. Each installment of the policy paper will be due by 5:00 PM each Friday.

Extra Credit

This class will have limited extra credit opportunities. These extra credit opportunities will be announced via D2L. The type of extra credit opportunities that may be given during the course may come from a podcast, a documentary, or a current event. Extra credit assignments are worth one additional point towards the total grade in class.

Late Work

Late submissions for assignment will incur a penalty of 25 points for every 24 hours it's not submitted. For the final exam, no work will be accepted after the final day of class (December 10th).

Make Up Work/Tests

Absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the college dean or Athletic Director and the Provost. Students with written approval must present a signed letter or memo to each instructor at least two (2) class days prior to the date of the absence. Only prior notification can guarantee lack of penalty for these absences. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor to make-up all work missed during an authorized absence.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 25.

Deadline to file for graduation: September 26.

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Email Etiquette

Sending emails is a part of the professionalization development that students are expected to go through while they are in college. When you send me (or any other professor) an email please be sure to address the reader with the correct title, use appropriate grammar in the subject line and body of the email, and be brief and to the point. For more information on how to write a professional email visit the websites below.

[How to Write a Professional Email](#)

[Email Etiquette for Students](#)

Announcements

Be sure to check your email as this is how information for this class will be distributed. Announcements will be posted on D2L and will be sent to the email linked to D2L which is more likely than not your system email.

Class Etiquette

Political Science and government classes often discuss topics that have the potential to ignite feelings for many. This class may do so and it is important for everyone to remember to be respectful of others beliefs should it become a point of topic. However, if any discussion becomes hostile towards another student or the instructor I, the instructor, reserve the right to remove students that have expressed what can be interpreted as hate speech towards race/ethnicity/gender/class/sexual expression. If you are not sure what may be interpreted as hate speech email me beforehand. Additionally, please review the link below that discusses classroom etiquette and conduct.

[Classroom Etiquette](#)

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring

accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 8/22 to 8/27	What is Comparative Politics?	Aug 26
Week 2 8/28 to 9/3	Defining the State	Sep 2
Week 3 9/4 to 9/10	Nations & Society	Sep 9
Week 4 9/11 to 9/17	Political Economy	Sep 16
Week 5 9/18 to 9/24	Democratic Regimes Installment I DUE	Sep 23
Week 6 9/25 to 10/1	Nondemocratic Regimes	Sep 30
Week 7 10/2 to 10/8	Political Violence	Oct 7
Week 8 10/9 to 10/15	Ethnic Conflict MIDTERM	Oct 14
Week 9 10/16 to 10/22	Civil Wars	Oct 21
Week 10 10/23 to 10/29	Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, and Peacemaking Installment II DUE	Oct 28
Week 11 10/30 to 11/5	Developed Democracies	Nov 4
Week 12 11/6 to 11/12	Communism & Post-Communism	Nov 11
Week 13 11/13 to 11/19	Developing Countries	Nov 18
Week 14 11/20 to 11/26	Challenges to Democracy	Nov 25
Week 15 11/27 to 12/3	Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics Installment III DUE	Dec 2
Week 16 12/4 to 12/10	FINALS	Dec

Note: Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.