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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4. Course Schedule

Introduction: What Is Political Inquiry (for)?

Aug 23  Course introduction

Political Analysis: State and Society

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 22  John Locke (1689), The Second Treatise of Government


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 18 & 20  Documentary on Salman Rushdie & Satanic Verses


Political Analysis: Feminist Theory


Nov 3  Documentary on Bell Hooks.

Political Analysis: Postcolonial Theory

Nov 8  Holiday: Election Day

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

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 Orientalism

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.