

POLS 390
Political Inquiry and Analysis
Fall 2016

Meeting times & place: **Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-2:45, Gartley Hall #102**

Instructor: Irmak Yazici

Office: Saunders 633L

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 3:00-3:30 & by appointment

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1. Course Description

This course is designed to provide the students with an overall understanding of methods of political inquiry and (qualitative) analysis in consideration of some of the basic theories, concepts, approaches, and criticisms of the discipline. We will try to understand how social and political research can be conducted through a variety of methods and how such research developed political science as a discipline.

By the end of the course, you will

- have an understanding of the basics of political methodology and analysis as well as how these are practically employed in grasping political cases and situations,
- be able to think of political methods of inquiry and analysis critically in consideration of various social and political consequences,
- be able to establish sound (political) arguments,
- have learned how to be engaged in political processes,
- have developed the required skills to express your opinion more effectively, coherently, and persuasively.

2. Course Material and Requirements

All course readings and material will be sent through Laulima electronically at no cost.

Attendance and Participation

You must be present at every session unless you have documented illness or any other excuse for absence. Each student is expected to participate in class discussions so that we can make this course into a fun, fruitful, and interactive discussion platform. If you miss 6 classes with no documented excuse, you will not get any points for attendance (-25 pts).

Presentation

Each student will give a 10-minute presentation on their final research papers towards the end of the semester.

Midterm Writing Assignments

You will write two 5-page essays (*double spaced, Times New Roman 12*) with full citations (see below), in which you will answer a question related to the discussed course content.

Final Research Paper

You will write a 5-page (*double spaced, Times New Roman 12*) research paper in which you will reflect what you have learned in this class in terms of how ways of political inquiry can be incorporated into real-life cases and situations and how social settings can be analyzed politically. Papers will be graded according to how well they are structured, how clearly and precisely they are written, and how rigorously they are argued.

Please have a look at this citation guide and contact me if you have any questions about providing references: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>.

3. Grading

Overall 100 points to be broken down as follows:

Attendance and Participation: 25 points

Presentation: 15 points

Midterm Writing Assignments: 15 points each x 2 = 30 points

Final Research Paper: 30 Points

At the end of the course, I will add your points and assign a letter grade as shown below. Your letter grade will be converted to a four-point scale as listed on the UH Manoa *Credit and Grades* section of the course catalog found here: <http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/undergrad-ed/creditsGrades.htm>:

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|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |
| 100 | 95 | 90 | 87 | 83 | 80 | 77 | 73 | 70 | 67 | 63 | 60 | 0 |

4. Course Schedule

Introduction: What Is Political Inquiry (for)?

Aug 23 Course introduction

Aug 25 Pzeworski and Solomon, "On the Art of Writing Proposals" [<http://www.ssrc.org/publications/view/the-art-of-writing-proposals/>].

Aug 30 O'Brien, R. and Theodoulou, S. Z. (1999) "Where We Stand Today: The State of Modern Political Science" in *Methods for Political Inquiry: The Discipline, Philosophy and Analysis of Politics*, Pearson (pp. 1-12).

Sep 1 Dahl, R. (1999) "What Is Politics?" in *Methods for Political Inquiry: The Discipline, Philosophy and Analysis of Politics*, Pearson (pp. 13-24).

Political Analysis: State and Society

Sep 6 O'Brien, Rory (1999). "Normative versus Empirical Theory and Method" in *Methods for Political Inquiry: The Discipline, Philosophy and Analysis of Politics*, Pearson (pp. 77-90).

- Sep 8 Aristotle (350 BCE; 1976), "Actual Constitutions and Their Varieties" in *Methods for Political Inquiry: The Discipline, Philosophy and Analysis of Politics*, Pearson (pp. 91-100).
- Sep 13 Niccolò Machiavelli (1532), *The Prince* (documentary)
- Sep 15 Machiavelli (1532), *The Prince* (excerpts)
- Sep 20 Thomas Hobbes (1642), *De Cive*, Chapter VII (Of the Three Kinds of Government: Democracy, Aristocracy, Monarchy) in *Methods for Political Inquiry: The Discipline, Philosophy and Analysis of Politics*, Pearson (pp. 101-109).
- Sep 22 John Locke (1689), *The Second Treatise of Government*
- Sep 27 Thomas Jefferson (1776), The Declaration of Independence [available online] http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html
- Sep 29 *The Declaration of the rights of Man and of the Citizen* (1789) [available online] http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp

Political Analysis: Secularization Thesis

Oct 3 Essay #1 due

- Oct 4 Lechner, F. J., "Secularization" [<http://sociology.emory.edu/home/documents/profiles-documents/Lechner-Secularization.pdf>].
- Oct 6 Casanova, J. (2006) "Rethinking Secularization: A Global Comparative Perspective", *The Hedgehog Review* [<http://www.iasc-culture.org/THR/archives/AfterSecularization/8.12CCasanova.pdf>].
- Oct 11 Talal Asad, "Secularism, Nation-State, Religion," in *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003), 181-201.
- Oct 13 Rodney Stark (1999). "Secularization, R.I.P.", *Sociology of Religion*, 60: 3, pp. 249-273.
- Oct 18 & 20 Documentary on Salman Rushdie & *Satanic Verses*
- Oct 25 Wilson, Erin K., and Manfred B. Steger. "Religious Globalisms in the Post-Secular Age." *Globalizations* 10, no. 3 (June 1, 2013): 481-95.

Political Analysis: Feminist Theory

- Oct 27 Carroll, S. J. and Zerilli, L. M. G. (1999) "Feminist Challenges to Political Science" in *Methods for Political Inquiry: The Discipline, Philosophy and Analysis of Politics*, Pearson.
- Nov 1 Friedan, B. (1963). *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: W.W. Norton; excerpts.
Hooks, B. (1984). *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*, South End Press Classic Series; excerpts.
- Nov 3 Documentary on Bell Hooks.

Political Analysis: Postcolonial Theory

Nov 8 Holiday: Election Day

- Nov 10 Krishna, S. *Globalization and Postcolonialism: Hegemony and Resistance in the Twenty-first Century* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008); Introduction &

Chapter 2: Independence or Neocolonialism? Third-World Development in The Twentieth Century

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| Nov 10 | Essay #2 due |
| Nov 15 | Krishna (2008); Chapter 3: Genealogies of the Postcolonial Chapter 4: Critiques of Postcolonial Theory |
| Nov 17 | Interview with Edward Said on <i>Orientalism</i> |
| Nov 22 | Krishna (2008); Chapter 5: Postcolonial Encounters: Islamic “Terrorism” and Western Civilization |
| Nov 24 | Holiday: Thanksgiving |
| Nov 29 | Presentations |
| Dec 1 | Presentations |
| Dec 6 | Presentations |
| Dec 8 | Last session – Review & Pau Hana |
| Dec 12 | Final Research Paper due by 4pm |

5. Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Students are required to follow the UH Manoa campus policies as listed in the course catalog or found here: <http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm>. Students are required to be respectful of their classmates and refrain from disruptive behavior in the classroom and on campus. If you engage in cheating or plagiarism, you will receive an F (0.0) grade for the course and will be reported for academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student’s language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved. If you have questions regarding what does and does not constitute plagiarism, please ask me.

6. Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities, including reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please let me know and contact the KOKUA Program in *Queen Lili’uokalani Center for Student Services* or call them at (808)956-7511.

Please Note: As the instructor, I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus. I will inform you beforehand about such changes via email & announcements on Laulima.