

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

2022 Spring Semester  
Midwestern State University  
209 Prothro-Yeager  
12:30-1:50 pm T, R

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, 13<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Examination	Tuesday, February 15	25 percent
2 <sup>nd</sup> Examination	Thursday, March 31	25 percent
Final Examination	Thursday, May 5 (10:30 am)	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

1/13 - Introductory session  
1/18- Magstadt, Chapter 1  
1/20, 25- Magstadt, Chapter 2  
1/27; 2/1- Magstadt, Chapter 3  
2/3- Magstadt, Chapter 4  
2/8- Magstadt, Chapter 5  
2/10- Magstadt, Chapter 6  
2/15- First Exam  
2/17, 22- Magstadt, Chapter 7  
2/24; 3/1- Magstadt, Chapter 8  
3/3- Magstadt, Chapter 9  
3/8- Magstadt, Chapter 10  
3/10- Magstadt, Chapter 11  
3/22- Magstadt, Chapter 12  
3/24, 29 -Magstadt, Chapter 13  
3/31- Second Exam  
4/5- Magstadt, Chapter 14  
4/7, 12- Magstadt, Chapter 15  
4/19- Magstadt, Chapter 16  
4/21- Magstadt, Chapter 17  
4/26, 28- Magstadt, Chapter 18

## No class

1/11  
3/15, 17 (Spring Break)  
4/14 (Holiday Break)