

71-100-18

Introduction to Politics and Government

Dr. David Leitner

Introduction

3 hours

1st Semester

2023-2024

A. Course Structure and Evaluation

This course provides a basic working knowledge of political theory and its application. The course is for undergraduate students. Our primary objective is to examine the spectrum of ideological and institutional foundations and understand how they act as the basis for contemporary governments and political systems. This course integrates three major political fields to provide an introduction to the subject and the state of research in this field.

The course is made up of a 1.5 hour lecture followed by a 45 minute practicum. This includes open discussion by the students of the reading and current events. To that end students are expected to be up to date on national and international events (Suggested reading: one national and one international newspaper online) and each week's required reading.

Prerequisites: None

Textbooks:

Axford, Barrie, et al. Politics and Introduction. 2nd edition. (London: Routledge, 2002)

<http://books.google.co.il/books?id=0tOW9zaHgwGC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Grigsby, Ellen. Analyzing Politics. 5th Edition. (Belmont: Cengage Learning, 2012)

http://www.cengage.com/search/productOverview.do?Ntt=63547812080314873719546081331031350875&N=4294922390+4294967248+4294964781&Ntk=P_EPI

<http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/Cengage-Advantage-Books-Analyzing-Politics- Ellen-Grigsby/9781111342777>

<http://books.google.co.il/books?id=IN7q->

<1FKSqYC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Students may choose one of these as their primary reading material but are expected to use both throughout the semester.

Additional required reading are listed and will be assigned in class or made available online via moodle. Students are expected to keep up to date and check in at least once a week on moodle. Videos on Moodle are required.

Additional reading material may be suggested during the class. While not required, it is highly recommended that students read these articles.

Grading

Participation: 30%

Participation is divided as follows:

5% will be based on student vocal participation in class.

25% will be based on the Practicum Research Projects. For the practicum work students will undertake 5-7 guided research projects on topics that include religion and state, state structures and agency, the nation state, democratic systems and majority rule, non-state and multi-state actors, interest groups, the spectrum of ideologies, and ethnicity and the state. Each project will include student guided learning. Students will be graded on their active participation in the learning process, teamwork, and reports.

Essay: 35%

The essay should analyze a topic of interest to the student (in the field of politics) using the methods and theories from the course. The student must receive approval for their topic via email **no later than** the end of Channukah. The paper topic can cover material that will be taught during second part of the semester.

The topic proposal should include: working title, research question(s), hypotheses, and a proposed chapter list (minimum: Introduction, Theory, History, Analysis, and Conclusion) including subchapters. A source list, with three academic sources that will be used in the paper, should be included with the proposal.

Topics can either be an in-depth analysis or a comparative analysis.

Previous topics have included a comparative analysis of the level of Swiss and Australian democracy or an analysis of interest group impact in the legalization of marijuana in Colorado.

Students are expected to use *at least* 4 academic sources in the paper. Wikipedia and other online or hard copy encyclopedia are NOT academic sources and are unacceptable.

The essay should be formatted as follows:

- Title page – should include title of paper, name of student, ID number, submission date, class number and class title.
- Table of contents (page 1 must be the introduction and not the table of contents or title page).
- Each chapter should begin on a new page. Subchapters can begin in the middle of a page.
- The source list should include all sources used for the work.
- Page formatting should be as follows:
 - Line Spacing: 1.5
 - Font: Calibri, Ariel or New Times Roman 12 pt

- Margins: 1 in (2.5 cm)

The essay should be no more than 10 pages not including title page, table of context, appendices, and sources. Students are expected to use proper sourcing throughout the essay. Failure to do so will result in the paper not getting graded.

Students should use the APA 6th Edition format for their sourcing.

The due date for the paper will be announced in class. The paper must be handed in both in **hardcopy and via email in DOC or DOCX format** by the due date. Plagiarism (the use of material or ideas without citation) will result in a failing grade for the class regardless of other achievements. If the level of plagiarism is deemed severe the student may be sent before the Ethics committee for further action.

Exam: 35%

The exam will be in two parts:

- 1 Long essay.
- 2 out of 3 short answer questions

Students will not be allowed the use of outside materials during the tests.

Weekly Reading from the Textbook

1st Semester

- **Week 1: Introduction**
- **Week 2: Key Concepts and Methods of Research**
 - Grigsby Chapter 1- 3
 - Margaret Levi, "The State of the Study of the State" in Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner (eds.), *Political Science: The State Of The Discipline* (New-York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2002), pp. 33-55.
- **Week 3: Ideas in Politics and Political Participation**
 - Axford Chapters 1, 2 & 4
 - Jacobs, Lawrence R. "Democracy and Capitalism: Structure, Agency, and Organized Combat." *Politics & Society* 38, June 2010: 243-254
- **Week 4: Understanding Ideologies and Power**
 - Grigsby Chapter 4, Axford Chapters 6 & 7 and pp. 252 – 256
 - Balkin, J.M.. *Cultural Software: A Theory of Ideology*. 5th Edition. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998), Introduction & Chapter 1. Available online: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/jbalkin/cs/index.htm>.
 - Hague, Rod, Martin Harrop and Shaun Breslin, *Comparative Government and Politics*, 3rd ed. (London: Macmillan, 1993), pp. 90-97.
- **Week 5: Interest Groups**
 - Grigsby Chapter 9, Axford Chapter 11

- Bonotti, Matteo. "Conceptualising Political Parties: A Normative Framework." *Politics* 31, no. 1 (February 2011): 19-26.
- Hacker, Jacob S. and Paul Pierson. "Winner-Take-All Politics: Public Policy, Political Organization, and the Precipitous Rise of Top Incomes in the United States." *Politics & Society*. 38, (June 2010): 152-204,
- **Week 6: Liberalism and Conservatism**
 - Grigsby 98 – 115; Axford 256 – 266
- **Week 7: Communism and Socialism**
 - Grigsby 116 – 126; Axford 266 – 271
- **Week 8: Fascism/Nationalism and Feminism/Environmentalism**
 - Grigsby Chapter 6 & 7; Axford 271 – 294
- **Week 9 - 10: Beyond Ideology – Ethnicity, Culture and Globalization**
 - Axford Chapters 3 & 15
 - Ted Robert Gurr, *Minorities at Risk – A Global View of Ethnopolitical Conflicts* (Washington D.C: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1993), pp. 314-324.
 - Alcadipani, R., Westwood, R., & Rosa, A. (2015). The politics of identity in organizational ethnographic research: Ethnicity and tropicalist intrusions. *Human Relations*, 68 (1), 79-106. doi: 10.1177/0018726714541161
 - Al-Haj, M. (2015). Ethnicity and Political Mobilization in a Deeply Divided Society: The Case of Russian Immigrants in Israel. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 28(2), 83-100. doi: 10.1007/s10767-013-9171-6
- **Weeks 11 - 12: International Politics – from the individual to the global beyond Globalization.**
 - Axford Chapter 1, 2.
 - Park, Susan. "Socialisation and the liberal order." *International Politics*, 51 no. 3, (2014): 334-349.
 - O'faircheallaigh, Ciaran. IR theory and domestic adoption of international norms. *International Politics*, 51 no. 2, (2014): 155-176.
 - Held, David, and Young, Kevin. Global governance in crisis? fragmentation, risk and world order. *International Politics*, 50 (3), (2013): 309-332
- **Week 13: Review**