

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS
Bluefield State College
POSC 210—SPRING 2016
CRN: 20097
Section: 001
WEBBD

Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.
Class MWF: 9:00-9:50 a.m.
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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.

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.

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

- CLO1: to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;
- CLO2: to articulate arguments and examine their flaws;
- CLO3: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning;
- CLO4: 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: understand the historical evolution of human culture, including struggles over rights and responsibilities;
- CLO7: be familiar with the horrendous tragedies as well as the notable accomplishments of human societies in their efforts to balance the principles of liberty with 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 Introduction to Politics.

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, paperback.

*****This class is a web-enhanced BlackBoard course and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC BlackBoard website, including 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 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."

— Tracey Anderson, Ed.D., BSC Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, 2013

INTRODUCTION: Politics and Political Analysis

Jan. 22: Introduction to Politics & The Polis

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?

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

Jan. 24: Introduction to Politics & The Polis

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Introduction, pp. 1-25

PART 1: CONCEPTS AND IDEOLOGIES

Jan. 25: Politics and the State

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

Jan. 27: Politics and the State

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

Jan. 29: Political Power and Authority

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

Feb. 1: Political Power and Authority

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

Feb. 3: Democracy

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

Feb. 5: Democracy

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

Feb. 8: Freedom and Justice

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

Feb. 10: Freedom and Justice

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

Feb. 12: Traditional Ideologies

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

Feb. 15: Traditional Ideologies

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

Feb. 17: Challenges to the Dominant Ideologies

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

Feb. 19: Challenges to the Dominant Ideologies

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

PART 2: COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Feb. 22: Institutions and States

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

Feb. 24: Institutions and States

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

Feb. 26: Constitutions, Law, and Judiciaries**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 8, pp. 177-183**Feb. 29:** Constitutions, Law, and Judiciaries**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 8, pp. 184-196**Mar. 2:** Executives and Legislators**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 9, pp. 197-210**Mar. 4:** Executives and Legislators**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 9, pp. 211-219**Mar. 7:** Bureaucracies, Policy Studies, and Governance**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 10, pp. 220-230**Mar. 9:** Bureaucracies, Policy Studies, and Governance**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 10, pp. 231-239**Mar. 11:** No class**Mar. 8-13:** 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 March 13, 2016.]**Mar. 14:** Mid-Semester grades due to Registrar**Mar. 14-18:** Spring Break (no classes; college closed)**Mar. 21:** Votes, Elections, Parties**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 11, pp. 240-247**Mar. 23:** Votes, Elections, Parties**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 11, pp. 248-263**Mar. 25:** Civil Society, Interest Groups, and the Media**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 12, pp. 264-273**Mar. 28:** Civil Society, Interest Groups, and the Media**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 12, pp. 274-284**Mar. 30:** Political Culture**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 13, pp. 285-295

Apr. 1: Political Culture**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 13, pp. 296-308**PART 3: GLOBAL POLITICS****Apr. 4:** International Global Politics**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 14, pp. 309-316**Apr. 6:** International Global Politics**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 14, pp. 317-330**Apr. 8:** Last Day to Withdraw from course/college with a grade of "W"**Apr. 8:** Traditional Theories in Global Politics**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 15, pp. 331-340**Apr. 11:** Traditional Theories in Global Politics**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 15, pp. 341-349**Apr. 13:** Critical Approaches to Global Politics**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 16, pp. 350-356**Apr. 15:** Critical Approaches to Global Politics**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 16, pp. 357-367**Apr. 18:** Security and Insecurity**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 17, pp. 368-379**Apr. 20:** Security and Insecurity electronically**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 17, pp. 380-388**Apr. 22:** Diplomacy and Foreign Policy**Readings:** Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 18, pp. 389-395**April 24 [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 BlackBoard 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 BlackBoard page.**Apr. 25:** Diplomacy and Foreign Policy

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

Apr. 27: International Organizations in Global Politics

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

Apr. 29: [In-Class Presentations Due] International Organizations in Global Politics

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 19, pp. 421-427. All class presentations must be completed by April 29, 2016.

May 2: Global Political Economy

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

May 4: Global Political Economy

Readings: Garner, Ferdinand, and Lawson, Ch. 20, pp. 434-449

May 6 [Friday]: Conclusion [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, Conclusion, pp. 450-462

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

May 6-15: 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 May 15, 2016.]

May 16 [Monday]: Final grades due to Registrar by 12:00 Noon electronically.