Syllabus – POSC 100

Political Science 100 - Introduction to Political Science/ Politics and Theory
T, TH, 2-3:20 PM/ P-18
Peter Bowman, Instructor
Office Hours: M,W - 11-12:20, 2-3:30; T,TH - 9:30-12:20, 3-3:30 PM or by appointment
Office: P-17 H
Telephone: (760) 744-1150. X. 2416
E-Mail: pbowman@palomar.edu
No prerequisites for this course

Other readings and hand-outs may be announced and assigned during the course.
Course lecture notes for each topic can be accessed through my faculty website (NOT the course blackboard site) at http://daphne.palomar.edu/pbowman.

Course Description: This is a survey course recommended and largely intended for, but certainly not limited to, those students who plan to transfer to a four year college or university. It is designed to acquaint the student with the concepts and elements of political science, politics and political ideas. This course will study the ideologies, concepts and practices of politics through two angles: (A) theory and (B) history. We shall focus on various ideas such as political ideologies and attitudes, the origins of and popular legitimacy towards the state, views of human nature and power, Marxism, Leninism, Fascism, political institutions, such as autocracy and democracy and many others. We shall also refer to various historical cases which serve as an application to such theories covered. This course, when completed, helps to satisfy discipline requirements for the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as well as the general education and major requirements for transfer to both the UC and CSU systems.

Course Requirements: Students will be required to take three exams and complete three analytical papers. Students shall also complete interactive online assignments using blackboard.

Exams: There will be three exams given. Each will consist of largely essay questions with some multiple choice questions. The material will be drawn from both the readings and lectures. It is vital that you allot your studying time equally, since the lectures will deviate from the readings at numerous times. A complete essay on the exams will involve not only giving a description of an item, but also giving a substantive answer that demonstrates your understanding of the concept at hand. While the final exam is not cumulative, you will find that the material in this course often builds. It, therefore, behooves you to retain what will have been covered on each test. A study guide consisting of that material which is to be covered on each test will be distributed one week before each exam.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will be given for those students who are unable to attend the class on the day of the exam due to reasons beyond their control. It is your responsibility to come to me and request and arrange a make-up date for the exam in question. Students who take make-up exams will be required to write and turn in a 3-4 page summary on a topic assigned by me, due at the time of the make-up exam. Students who take an exam on the original date will not be eligible for a make-up for purposes of a "redo." Also, students who postpone the date of their make-up exam and, thus, request a new make-up date shall have five (5) raw points reduced from their exam.
Writing Assignments: In lieu of a research paper, you will be asked to write three (3) short essays that integrate both internet and print media sources. For each assignment, please select an internet-specific news source on a specific current event issue which is relevant and applicable to international. Then select a print news source (newspaper, periodical, journal, etc.) on the same current event. For each source, please choose a hard news or feature article. Please do not use op-ed pieces (editorials, opinion columns, etc.). Also, do not use short news clips from wire reports. Please make sure your source/article is that of a substantive and detailed provider of information.

Next, write a 4 page summary and analysis on this topic, addressing the following criteria: (1) Give a background and synopsis of the topic. (2) Give your own perspective and opinion on the issue. Why is this happening? What should be happening?, etc. Support your views with documentation from the evidence provided in your sources. (3) Give an analysis comparing the information offered on the internet source with that from the print news source. Which source gives more detail? Is there a particular bias with one source? Which medium, overall, would be a more dependable source for one to do research, with regard to selection, bias, detail etc.? These are just a few of the questions you can tackle with this project. Please attach a copy of both the internet and print news source, along with your summary. Each assignment is worth five points. Late assignments will be docked one (1) point for every class session that a paper is not turned in after the original due date. The due dates of each assignment are as follows: First assignment: September 18, Second Assignment: October 16, Third Assignment: November 20.

Online assignments: Every student enrolled in the class shall each have their own Blackboard (Bb) account. Every week (Starting Every Wednesday until the following Wednesday at 3 PM, beginning the week of September 5), students will be required to log on to the Bb site and respond to a different question(s) on the discussion board. Each weekly question(s) will be given by the professor and will be related to course material and other related topics. Student responses shall address each question in a way that uses relevant course materials, and that gives an analysis of the discussion board topic. There is no required length for each student post. However, students who post responses that consist of such short, simple statements, such as “Good point”, “I agree”, or other obviously non-substantive remarks that lack serious thought shall not be accepted for credit. While the professor shall have the discretion to determine whether or not posts meet these requirements, your common-sense should be more than sufficient to distinguish between posts that are of substance and those that are not.

For every acceptable weekly post that a student completes on the discussion board, that student shall receive a check mark for credit. Missing check marks shall result in the student’s Bb discussion board portion of their grade being affected. While students are required to post a minimum of one response per week, there certainly is no maximum limit on posts. If you want to respond to other students’ posts on the weekly topic/question, discuss the topic with your colleagues, please feel free to do so! Part of the purpose of this assignment is to interact with your fellow students and to further your familiarity with the course material.

Attendance: Students are strongly encouraged to attend every class session and be on time for every class session. Excessive absences are subject to a mark of "F", "W" or "FW" for the course. You are responsible for any material you miss in class. Attendance shall be a part of your grade.

Adds, Drops, and Withdrawals: For any reason, should you choose to withdraw from the class, it is your own responsibility to do so officially before the drop/withdrawal deadline of October 18. After that date, I must assign you a letter grade if you have not officially dropped from the course. If you attempt to drop after the drop deadline, you shall automatically receive a notation of "FW". The deadline to drop the course without having a 'W' go on your transcript is September 23. The final day to add the class without a permission code is August 30. The final day to add the class with a permission number is September 7. No adds will be accepted after this day. My ability to add you will be determined by the current class enrollment and class capacity I as well as priority given to those on the wait list. (Dept. of Economics, History and Political Science Capacity Limit: 42 students). Please note that the professor reserves at all times the right to drop students for reasons such as excessive
absences, absence from class on the first day, absence from class after the first day and failure to notify
the professor about those absences and other reasons.

Grading: Your course grade will be broken down into the following assignments and percentages:
First Exam: 20%
Second Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 30%
Writing Assignments: 15%
Online Discussion Assignments: 10%
Attendance: 5%

The following grade scale will be used when determining final letter grades:
90-100: A
89- 80: B
79-70: C
69-60: D
59 and below: F
A mark of "F" or "Incomplete" may be given in the event of any missing work by a student.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Essentially, I define plagiarism as any of the following:

a. Verbatim copying without proper acknowledgement.
b. Paraphrasing without proper acknowledgement.
c. Putting together a "patchwork" paper from diverse sources, without proper acknowledgement of those sources.
d. Unacknowledged appropriation of information or someone else's ideas.

Cheating on exams is defined as any of the following:

a. Drawing answers from anyone other than yourself.
b. Having access to both a copy of the exam and/or its answers prior to the exam being administered.
c. Having access to exam answers during the exam via a "cheat sheet" or any other document that was created before the exam was given.

Any student caught engaging in any of these acts will be subject to either a verbal warning, a lowering of the grade for that assignment and/or the course, or dismissal/failure from the course. A fulfilling academic and learning experience helps to be insured when students do their own work.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with Disability Resource Center (DRC) and/or myself during the first week of class.

Student Behavior: In order to ensure a pleasant and enriching learning environment, certain etiquette and decorum must be observed in the classroom. Students will show respect and courtesy at all times toward all opinions and comments expressed in class. Also, students will not engage in behavior that is distracting to the professor or the other students. This includes, but is not limited to, talking, continuous whispering, texting, use of any electronic device, chronic and excessive tardiness, chronic entering and exiting of the classroom, sleeping. When you exhibit such behavior, you show a lack of respect for me, this institution, the institution of academe, your fellow students and yourself as well. Please note that the professor reserves the right to penalize the attendance portion of the grade of any student who engages in any of the said disruptive behavior, using the instructors’ own subjective judgment.

Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Introduction and Overview</td>
<td>B -1, M -1</td>
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<td>September 2</td>
<td>The Political Spectrum of Ideologies</td>
<td>B -2, M -2</td>
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<td>September 9</td>
<td>(Continued)</td>
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<td>September 16</td>
<td>The State &amp; its Origins</td>
<td>B – 43-52, M - 3</td>
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<td>September 23</td>
<td>Nationalism and its Alternatives</td>
<td>B – 52-60, M -18</td>
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<td>September 30</td>
<td>Socialism and its “Schools” of Thought</td>
<td>B – 8, 9,</td>
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<td>October 7</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
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<td>October 14</td>
<td>(First Exam, October 14) October 16 -Fascism and National Socialism</td>
<td>B – 10</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td>Fascism, Cont.</td>
<td>(Political Economy Days, October 22, 23)</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>October 28</td>
<td>Autocratic Governments &amp; Political Systems</td>
<td>B – 11, M – 5, 6</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>Paths to Political &amp; Economic Change</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>(cont.) (Second Exam, November 13),</td>
<td>M – 8, 9, 14</td>
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<td>November 18</td>
<td>Liberal Democratic Theory &amp; Criteria</td>
<td>B – 5, M – 4</td>
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<td>November 25</td>
<td>Parliamentary Democracy in General</td>
<td>B – 6, M – 197-204</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Majoritarian vs. Consensus Democracy</td>
<td>M – 11</td>
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<td>December 18</td>
<td>Final Exam - Thursday, December 18, 2 PM</td>
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NOTE: Dates, topics, writing assignment dates and exam dates are subject to change.