



**Foundations of Government & Politics/POLS 2523**  
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
CRN 30717-X30  
Summer I - ONLINE

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### **Course Description**

In this course, we will provide an overview of the social science discipline of Political Science. Political theory, political institutions, and how we study political science will be the main themes of the course. Students are assumed to have no prior knowledge of the material. In addition to the foundations of political science, students will also learn critical reading strategies to better understand political science research as well as analytical writing skills needed to perform their own original research. **The syllabus provides a general plan for the course; changes may be necessary. Any changes made will be announced in class and posted to D2L.**

*Note:* The course fulfills the Cultural and Global Understanding component of the core curriculum and is a requirement for majors and minors in Political Science, as well as social studies education majors. POLS 2523 is a writing intensive course. Assignments include case study research paper, which will be submitted in two portions.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- Identify and explain the various components of Political Science
- Be proficient in critically reading political science research material and understand how to identify the key theories, hypotheses, data and methodology, and conclusion in these works
- Explain the need for states, define what a state is, and describe the main characteristics of states
- Classify regime types along the continuum of democratic and non-democratic governments of states
- List the main political institutions, and describe the characteristics of executive, legislative, judicial branches of government
- Compare types of constitutions and court systems
- Give details on electoral systems and how this impacts political participation
- Define civil society, and articulate some of the causal factors involved in social movements and political conflict

- Utilize data and digital tools to compare political variables across countries
- Produce an original research paper, comparing aspects of politics across countries or regions

### **Required Textbook & Instructional Materials**

- *The Essentials of Comparative Politics*, by Patrick O'Neil; W.W. Norton, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition; ISBN: 978-0-393-62458-8
- Additional readings, posted to D2L in PDF form
- I recommend you follow international news through such sources as [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), the BBC World News, etc.. You may use this material for class discussions

### **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [2020-2021 MSU Student Handbook](#)

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

Academic Dishonesty: This includes 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 individuals to whom credit is given). Copying your own work from another class is also considered cheating because it is self-plagiarism. All work submitted for this course must be your own original work, or the sources must be cited appropriately. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct and at the end of this syllabus.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

### **Electronic Devices:**

Many assignments in this course will be conducted in D2L. Quizzes and exams may utilize the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor for testing. In order to install these programs, you will need the following:

- A desktop computer or laptop other than a Chromebook. NOTE: Chromebooks are not compatible with the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor.
- Apple iPads may be used for quizzes and exams, but these are not advised for any assignment with a written component.
- Mobile phones and similar devices are not compatible with the required programs.
- A working webcam on the computing device used for the exam.
- Microsoft Office for written assignments, which must be submitted in Word doc files. Access to Microsoft Office 365 available through the Office 365 for Students on the Microsoft website.

### **Office Hours:**

All office hours are virtual, and by Zoom. Appointments are made via email.

### **Communication:**

The best way to reach me is by email. I will make all attempts to answer emails within 48 business hours unless it is over a holiday break. You must check your email listed as the primary account in

your Banner information, as I will use this address to communicate with you outside of class. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and the gradebook.

When sending me an email, please include the following in the Subject Line:

- Your first and last name
- Your student ID number (M#)
- Your class title and section (POL5 2523 – X30)

Appropriate email etiquette means you should address an email to ANY professor with the following greeting: Dear Dr./Professor Last Name, ...

### **Attendance Policy:**

This course has been planned as a fully online course. Failure to login multiple times a week in D2L and complete assignments by the due dates indicates a failure to “attend.”

### **Disability Accommodations:**

Any student having an education disability plan on file with the university needs to inform me within the first week of the class so I can make the appropriate arrangements to accommodate your situation. 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](#).

### **Clery Act Notification:**

Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature; sex or gender discrimination violate University policies. Any person experiencing such behavior may receive confidential support from the Counseling Center. Counseling Center staff will hold what you share in strict confidence. If you disclose sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex or gender discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) to me, I as the instructor of this course am required to forward such information to the MSU Title IX office. This should not prevent you from speaking to me should you wish to do so, but know that what you tell me in this area cannot be held confidential, but must be shared with the Title IX office.

### **Grading**

There are four graded requirements for the course that will be the basis for assessing student performance:

- Weekly discussion questions/videos for class
- Reading quizzes, due start of class on the deadline, taken in D2L
- Two Exams, multiple choice and some long answers
- Original research paper- case study style

Assignments	Percentage
Attendance and Discussion question	20
Reading Quizzes	20
Exam 1	20
Exam 2	20
Research Paper	20
Total	100%

### Grading Scale:

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

### Discussion Questions:

Each week you are to answer a discussion question based on the readings and news events of the week. Each discussion board answer must be 150 words minimum, NOT duplicating the content of other students in the course. These are due each Wednesday by 11:59pm. No extensions are offered for late work.

### Reading Quizzes:

Reading Quizzes are to insure you are reading and understanding the assigned texts each week. The reading quizzes are posted in D2L, under the Quizzes tab. They are open book, and you can take them an unlimited number of times **before** the due date and time. Each quiz will have between 10-20 questions – which may be multiple choice, true/false, or multiple answers. Use them to help you prepare for the exams. These are due each Friday by 11:59PM. No extensions are offered for late work.

### Exams:

Exams include multiple choice questions and long answers. Each exam will feature material introduced since the last exam only. Anything I say in in the video lectures, along with content in the assigned readings could be used for the exams. These are timed, and closed book (no notes may be used).

- Exam 1: open Friday, June 11-Monday, June 14
- Exam 2: open Sunday, June 27-Thursday, July 1

### Case Study Research Paper:

The critical thinking required of political science research cannot be easily developed or tested only using traditional exams. Writing encourages research, formulation of argument, and articulation of supportive statements. Therefore, in this course you will be required to write a 7-page research paper. The good news is that 1) I don't grade solely based on grammar, and 2), it will be about a case country chosen from a list I give you. The paper must be designed according to academic research

structure formatting (you will be taught about this), and must be an argumentative, or critical analysis of your topic. A fact-based descriptive paper will receive a poor grade, because it did just regurgitated facts I can look up online. Good papers use a political theory, create a critical argument, and test the argument with real data. I will teach you how to do these things. The paper sections are submitted as follows:

1. *Part I – Thesis statement, Outline, and Bibliography* due Sunday, June 13, 11:59 PM, 10% of the class grade.
2. *Part II – Full Case Study* due Sunday, June 27, 11:59PM, 10% of the class grade.  
*NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED for either section of the paper*

### **Policy on Missed Work**

Late work will not be accepted this term, as summer terms are EXTREMELY short, and you have access to all material except for the exams from day one of the class. Makeup exam for EXAM 1 ONLY will only be given in cases of legitimate and documented emergencies such as medical emergency requiring hospitalization, college coach-provided travel schedules, or legal court attendance. Do not miss an exam unless there is a real emergency. Makeup for Exam 1 must be requested by email within 2 days of the regular due date. No makeup is offered for the last exam; this must be taken on time to avoid missing final grade requirements set by the registrar's office.

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

Please note, the semester's midpoint is **June 17 at 4:00pm**. **This is the last Day for "W"**. Students can **withdraw from the class up to this point and** receive a W for the class. However, there is a limited number of W's a student can receive over their academic career. **Drops after this date will receive grades of "F."** If you intend to withdraw from a course, you must do so yourself. If you are still on the roll when I have to assign grades and you haven't done any passing work, then you will fail. So, if you intend to drop, please make sure you do so in time. Also note, at different times during the semester, I have to report student attendance to the university. If you have never done any work in D2L OR have stopped working when I have to submit my report to the university, it is possible that you will receive less financial assistance in future terms.

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

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L platform is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this learning platform as it provides a primary source of submitting assignments 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.

### **Class Behavior Policies**

In order to make this a successful class, it is important that we create an environment where everyone has an opportunity to learn. **This includes in-person and online classes**. To this end, you should know that the university policy on disruptive behavior in class applies. Disruptive class behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal or physical threats, repeated obscenities, unreasonable interference with class discussion, making/receiving unwanted emails, ,personal phone calls or texts and/or persisting in disruptive personal conversations with other class members. For purposes of this policy, it may also be considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other

inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of class/online. If your behavior is disruptive to other students or the instructor, this will violate University guidelines, and you will be reported to administrative authorities.

### **Change of Schedule**

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within 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) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **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**

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

#### **Course Schedule:**

You are expected to complete all readings **BEFORE** the class date listed.. *See the next pages for schedule.*

## Course Schedule

Dates	Readings/Video Lectures/Exams	Assignment Due Date
<p><b>Week 1</b>  <b>Introduction- What is political science?</b>            June 1-5</p> <p><b>What is the purpose of government?</b></p> <p><b>Political Theories &amp; Ideologies</b></p> <p><b>Case: UK</b></p>	<p>Read “What is Political Science” by Cameron pgs. 207-top of 213, <i>PDF in D2L</i></p> <p>Read Chapter 7, “The Contractual Origins of Society” by Thomas Hobbes, <i>PDF in D2L</i></p> <p>Read Liberalism Philosophy and Traditional Ideologies chapter by Garner            Read Chapter 2: Marx and Engel’s, “Communist Manifesto” - <i>PDF in D2L</i></p> <p>Case: Read O’Neil Chapter 2 “United Kingdom” pg. 35-93 <i>PDF online</i></p>	<p>Reading Quiz 1 and Discussion post 1 end Friday, June 4, 11:59PM</p>
<p><b>Week 2 – State Formation &amp; Purpose of Governments</b>            June 6-12</p> <p><b>Social Science Research</b></p> <p><b>Political Economy and Social Welfare</b></p>	<p>Read O’Neil, Chapter 2 – “States” (pg. 28-59) and O’Neil, Chapter 3- “Nations &amp; Society” (pg. 60-97)</p> <p>Read O’Neil, Chapter 1, “What is Comparative Politics?” (pg. 6-27)</p> <p>Read O’Neil, Chapter 4, “Political Economy” (pg. 98-137)</p> <p><b>Exam 1 – open Friday, June 11-Monday, June 14</b></p>	<p>Reading Quiz 2 and discussion ends, Friday, June 11, 11:59PM</p>
<p><b>Week 3 – Regime Type</b>            June 13-19</p> <p><b>Institutions: Constitutions</b></p>	<p>Read O’Neil Chapter 5 – “Democratic Regimes” (pg. 138-177)            And Read O’Neil, Chapter 6, “Non-Democratic Regimes” (pg. 178-209)</p> <p>Read Caramani Chapter 9, by Alec Stone Sweet, “Constitutions, rights, and judicial power”</p>	<p><b>EXAM 1 DUE DATE June 14</b></p> <p>Reading Quiz 3 and Discussion 3 end Friday, June 18, 11:59PM</p>

Dates	Readings/Video Lectures/Exams	Assignment Due Date
<b>Case: South Africa</b>	Case: Read O’Neil Chapter 13, “South Africa” – <i>PDF online</i>	
<b>Week 4-</b> June 20-26 <b>Institutions: Courts</b>  <b>Institutions: Executives and Bureaucracies</b>  <b>Institutions: Legislatures</b>	Christopher Larkins 1996 article, “Judicial Independence & Democratization...”  Read O’Neil Chapter 5, pgs. 150,151 (sections on Executives and Heads of Government), then skip and read pgs. 153-158 – “Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-Presidential Systems”)  Read Caramani, Chapter 7: Legislatures, by Amie Kreppel - <i>PDF in D2L</i>	Reading quiz 4 and Discussion 4 end Friday, June 25, 11:59PM
<b>Week 5: Political Groups and Behavior</b> June 27-July 3 <b>Descriptive Representation</b>  <b>Political Parties/Interest Groups</b>  <b>Social Movements</b>  <b>Case: China</b>	Skim Read Schwindt-Bayer & Mishler, 2005 article, “Women’s Representation” - <i>PDF in D2L (skim the methods stuff with the tables, don’t worry about understanding that)</i>  Read Chapter 12 by Richard S. Katz, “Political Parties” pgs. 208-222 - <i>PDF in D2L</i>  1. Read Skim Sidney Tarrow, excerpt from 1998 book, <i>Power in Social Movement</i> , Chapters 1 and 5. 2. Read NY Times article on Black Lives Matter movement  Case: Read O’Neil Chapter 8 “China” (pg. 400-461) <i>PDF online</i> Read “Hong Kong in Protest”, by Melvin Barnes, Jr. – <i>PDFs online</i>  <b>Exam 2 – open June 27-July 1 - noon</b>  PAPER PART II DUE	EXAM 2 open Sunday, June 27-Thursday, July 1 - NOON  PAPER DUE SUN, JUNE 27, 11:59PM

Basic Citation Guide (for more detail and specific style guides, see citation guide on D2L)

1. If an idea is yours, or if you are stating a well-known fact, you do not need to provide a citation.

Examples: I argue that the presence of nuclear weapons would have prevented war.  
The First World War began in 1914.

2. If you borrow an idea from a source but put it in your own words, you must cite the source after you use it. There is no need to use quotation marks. However, changing a couple of words from a source is not enough to “put it in your own words.” Rather, you should incorporate the idea into the context of your argument in a more complete way.

In your citation, put the author’s name in parentheses along with the date of publication. If you are citing a chapter from an edited volume, be sure to use the name of the chapter author rather than the name of the editor. This is in-text citation as used by the APA format you need to follow for your written assignments.

Example: With the withdrawal of American forces from Europe after the Cold War, the chances for another European war increased (Mearsheimer 1990).

3. If you take a quotation word for word from a source, you should put it in quotation marks and cite the author, publication date, and page number. While a well-placed quote can strengthen a paper, however, you should avoid relying too much on the statements of others. In other words, use direct quotes sparingly.

Example: “Moral arguments move and constrain people” (Nye 2005, p. 20).

In addition to citing your sources in the body of your paper, you should include a “Bibliography” page at the end. On this page, you should provide full citations for all of the sources that you used. The following is a guide to proper citation format:

For books: Goldstein, J.S. (2005) *International Relations, Sixth Edition*. New York: Longman.

For articles: Allison, G.T. (1969) Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis. *The American Political Science Review*, 63(3), 689-712.

For chapters in edited volumes:

Wheeler, N.J. and Booth, K. (1992) The Security Dilemma. in J. Baylis and N.J. Regger (Eds.), *Dilemmas of World Politics* (pp. 29-43). New York: Oxford University Press.

For websites: World Bank. Trends in Average Tariff Rates for Developing and Developed Countries, 1980-99 (Unweighted in %). Available from [www.worldbank.org/wbi/trade/data/TR\\_Data.html](http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/trade/data/TR_Data.html). Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2003. (accessed: DATE)

If relying on websites for material, you should also take care that your source is reputable.

