

Kevin HOCKMUTH

Academic year: 2021  
 Semester: Spring  
 Faculty: International Liberal Arts  
 Department: Department of International Liberal Arts  
 Field: Advanced Liberal Arts Courses  
 Credit: 3.00  
 Class time/day: Mon : 09:00 - 10:15 D101  
 Wed : 09:00 - 10:15 D101  
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 Office: B3-1  
 Office hours:  
 Notes:

## Course description:

Who 's in-charge? Why are ' they ' in-charge? What are the rules that I must follow? These basic questions lay at the center of a vast territory that is the field of politics. Humans have generally found it advantageous to organize themselves into groups governed by leaders and rules. But identifying this tendency alone only serves to open up a vast array of additional questions...Why is one person, rather than another, in-charge? Why does ' anyone ' need to be in-charge? What powers do they have? Why are some rules chosen and not others? Who do those rules benefit? Are the rules ' fair ' ? What does it mean for something to be ' fair ' ? What is the procedure for changing the rules or the leader?

Seeking answers to these and many other related questions is central to the systematic study of politics, commonly referred to as political science. This pursuit of a deeper understanding of human political behavior and institutions leads to another set of questions. What analytical tools are the most useful, or illuminating, for improving our understanding of politics? What exactly is political? Where are politics located? Who is a political actor?

In this course, we will be taking a journey through the major political institutions and concepts that shape and define us as political entities. Further, students will be asked to consider the many ways in which they experience and actively participate in politics over the course of their everyday lives. We will also be investigating the ways in which practitioners of political science attempt to create a clearer picture of politics in terms of its organization and practice.

## Objectives:

This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of the core concepts that shape our political world as well as the various methods and techniques political scientists employ in carrying out their work. As such, the objectives of this course are as follows:

1. Develop a solid foundation of knowledge of the institutions and ideas that shape the major political debates of our times, as well as those of the past..
2. Gain an understanding of what exactly the study of political science is and how it attempts to improve our understanding of politics and political systems.
3. Obtain the capacity to utilize the concepts discussed in this course to apply to one ' s own understanding of both current and historical political events and debates.
4. Develop an appreciation of the ways in which we all are, to some extent, political actors.
4. Improve written and oral communication skills through completing written assignments and participating in class discussions.

## AILA Element:

Aristotle saw politics as the foundational domain of human affairs from which all other studies and pursuits emerged. Politics is a means for ordering our lives in a way that yields a good and just society. From this view, all other human pursuits stem from a political foundation as they are the fruits of the orderly and just society produced by an enlightened understanding of the political. Of course, debating what is 'just' or 'good' is itself a political act.

This course challenges you to push beyond conventional views of politics as something tied only to elections, leaders, and political parties. While these are certainly important parts of understanding politics, in this course you will be encouraged to consider the ways that politics interacts with our lives on an almost daily basis. Further, we will investigate the ways in which politics intersects with a host of academic fields of study and numerous social settings we encounter from day to day.

Textbook(s):

Author: /

Title: -

Publisher: -

ISBN: -

Reference/Other study materials:

All course material will be distributed digitally.

Assessment:

1. Two Reflection Essays 50%

2. Culminating Essay 15%

3. Group Work 35%

a. Group-led Lecture/discussion 15%

b. Group Project 20%

Expected academic background:

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URL of other information:

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Policies & remarks:

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Notes:

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Class schedule:

Week 1

What are politics? Where are politics? Who is political?

Week 2

Political Philosophy and 'the why': foundations and functions

Week 3

Power and Legitimacy

Week 4

'Science' and the study of politics

Week 5

The International System

Week 6

The State

Week 7

The Nation and Nationalism

Week 8

Political Economy

Week 9

Democracy in Theory

Week 10

Democracy in Theory and Practice: Ideologies

Week 11

Democracy in Practice I: Elections and Representation

Week 12

Democracy in Practice II: Political Parties and Interest Groups

Week 13

Identity Politics

Week 14

Environmental Politics

Week 15

Presentations

**AIU Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

Acts of Academic Dishonesty: In accordance with AIU policies and good practices in higher education, acts of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, forgery (on a paper, examination, test, or other assignment) will result in the failure of the course at a minimum. An act of academic dishonesty during the final examination or assignment in lieu of the final examination will result in failure of all courses registered in the relevant academic term.

Cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs for relevant action.