

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS
Bluefield State College
POSC 210—SUMMER II 2019
CRN: 40209
Section: 001
MOODLE
June 24—July 26, 2019

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Class MWF: online 24/7
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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: 25% for Attendance determined by completing Online Chapter Quizzes and for answering Weekly Class Discussion Questions (i.e. $12\frac{1}{2}\% + 12\frac{1}{2}\%=25\%$); 25% for the Midterm Exam; 25% for the Research Paper; and 25% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet will be posted outlining the requirements 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.

Institutional Learning Outcomes for General Studies:

ILO1: Communication [AAC&U WRITTEN AND AAC&U ORAL COMMUNICATION]

Students will communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

ILO2: Information Literacy [AAC&U INFORMATION LITERACY]

Students will select appropriate resources, prioritize information in terms of relevance and reliability, question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and use information in an ethical manner.

ILO5: Social, Artistic, and Cultural Literacy [AAC&U GLOBAL LEARNING AND AAC&U CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]

Students will analyze and compare diverse social and cultural patterns, texts, and performances and will evaluate them from a global perspective.

ILO6: Scientific Literacy [AAC&U INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS]

Students will understand and apply scientific concepts and develop science inquiry and research skills.

ILO7: Critical and Ethical Reasoning [AAC&U CRITICAL THINKING AND AAC&U ETHICAL REASONING]

Students will interpret, analyze, and construct ethical arguments.

(effective August 8, 2013)

Program Learning Outcomes:

PO1: Examine the evolution and/or effects of cultures in terms of behaviors, experiences, and differences.

PO2: Understand and/or apply basic knowledge of principles and methods found in the social sciences disciplines.

PO3: Communicate effectively within a social science area of concentration.

PO4: Critique, analyze, and assess topics, ideas, and/or sources within the social sciences disciplines.

PO5: Evaluate, select, and apply an appropriate research methodology in the social sciences.

PO6: Apply ethics across the social science disciplines.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of POSC 210, students should be able:

CLO1: be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;

CLO2: be able to articulate arguments and examine their flaws;

CLO3: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning;

CLO4: be able to understand the differences between a secular and theistic form of living;

CLO5: be familiar with arguments, both pro and con, regarding the nature of politics, democracy, and the state;

CLO6: be able to understand the historical evolution of human culture, including struggles over rights and responsibilities;

CLO7: be familiar with the many horrendous tragedies as well as numerous accomplishments of various peoples who struggled to overcome adversity in their unending quest for freedom, as well as the present division of society between rich and poor, the role of private corporate actors and public bureaucracies, and the quest for a unified community, as people attempt to balance the principles of liberty with the necessity for order;

CLO8: understand the value and role of human labor, money, and commodities;

CLO9: be familiar with, 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

CLO10: be able to understand the various conceptions of the purposes of government, the proper ordering of political relationships, the nature of class struggle, the basics of political economy, the contradictions between liberty and order, and the effects of race, gender, class, and other divisions on society and the effect of constitutional provisions to either enhance or dissipate such divisions;

CLO11: be able to articulate, either orally or in writing, a coherent, logical, and critically persuasive argument, embodying a defensible conception of human freedom, on a designated topic relating to basic issues of politics.

Teaching Procedures: This course will be taught fully online utilizing Moodle software. Individual work is required, such as completing online chapter quizzes and answering weekly discussion questions, submitting a research paper, and completing the online midterm and final exams, on the dates indicated.

Interaction Plan: This course will require continuous communication between you, the student, and myself, the instructor, utilizing the tools provided by the course Moodle page and related software, including as well the BSC email system. We shall follow the posted syllabus as our guide.

Caveat Emptor (i.e. Buyer Beware): This course is intense and requires a commitment by you, the student, to keep up with the readings and the work. By taking this course, you are making a **commitment** to purchase the required text, **keep up with the chapter readings**, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, take the **Chapter Quizzes** and submit answers to the **Class Discussion Questions** as they arise, in addition to completing the **Midterm Exam** and **Final Exam** by the dates indicated.

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:

https://www.bluefieldstate.edu/sites/default/files/page/attachments/2016/10/academic_honesty_statement.pdf.

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. For an online course, this means that you must regularly login to the online course page, submit answers to each weekly discussion question, complete chapter quizzes and exams, and submit your research paper, etc., on the dates indicated.

Online Class Discussion Policy: The Weekly Discussion Questions will be posted on the class Discussions Forum at the beginning of each week. At the bottom of the weekly question, there is a hyperlink “Reply” button. Simply click this “Reply” button and submit your answer to the weekly question. **Each student must make at least one entry per each Weekly Class Discussion question.** Make sure you **simply hit the reply button on the Discussion Question which is posted to submit your answer**, so that the Subject Heading is the same as the Discussion Question, in order to get credit for that Week’s Discussion Question. Note that each student MUST provide their own answer to each question. **DO NOT SUBMIT ATTACHED ANSWERS. YOU MUST TYPE YOUR REPLY IN THE DISCUSSION SECTION SO THAT ALL CAN READ IT WITHOUT OPENING UP AN ATTACHMENT. Copying from any other student’s answer or simply repeating what other students have written constitutes plagiarism and will be dealt with harshly.** Also, you will not be able to view other students’ responses until you have submitted one of your own first. Note that, like the quizzes, you must complete all weekly discussion questions by the **Last Day of Classes by 11:55 p.m.** in order to receive 12.5% credit (i.e. half of 25% for the Quizzes and 12.5% for the Discussion Questions of your total 25% Attendance grade).

Quiz and Test Policy: You will have **three possible attempts** with each chapter quiz to make your highest score. On the Midterm and Final Exams, you will have **only one possible attempt** to make your highest score. Your chapter quizzes will become accessible on the date indicated online and you will have until **the last day of classes [i.e. July 26, 2018] at 11:55 p.m.** to take them. The Midterm and Final Exams will be accessible on the dates indicated online and on the syllabus and **you will have only 120 minutes to complete each exam.** If you attempt to utilize the course textbook to answer the questions on the Midterm and Final Exams, you will likely run out of time. **Make sure to complete both the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam by the stipulated dates.** The Midterm Exam will cover the Introduction and chapters 1-10. The Final Exam will cover Chapters 11-20 and the Conclusion. Questions on the Midterm and Final Exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

Special Note About the Chapter Quizzes: Each Chapter Quiz contains at least fifteen questions. However, do not be discouraged by this, because **you will NOT be graded on how many answers you get wrong or right on the Chapter Quizzes** but, rather, **you will be graded simply on whether or not you took each Chapter Quiz at least once.** Yes, you read that correctly. All you need to do in order to receive your 12.5% credit (of your total 25% Attendance grade) for completing the Chapter Quizzes is to simply attempt to take each Chapter Quiz at least once. Make sure you click the “Submit” button at the end of each Chapter Quiz so that Moodle notifies me that you have taken the quiz. By completing the chapter quizzes, you will also be preparing yourself for the Midterm and Final Exams, as the questions on the exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

Communication Policy: There are no synchronous or on-site requirements for this online distance learning course. I am teaching this course from Bluefield, West Virginia, and we may not be able to meet directly in person as some of you are far from here. Nevertheless, I will login to the course regularly to answer email, respond to bulletin board questions, etc. If you have a question, email me at ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu.

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.

ADA Accommodation: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Student Support Services at 304-327-4097 in Basic Science 113 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Services for Disabled Students: Based on documentation and recommendation of services from physicians and therapists, the following services can be provided to students with disabilities:

- extended test time
- proctored tests
- adaptive software

- note-takers
- sign-language interpreters
- and more (depending on the recommendation of therapist and/or physician).

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **Smarthinking 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. February 2016. *Introduction to Politics: Third Edition* [Paperback]. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, [ISBN-13: 9780198704386], 524 pages, paperback.

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

INTRODUCTION: Politics and Political Analysis

June 24, 2019 [Monday]: The Nature of Politics and Political Analysis

Perennial Questions: What is politics? Is politics inevitable? 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?

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Introduction, pp. 1-26; Pericles' Funeral Oration from *The History of the Peloponnesian War* (431 BCE) by Thucydides (In Selected Readings on course Moodle page)

Assignment: Complete Introductory Quiz.

PART 1: CONCEPTS AND IDEOLOGIES

June 25, 2019 [Tuesday]: Politics and the State

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 1, pp. 27-47

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 1 and answer Week One Class Discussion Question.

June 26, 2019 [Wednesday]: Political Power, Authority, and the State

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 2, pp. 48-67

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 2 and answer Week One Class Discussion Question.

June 27, 2019 [Thursday]: Democracy and Political Obligation

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 3, pp. 68-92

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 3 and answer Week One Class Discussion Question.

June 28, 2019 [Friday]: Freedom and Justice

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 4, pp. 93-112

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 4 and answer Week One Class Discussion Question.

July 1, 2019 [Monday]: Traditional Ideologies

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 5, pp. 113-133

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 5 and answer Week Two Class Discussion Question.

July 2, 2019 [Tuesday]: Challenges to the Dominant Ideologies

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 6, pp. 134-158

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 6 and answer Week Two Class Discussion Question.

PART 2: COMPARATIVE POLITICS

July 3, 2019 [Wednesday]: Institutions and States

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 7, pp. 159-181

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 7 and answer Week Two Class Discussion Question.

July 4, 2019 [Thursday]: Independence Day Holiday (College Closed)

July 5, 2019 [Friday]: Laws, Constitutions, and Federalism

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 8, pp. 182-202

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 8 and answer Week Two Class Discussion Question.

July 8, 2019 [Monday]: Votes, Elections, Legislatures, and Legislators

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 9, pp. 203-227

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 9 and answer Week Three Class Discussion Question.

July 9, 2019 [Tuesday]: Political Parties

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 10, pp. 228-248

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 10 and answer Week Three Class Discussion Question.

July 8-12, 2019 [Monday-Friday]: Midterm Exam [Click on Quizzes and then on “Midterm Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Midterm Exam by 11:55 p.m. on July 12, 2019.]

July 11, 2019 [Thursday]: Executives, Bureaucracies, Policy Studies, and Governance

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 11, pp. 249-272

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 11 and answer Week Three Class Discussion Question.

July 12, 2019 [Friday]: Civil Society, Interest Groups, and the Media

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 12, pp. 273-294

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 12 and answer Week Three Class Discussion Question.

July 15, 2019 [Monday]: Democracies, Democratization, and Authoritarian Regimes

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 13, pp. 295-318

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 13 and answer Week Four Class Discussion Question.

PART 3: GLOBAL POLITICS

July 16, 2019 [Tuesday]: Introducing Global Politics

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 14, pp. 319-341

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 14 and answer Week Four Class Discussion Question.

July 17, 2019 [Wednesday]: Traditional Theories in Global Politics

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 15, pp. 342-360

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 15 and answer Week Four Class Discussion Question.

July 18, 2019 [Thursday]: Critical Approaches to Global Politics [Last Day to Drop with a “W” for 2nd Summer Session classes]

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 16, pp. 361-379

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 16 and answer Week Four Class Discussion Question.

July 19, 2019 [Friday]: Security and Insecurity

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 17, pp. 380-401

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 17 and answer Week Four Class Discussion Question.

July 21, 2019 [Sunday]: [Research Papers Due]

Assignment: Research Papers Due today. Submit a copy of your Research Papers to Turnitin. Click on the Turnitin button on the course Moodle page for submission instructions. As well, you must submit a hard copy of your Research Paper to me in class. Also, send an electronic copy to me by email as a Microsoft Word attachment to ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu or to the course Moodle page.

July 22, 2019 [Monday]: Diplomacy and Foreign Policy

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 18, pp. 402-420

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 18 and answer Week Five Class Discussion Question.

July 23, 2019 [Tuesday]: International Organizations in Global Politics

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 19, pp. 421-440

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 19 and answer Week Five Class Discussion Question.

July 24, 2019 [Wednesday]: Global Political Economy & Conclusion: Towards a Globalizing, Post-Western-Dominated World [**Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.**]

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 20, pp. 441-463 and Conclusion, pp. 464-480

Assignment: Complete Quizzes for Chapter 20 & the Conclusion and answer Week Five Class Discussion Question.

Assignment: Complete all readings, quizzes, and weekly discussion questions.

July 22-25, 2019 [Monday-Thursday]: Final Exam [Click on Quizzes and then on “Final Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Final Exam by 11:55 p.m. on July 25, 2019.]

July 26, 2019 [Friday]: Final grades due to Registrar by 12:00 Noon electronically.