

**POLS 110 INTRO TO POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**Introduction to Terms, Theory and Issues in Political Science**  
SUMMER 2014 (JUNE 10 – AUGUST 14, 2014)

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Days/Time/Classroom: Online – Laulima

**→ COURSE TEXT AND REQUIRED MATERIAL:**

The following book is **REQUIRED** for the course:

- Political Science: An Introduction (13<sup>th</sup> Edition), Michael G. Roskin, Robert L. Cord, James A. Medeiros, Walter S. Jones. Pearson.

**→ COURSE OVERVIEW**

The primary goal of this course is to provide a window for you into the field of political science. By the end of this course you will have an educated perspective on how to approach the concepts and methodology of Political Science as well as the various fields of the discipline including American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political philosophy. During this course you will learn about political ideas, theories, systems and policies in order to focus and examine political issues on a national and global level. Defining central concepts related to the study of political science and engaging in discussions employing these concepts are central for this course.

Since there will be no face-to-face class meetings, it is crucial that you are conscientious, motivated and self-disciplined. This is an online course and is very flexible in terms of when you put in the time. You can expect to spend at least six hours of work per week reading, course preparation, homework, studying, etc.

All course content is delivered at a distance via the Internet using the University of Hawaii's learning management system, LAULIMA. On-site attendance is not required for tests.

**→ MAJOR TOPICS**

- I. The study of Political Science; origins and development
  - a. Political Philosophy
  - b. Comparative Government
  - c. International Politics
  - d. Democracy
  
- II. People, Politics and Political Behavior
  - a. Political culture and socialization
  - b. Public opinion and role of citizens
  - c. Media and politics
  - d. Interest Groups
  - e. Political Parties and elections

### III. Framework of Government

- a. Executive government: Prime Ministers, President and Dictators
- b. Legislative government: Parliaments, Congress's
- c. Judicial systems and justice
- d. Effects of globalization on government

→ **COURSE GOALS** - Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

1. explain the meaning of state, nation, politics, and power;
2. define the basic terminologies and central concept of Political Science;
3. trace the evolution of political thoughts from several classic philosophers to contemporary political science ideologies and philosophies;
4. explain the role of political culture and political socialization in the development of the state;
5. learn about the research methods and tools of political science research;
6. understand and evaluate the significance and influence/impact of civil society and non-governmental organizations, interest groups, media, and political parties;
7. examine the basic elements of political systems, modern constitutional democracies and authoritarian states;
8. explain why democracy is hard to maintain and establish by giving examples from contemporary global and national issues;
9. identify the various forms and functions of modern governments including representative assemblies, executives and administrative bureaucracies;
10. determine the actors who influence public policy and the decision making process;
11. analyze the role of globalization, terrorism, international and regional forces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
12. debate the reasons of conflict and compromises that occur within and among nations and governments

→ **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

**1. Discussion Posts and Participation (15% of the grade):** Participation in online discussion is central for learning through an online course. You are required to participate in the discussions by posting your response to the question in the discussion board and responding to at least two (2) of your classmates' posting. Discussion questions will be posted on Sunday and will be available for posting until the following Sunday.

**2. Quizzes (15% of the grade):** There will be 8 quizzes and they will be given following the end of each chapter of the textbook. The quizzes will be based on the assigned readings and/or previous lecture or lectures. The quizzes are NOT meant to be difficult they are, however, to make sure that you understood the basic concepts and material that was covered in each chapter. Each quiz will be worth 12.5 pts and they will be composed of short answer questions.

**3. Written Assignments (35% of the grade):** A written assignment with instructions will be submitted to the instructor for evaluation. Written assignments are due the week they are assigned. You can access the assignments from the Assignments Tool, located under the Course Menu at Laulima. In this part of the course requirement, you will be asked to submit

a two-paragraph answer to the question that will be provided to you. Written assignment questions will be posted on Sunday, (the same day with the discussion post questions) and will be available for posting until the following Sunday.

**4. Final (35% of the grade):** The final examination will cover material from the entire book and any other material discussed in class. After the exam question sheet is posted YOU WILL HAVE 75 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE FINAL EXAM AND UPLOAD YOUR ANSWER SHEET. Please contact me in advance if you are in a different time zone and won't be able to take the exam the moment it is posted online.

**GRADING:** Grading will be *strictly* determined by a *weighted average* of the scores you receive on the requirements above. The scale is as follows:

A+: 95 percent and above	B+: 84~86 percent	C+: 73~75 percent	D+: 63~65 percent	F: 54 and below
A : 90~94 percent	B : 80~83 percent	C: 70~72 percent	D: 60~62 percent	
A-: 87~89 percent	B-: 76~79 percent	C-: 66~69 percent	D-: 55~59 percent	

→ **SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

**WEEK 1: (6/10 - 6/15)**

**Reading:** Ch-1 "Politics and Political Science," Pg 1-19  
Ch-2 "Theories," Pg 20-37

**Written Assignment #1 - due 6/15**

**Discussion Post #1 - due 6/15**

**Quiz #1 - due 6/15**

**WEEK 2: (6/16 - 6/22)**

**Reading:** Ch-3 "Political Ideologies," Pg 38-56  
Ch-4 "States," Pg 58-75

**Written Assignment #2 - due 6/22**

**Discussion Post #2 - due 6/22**

**Quiz #2 - 6/22**

**WEEK 3: (6/23 - 6/29)**

**Reading:** Ch-5 "Rights," Pg 78-91  
Ch-6 "Regimes," Pg 96-114

**Written Assignment #3 - due 6/29**

**Discussion Post #3 - due 6/29**

**Quiz #3 - due 6/29**

**WEEK 4: (6/30 - 7/6)**

**Reading:** Ch-7 "Political Culture," Pg 119-133  
Ch-8 "Public Opinion," Pg 136-155

**Written Assignment #4 - due 7/6**

**Discussion Post #4 – due 7/6**  
**Quiz #4 – due 7/6**

**WEEK 5: (7/7 – 7/13)**

**Reading:** Ch-9 “Political Communication,” Pg 156-172

Ch-10 “Interest Groups,” Pg 176-191

**Written Assignment #5 – due 7/13**

**Discussion Post #5 – due 7/13**

**Quiz #5 – due 7/13**

**WEEK 6: (7/14 – 7/27)**

**Reading:** Ch-11 “Parties,” Pg 194-209

Ch-12 “Elections,” Pg 212-228

**Written Assignment #6 – due 7/27**

**Discussion Post #6 – due 7/27**

**Quiz #6 – due 7/27**

**WEEK 7: (7/28 – 8/3)**

**Reading:** Ch-13 “Legislatures,” Pg 232-245

Ch-14 “Executives and Bureaucracies,” Pg 252-274

**Written Assignment #7 – due 8/3**

**Discussion Post #7 – due 8/3**

**Quiz #7 – due 8/3**

**WEEK 8: (8/4 – 8/10)**

**Reading:** Ch-15 “Judiciaries,” Pg 274-293

Ch-17 “Political Violence,” Pg 314-330

**Written Assignment #8 – due 8/10**

**Discussion Post #8 – due 8/10**

**Quiz #8 – due 8/10**

**WEEK 9: FINAL WEEK (8/11 – 8/14)**

**Reading:** Ch-18 “International Relations and Globalization,” Pg 334-349

**Discussion Post #9 – due 8/14**

**Written Assignment #9 – 8/14**

**AUGUST 14 – FINAL EXAM**