

**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS**  
**Bluefield State College**  
**POSC 210—FALL 2013**  
**CRN: 10838**  
**Section: 001**  
**WEBBD**

**Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.**  
**Class MWF: 1:00-1:50 p.m. (i.e. 13:00-13:50)**  
**Office Hours: By appointment**  
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Introduction to Politics answers perennial questions such as: “What is politics?”, “Why is politics important?”, “What has politics got to do with me?”, “Can I live my life without focusing on politics?”, “Does it matter how we structure our governmental processes?”, and, “Do values matter in structuring a political system?”. Presenting a broad overview of the academic analysis of politics, this course focuses on explaining key political concepts utilized in political science and political theory while applying these concepts to various political processes, institutions, ideologies, political change, etc. in order to both expose students to the world of politics while helping students, utilizing the comparative method, to clarify their own articulation of political beliefs, attitudes, and dispositions.

**Grading Policy:** 20% for Attendance\*; 20% for the Class Presentation; 20% for the Midterm Exam; 20% for the Research Paper; and 20% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet will be distributed outlining the requirements for your Class Presentation and for your Research Paper.

**Grading Scale:** 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F. These numerical scores correspond to the following evaluations: “A” = Excellent; “B” = Good; “C” = Satisfactory (NOTE: A grade of “C” or better is required in major courses); “D” = Poor (passing, except in major courses); “F” = Earned Failure (removed only by repeating the course; upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is “excluded” from grade point average. The second grade is “included” in the recalculation of the grade point average); and “I” = Incomplete.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of POSC 210, students should be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts; to articulate arguments and examine their flaws; be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning; be familiar with arguments, both pro and con, regarding the nature of politics, democracy, and the state, the field of political science and its relationship to other social sciences, questions of freedom and justice, traditional ideologies, constitutions, law, the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of government, bureaucracy and public policy, voting, elections, and political parties, civil society, interest groups, and the media, political culture, global politics, questions of security and insecurity, diplomacy and foreign policy, international organizations, and global political economy.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all work for this class must be undertaken and completed by you alone without collaboration from others. Any dishonesty in the performance of course work, such as plagiarism or cheating in other forms, will be reported. In the event the student is charged with some form of dishonesty, the Student Discipline Policy will be followed. The full text of the BSC Academic Honesty Policy can be found at: <http://www.bluefieldstate.edu/academics/academic-honesty-and-proctoring>. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments must be submitted to [Turnitin](#) for the purpose of grading and checking for plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin.

**Attendance Policy\*:** Attendance in class is mandatory. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each day of class; failure to sign the attendance sheet—even if in attendance—will be counted as an absence. “When the number of clock hours of willful absences exceeds the number of semester hours of credit, the instructor will notify the Registrar that the student has exceeded the permissible number of absences and should be withdrawn from class” (*Bluefield State College Academic Catalog 2010-2012*). As well, you are expected to follow the syllabus and accordingly be prepared for each day’s class. This means that you must read the pre-assigned readings before class so that you will be prepared to discuss and debate in class the subject matter scheduled for that day and answer questions related to the issues being covered.

\* Absence from class may be made up by preparing a **two-page, typed** (i.e. using maximum 12 point font size and maximum double-spaced text with one-inch margin on all sides), **summary** on

the missed material scheduled to be covered the day(s) of your absence. The summary must be in your own words and must **not** be copied material from the text(s), the internet, or any other source(s). **All summaries must be turned in to me by the last day of classes if you want credit for your absences.**

Cell Phone Policy:

Turn off all cell phones during class or put on vibration. If you absolutely must answer your phone, leave the classroom before answering your phone and return only after you have completed your conversation.

Withdrawal Policy: Academic Withdrawal from the course prior to the deadline date for withdrawal as published within the academic calendar is accomplished by securing a Change In Schedule form and having it signed by appropriate persons. Blank copies of the change in schedule form are available in the offices of the Registrar, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean and the advisor. After obtaining the required signatures, the student must submit, prior to the deadline date, the change in schedule form to the Office of the Registrar.

Disability Services Statement: BSC is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require classroom, equipment, testing or assignment accommodations should contact the Student Support Services at 304.327.4227 to request accommodations before the start of the semester. Your immediate attention to these arrangements is necessary to assure a positive learning experience.

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **free online tutoring for all BSC students** in the following subjects: Math; Accounting, Managerial; Accounting, Financial; Writing (all subjects); Grammar; Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Statistics; Spanish. Chemistry, etc. This service is free and available 24 hours a day to all BSC students. Go to <http://www.smarthinking.com/> and follow these instructions.

Required Text:

Garner, Robert, Peter Ferdinand and Stephanie Lawson. June 18, 2012. *Introduction to Politics: Second Edition* [Paperback]. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, [ISBN-10: 0199605726 | ISBN-13: 978-0199605729], 570 pages.

**\*\*\*This class is web-enhanced and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC BlackBoard website, including chapter outlines, chapter PowerPoint summaries, etc.\*\*\***

Mandatory LiveText Assessment Statement:

"An active LiveText account is a required resource for this course because at least one assignment *must* be submitted electronically using this online platform. LiveText is used by Bluefield State to help maintain our national accreditations, to demonstrate the quality of our academic programs, and to improve teaching and learning. As a student, you have the option to use your account for secure online storage of your academic work, and to create digital documents such as electronic portfolios or reflective journals, which can be shared with prospective employers or other audiences.

If you do not already have a LiveText account, you can purchase your five year account for \$98.00 at the college bookstore or online with a credit or debit card at [www.livetext.com](http://www.livetext.com). LiveText will be a required resource in many different courses throughout your program, and you can use the same account for any course that requires it for the full five years, so **you only need to purchase the account one time**. If you already have an active LiveText account, you do not need to purchase another one. After five years you can extend your membership if you continue to need it for additional coursework or would like to maintain it for your personal use."

— Tracey Anderson, Ed.D., BSC Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Aug. 19:** Introduction to Politics

Perennial Questions: What is politics? Why is politics important? What has politics got to do with me? Can I live my life without focusing on politics? Does it matter how we structure our governmental processes? Do values matter in structuring a political system?

### **Aug. 21:** The Polis

**Readings:** Pericles' Funeral Oration from *The History of the Peloponnesian War* (431 BCE) by Thucydides (Supplied by Professor and available on course BlackBoard page)

### **Aug. 23:** The Development of Political Science & Relationship to Other Social Sciences & Various Professions for Majors in Political Science

**Readings:** SparkNotes *Introduction to Political Science* (Supplied by Professor and available on course BlackBoard page)

## **PART 1: CONCEPTS AND IDEOLOGIES**

### **Aug. 26:** The Nature of Politics and Political Analysis

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Introduction, pp. 1-23

### **Aug. 28:** Politics and the State

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 1, pp. 27-35

### **Aug. 30:** The Role of the State: What Ought the State to Do?

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 1, pp. 36-47

### **Sept. 2:** Labor Day Holiday (No Classes)

### **Sept. 4:** Political Power, Authority, and the State

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 2, pp. 48-54

### **Sept. 6:** Pluralism and Luke's Three Dimensions of Power

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 2, pp. 55-66

### **Sept. 9:** Democracy and Political Obligation

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 3, pp. 67-79

### **Sept. 11:** Alternative Sources of Political Obligation

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 3, pp. 80-88

### **Sept. 13:** Freedom and Justice

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 4, pp. 89-99

### **Sept. 16:** The Meaning of Justice

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 4, pp. 100-108

**Sept. 18:** Traditional Ideologies

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 5, pp. 109-121

**Sept. 20:** Nationalism, Fascism, Anarchism

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 5, pp. 122-129

**Sept. 23:** Challenges to the Dominant Ideologies

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 6, pp. 130-140

**Sept. 25:** Environmentalism, Multiculturalism, Religious Fundamentalism

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 6, pp. 141-154

## **PART 2: COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

**Sept. 27:** Institutions and States

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 7, pp. 155-163

**Sept. 30:** The Modern State

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 7, pp. 164-176

**Oct. 2:** Law, Constitutions, and Federalism

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 8, pp. 177-183

**Oct. 4:** Legal Adjudication of Political Problems

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 8, pp. 184-196

**Oct. 7:** Legislatures, Legislators, and the Executive

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 9, pp. 197-219

**Oct. 9:** Bureaucracies, Policy Studies, and Governance

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 10, pp. 220-239

**Oct. 11:** MIDTERM EXAM

**Oct. 14:** Mid-Semester Grades Due to Registrar

**Oct. 14:** Votes, Elections, Parties (Mid-Semester Grades Due to Registrar)

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 11, pp. 240-247

**Oct. 16:** Functions of Parties, Typologies of Political Parties, Party Systems, Problems Facing Parties

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 11, pp. 248-263

**Oct. 18:** Civil Society, Interest Groups, and the Media

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 12, pp. 264-273

**Oct. 21:** Infrapolitics and Subaltern Studies: the State Viewed from Below

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 12, pp. 274-284

**Oct. 21-25:** Pre-Registration for Spring Semester for Currently Enrolled Students

**Oct. 23:** Political Culture

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 13, pp. 285-308

### **PART 3: GLOBAL POLITICS**

**Oct. 25:** Introducing Global Politics

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 14, pp. 309-316

**Oct. 28:** States and Empires in Global History

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 14, pp. 317-330

**Oct. 30:** Traditional Theories in Global Politics

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 15, pp. 331-340

**Nov. 1:** The English School and International Society

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 15, pp. 341-349

**Nov. 4:** Critical Approaches to Global Politics

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 16, pp. 350-356

**Nov. 6:** Feminism and Gender Theory, Postmodernism/Poststructuralism, Postcolonial Theory

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 16, pp. 357-367

**Nov. 8:** Last day to withdraw from class/college with a "W"

**Nov. 8:** Security and Insecurity

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 17, pp. 368-379

**Nov. 9:** Last Day to Withdraw with "W" for Full Semester Classes

**Nov. 11:** Post-Cold War Conflicts (Veterans Day ???)

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 17, pp. 380-388

**Nov. 13:** Diplomacy and Foreign Policy

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 18, pp. 389-395

**Nov. 15:** Public Diplomacy

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 18, pp. 396-407

**Nov. 18:** International Organizations in Global Politics

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 19, pp. 408-420

**Nov. 20:** Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 19, pp. 421-427

**Nov. 22:** Global Political Economy

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 20, pp. 428-433

**Nov. 25-29:** Thanksgiving Day Holidays — College closed (No Classes)

**Dec. 1:** Research Papers Due (Research Papers must be submitted today via email)

**Assignment:** Research Papers Due today. Upload an electronic copy of your Research Paper to Turnitin.

**Dec. 2:** Marxism and Critical IPE

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 20, pp. 434-440

**Dec. 4:** Globalization and Regionalization in the Post-Cold-War World

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 20, pp. 441-449

**Dec. 6:** Conclusion (Last day of classes. Presentations and Research Papers MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.)

**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, pp. 450-462

**Dec. 13:** FINAL EXAM (1:00-1:50 p.m.)

**Dec. 16:** Final grades due to Registrar electronically