

SPRING 2016 Extension
POLS 110 Introduction to Political Science

INSTRUCTOR: Megumi Chibana
EMAIL: mchibana@hawaii.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with a general understanding of politics. Students will be introduced to a set of concepts, techniques, and approaches important to the discipline of political science and clearer understandings about the political world. Students are encouraged to think critically to be able to explain how, why, and when politics occurs. Political facts, issues, and phenomena we will examine in this class are not restricted to the domestic level. Students are expected to engage in critical interpretation and analysis of issues we encounter in the global setting by applying some of the theories and concepts we will learn in class.

The latter section of this course explores the politics in relation to land. This section concerns concepts such as territory, property, and sovereignty. As this section introduces contemporary political dynamics around land, it aims to expand conceptual categories by thinking through complex and contested human relationships with the land and learning multiple perspectives of our reality in relating to each other, institutions, and the land.

ONLINE COURSE

This course is delivered online via UH Lulima: <https://lulima.hawaii.edu/portal>

Announcements, supplemental readings, discussion forums, quizzes, and exams will be posted on the site. Students are required to familiarize yourself with Lulima and have access to Lulima throughout the semester. Supplemental readings and course materials will be posted on “Resources.” Students will use “Discussion” to communicate with classmates and participate in online discussion activities. There will be NO mandatory meeting in this course. If you need consultation, please contact the instructor via email. If you need additional support, I am also more than willing to schedule a virtual meeting via Skype. If you have a technical issue with using Lulima, “Request Assistance” to UH IT as well as notify the instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Master core concepts: You will learn to explain and use the crucial terms and concepts in the field of political science.
2. Understand social and political issues: The learning in this course requires you to apply concepts to what is happening around you to gain clearer understanding of the political world.
3. Develop critical and political thinking: This course encourages you to ask and answer what, why, when and how politics occur. Critical thinking may often be uncomfortable; however, it will be helpful to reflect on your own conception, analyze issues and build well-supported arguments.
4. Hone academic skills: Throughout course, you will be asked to develop and demonstrate college-level writing and analytical skills.

REQUIRED TEXTS & ADDITIONAL READINGS

For this course, you are required to obtain two books:

- Van Belle, Douglas A. 2015. *A Novel Approach to Politics; Introducing Political Science through Books, Movies, and Popular Culture*. 4th edition. Thousand Oaks, California: CQ Press.
- Hall, Derek. 2013. *Land*. Cambridge, UK ; Malden, MA: Polity.

Other readings and course materials will be available online for download in “Resources” of [Laulima](#).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

TOTAL - 100 points

Weekly Online Discussions – **26 points**: 2 points x 13 weeks (+2pt. extra)

Since the class is delivered online, participation in online discussion is crucial for this class. You are required to read assigned readings, think about the readings, and post your critical response to the readings as well as others’ posts (300 – 500 words). Weekly discussion topics will be given. You may also raise questions relevant to the topic and readings of the week. The course material refers to a lot of films, fictions, novels and others; however, I am NOT interested in reading your comment on films and novels. I am interested in how you apply political

concepts and theories to either pop culture and/or real setting. Your discussion post is due the end of every SATURDAY, Hawaii Time.

Quizzes – **14 points**: 2 points x 7 quizzes

Throughout the semester, there will be 7 quizzes. The quizzes are based on the assigned readings and test your understanding of concepts and theories. Format will be multiple-choice and/or short answer.

Midterm & Final Exams – **30 points**: 15 points x 2 exams

Both the midterm and final exam will center on the key concepts covered in the course. They test your ability to provide definitions and illustration of concepts with examples. If you read all assigned reading materials and complete quizzes, exams should NOT be difficult. As the course is online, exams are open book. You need to be careful not to plagiarize.

Final Paper – **30 points**: 5 proposal + 25 final

The final paper will examine a political topic of your interest. You must pick one topic you would like to delve into (ex. protest on Mauna Kea; same-sex marriage; Syrian refugees), pose a research question, and critically analyze the topic. You must use some of key concepts from the readings and the class. The paper length should be 2000 – 2500 words excluding bibliography. Your bibliography should include at least two outside sources.

Step 1: Proposal – 5 points DUE: March 18

Your paper proposal should include following

- Tentative title
- Main topic of your research
- Tentative thesis statement
- List of 5-7 concepts from readings you will use in paper
- Outline of your paper
- List of 2 outside sources

Step 2: Final Paper – 25 points DUE: May 13, 5 p.m. Hawaii Time

Your final paper will be 2000 – 2500 words, double-spaced, 12-point font, and include a bibliography. Please make sure to have introduction and conclusion paragraphs and underline your thesis statement.

This course encourages you to develop your academic writing skills that significantly differ from other forms of written communication. The final paper for this course should be typed, grammatical, free of spelling errors and well-organized. Your paper should use appropriate document formatting and a citation

style such as APA, MLA, or Chicago. You may use any citation system you like but use it consistently. My preference for the course is Chicago (the Author-Date) Style. Below are some resources to assist you with your writing:

- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/2/>
- <http://writing-program.uchicago.edu/resources/collegewriting/index.htm>
- http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

You can also find assistant from the UHM campus services:

KOKUA Program provides assistance to students with disabilities. If you need reasonable assistance, please contact KOKUA program at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 in Room 013 of QLCSS, or via email: kokua@hawaii.edu

Learning Assistance Center offers free tutoring and supplemental instruction for students to study effectively. For more information, contact LAC at (808) 956-6114 in Sinclair Library or via email: learning@hawaii.edu

The Writing Center offers free assistance on writing. If you would like to consult about your writing process and/or improve your writing skill, I recommend asking for assistance at the Writing Center. For more information and make an appointment, visit <https://sites.google.com/a/hawaii.edu/writingcenter/about>

GRADING SCALE

97-100% = A+	94-96% = A	90-93% = A-	
87-89% = B+	84-86% = B	80-83% = B-	
77-79% = C+	74-76% = C	70-73% = C-	
67-69% = D+	64-66% = D	60-63% = D-	< 60% = F

EXTRA CREDIT – 5 points possible

You can earn extra credit by attending a maximum of five events that address political issues. To get credit, you need to notify the instructor in advance of when and what event you are attending. Submit a short (one full page; double-spaced) description and critical reflection of the event within a week of the event.

POLICIES

Protocol: You are encouraged to discuss what you learn in this course and provide critical analysis. However, each student is responsible for being respectful of your classmates' ideas and opinions and should refrain from making any discriminatory, offensive, and disruptive statements.

Late Work: As this course is online, I will give sufficient time for students to complete weekly assignments. The deadline is firm. There will be no extension or exception. If you have special circumstances that prevent you from turning assignment in on time, you need to notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Acts of Academic Dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are a strict UH Student Conduct Code that you need to understand. Plagiarism includes copying and pasting text from a website, taking someone else's idea without proper citation, submitting academic materials belonging to another class without obtaining permission from the instructors. Violating the Conduct Code will result in no point for the assignment and possible failure of the course. If you have any question regarding plagiarism policy, please see the UHM Student Conduct Code (<https://sites.google.com/a/hawaii.edu/writingcenter/about>). It is your responsibility to understand and avoid any misconduct.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 – Introduction to politics

February 1-5

- Read – Van Belle: Introduction/Warning/Parental Advisory
- Read – Excerpts from Danziger (Laulima)
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, February 6, 11:59 p.m. (HST)

WEEK 2 – Political Ideologies, Theories, and Government

February 8-12

- Read – Van Belle: Chapter 1 & 2
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, February 13
- Quiz 1 –DUE: Sunday, February 14, 11:59 p.m. (HST)

WEEK 3 – Political Economy

February 15-19

- Read – Van Belle: Chapter 3 & 4
- Watch – Watch – Crisis of Capitalism
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOP2V_np2c0

- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, February 20

WEEK 4 – Government Structures and Institutions

February 22-26

- Read – Van Belle: Chapter 5 & 6
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, February 27
- Quiz 2–DUE: Sunday, February 28

WEEK 5 – Legislature and Bureaucracy

February 29-March 4

- Read – Van Belle: Chapter 7 & 8
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, March 5
- Quiz 3 –DUE: Sunday, March 6

WEEK 6 – Law and Democracy

March 7-11

- Read – Van Belle: Chapter 9 & 10
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, March 12
- **Midterm - TBD**

WEEK 7 – Media and Politics

March 14-18

- Read – Van Belle: Chapter 11 & 12
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, March 19
- **Paper Proposal** – DUE: Friday, March 18

WEEK 8 – SPRING BREAK

March 21-25

- Go beach, take a short trip, have fun! ☺

WEEK 9 – Political Culture

March 28 – April 1

- Read – Van Belle: Chapter 13 & 14 & 15
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, April 2
- Quiz 4 –DUE: Sunday, April 3

WEEK 10 – Indigenous Politics

April 4-8

- Read – Excerpts from *Aloha Betrayed* by Noenoe Silva
- Watch – (TBD)
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, April 9

WEEK 11 – What is Land? Why does it Matter?

April 11-15

- Read – Hall: Chapter 1 & 2
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, April 16
- Quiz 5 –DUE: Sunday, April 17

WEEK 12 – Territory, Borders and Frontiers

April 18-22

- Read – Hall: Chapter 3 & 4
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, April 23
- Quiz 6 –DUE: Sunday, April 24

WEEK 13 – Regulation and Property

April 25-29

- Read – Hall: Chapter 5 & 6
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, April 30
- Quiz 7 –DUE: Sunday, May 1

WEEK 14 – Wrap-up

May 2-6

- Read – TBA
- Discussion Post – DUE: Saturday, May 7
- **Final Exam - TBD**

WEEK 15 – FINAL WEEK

May 9-13

- **Final Paper** – DUE: Friday, May 13, 2016 at 5 p.m. Hawaii Time.