

PS401: POLITICAL ANALYSIS (Senior Capstone Seminar)

University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh
Fall Semester 2009

Meeting Time: Tues 6-9 pm

Meeting Room: Clow 209

Professor Druscilla L. Scribner

Department of Political Science

Office: 423, Clow Faculty Building

Office hours: Tues 3-5; Thur 3-4

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Political Analysis is a *senior seminar* designed to provide a capstone research experience for majors during their final year as well as to provide a vehicle for the assessment of their individual mastery of the discipline of Political Science. Students will engage in discussion and analysis of major scholarship in the field as well as extension and revision of previous research. In addition, students will take a comprehensive national examination covering the discipline and prepare a representative portfolio of their undergraduate work in the major for the purpose of individual and program assessment. *Prerequisite:* Senior standing and Political Science major.

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Readings: The following texts have been ordered by the bookstore for purchase (you may also find used copies in other venues):

- *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics* 2nd Ed. Rogowski.
- *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. Lisa Baglione

Comprehensive Exam:

- Political Science Major Field Test (ETS) [est. cost \$25]

I. Participation and Attendance: This is a seminar; students are expected to come to class meetings prepared to discuss central questions, puzzles and concerns that arise from the readings or assignments. I expect *all* of our class time to be devoted to discussion, presentation or small group work. It is in your collective interest as a class that you **complete all assigned readings before the class meeting, attend all class meetings, and participate actively.**

Missing more than **one** class will negatively affect a student's participation grade. Students will be evaluated by the frequency and quality of their voluntary comments in class, by the quality of their discussion questions, and by their performance on in-class activities.

Students are required to submit at least two discussion questions based on the day's readings **three (3) times** during the course of the semester. These must be posted on the course discussion website by midnight before class. Discussion questions should draw across the

readings for day. Good discussion questions provoke discussion; they typically do not have a correct or yes/no answer.

Those students submitting discussion questions for the day are considered “in the hot seat” – that is, I will call on them to help lead discussion or present aspects of the reading for that day and they should be prepared to do so.

II. Critical ‘reflections’ on the readings: Students are required to write a **4-5 page paper** reflecting on, drawing connections between, and critiquing the readings for one of the day’s readings **two (2) times** during the course of the semester. ‘Critical reflection’ papers are to be submitted to the course D2L website drop box no **later than 3pm on the Friday following the day’s readings and class discussion**. See the *handout on critical reflection papers* for specifics.

III. Exams: There are **two exams** in this course: an exam for the course (covering our readings and discussions) and an external national political science exam (the Major Field Test administered by ETS – this exam will be taken on-line).

IV. Research paper extension: Students will revise and extend previous research of their choice. The final paper *should be approximately 20 pages in length and reflect significant revision and extension of their previous work, including new research*. The original paper, a revised draft, and a final copy must be submitted in class (and on D2L) and are subject to both peer review and a formal grade (final copy only). Students will work on their revisions over the course of the semester and will give a **10-15 minute individual presentation of their research** at the end of the semester. A final copy of the research paper will form part of the student’s portfolio. See the *handout on research papers* for specific requirements.

V. Portfolio: Students will prepare a formal portfolio of their work across the major. In the *portfolio* students *gather and reflect* on their significant experiences, best written work, acquisition of knowledge and skills development in the major. They will also write and revise a CV as well as personal statement as part of the portfolio. *See the portfolio handout for specifics.*

Final Grades will be calculated using UWO’s 93/90/87 grading scale as follows:

- I. Participation: 15%
- II. Critical Reflections: 20%
- III. Exams: 15%
- IV. Research Paper: 30%
- V. Portfolio: 20%

* If you are unsatisfied with the way your work has been graded you may request that it be re-graded. This request must be submitted *in writing (typed)* no later than one week from when the assignment was returned. The request should provide a reasoned and persuasive account of why your assignment deserves a different grade. Note that re-grading may result in a grade either higher or lower than the grade you received.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty: “Academic Honesty is fundamental to the University, and academic misconduct is taken very seriously. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, *for the appropriate citation of sources*, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors” (UWS, 14.01, emphasis added). *Plagiarism is using someone else’s ideas, words, theories, evidence, findings, argument, etc. and passing them off as your own by not properly attributing or acknowledging the original source of those ideas.* Students may inadvertently plagiarize when they fail to provide page numbers for quotations in a paper, when they paraphrase or summarize the work of others with out acknowledging the source in the text of their paper. *Plagiarism in its many forms is wrong, unethical and dishonest.* At minimum plagiarism in this course will result in a failing grade on the assignment and may result course failure and academic expulsion. If you are unsure whether or not what you have written constitutes plagiarism, please ask.

Citations: In all of your written work for this course you need to appropriately cite your sources (even course material) *using the American Political Science Association (APSA) citation style*, including in-text citations. I have provided you with a chapter outlining the APSA format on D2L (and on the dept. website) – you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the APSA citation style and using it properly – if you have questions just ask.

Excused absences, make-ups and late work: Make-up exams, quizzes, and other work must be requested and arranged with me prior to the date of the assignment; make-ups and excused absences require *documented evidence of medical necessity or an approved college-sanctioned event.* I do accept late work, but only with a *heavy penalty.* To avoid late assignments and penalties: get started early, come see me about your paper direction and ideas if you’re stuck, give yourself plenty of time for writing and *rewriting*, and avoid procrastinating. Late papers are penalized one third grade for each day they are late (i.e. a B would become a B-, then a C+, etc.). Note: you are always better off submitting something rather than nothing, even if it’s late!

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tues. September 15th

Introduction

Discussion – Research Traditions in Political Science

Reader: Lichbach and Zuckerman “Research Traditions and Theory in Comparative Politics”
E-reserve: IR-Theory: Mearsheimer “The Tragedy of Great Power Politics;” Russett and Oneal “International Systems: Vicious Circles and Virtuous Circles;” Wendt “Constructing International Politics”

Tues. September 22nd

Discussion – The State

Reader: Weber “Politics as a Vocation”
Reader: Juergensmeyer “The New Religious State”
Reader: Herbst “War and the State in Africa”
Reader: Rotberg “The New Nature of Nation-State Failure”

Workshop – Writing

Writing Manual: All

Paper selections for Portfolio due
Peer revision and discussion of original research paper

Tues. September 29th

Discussion – Nations and Society

Reader: Hobsbawm “Nationalism”
Reader: Snyder and Ballentine “Nationalism and the Marketplace of Ideas”
Reader: Collier “Ethnic Diversity: An Economic Analysis”
Reader: Huntington “The Clash of Civilizations?”
Reader: Sen “Civilizational Imprisonments”

Tues. October 6th

Discussion – Political Violence

Reader: Skocpol “France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolution”
Reader: Crenshaw “The Causes of Terrorism”
Reader: Goldstone “States, Terrorists, and the Clash of Civilizations”
E-reserve: Jervis “Theories of War in a Era of Leading-Power Peace”
E-reserve: Mueller “Terrorphobia: Our False Sense of Insecurity”

Peer revision and discussion of reflective statement(s)

Tues. October 13th

Discussion – Political Economy

Reader: Marx and Engels “Manifesto of the Communist Party”
Reader: Smith “An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations”
Reader: The Economist “Is Government Disappearing?”
Reader: Alesina, Glaeser, and Sacerdote “Why Doesn’t the United States Have a European-Style Welfare State?”
D2L: Coates “Models of Capitalism”
CV peer review

Tues. October 20th

Discussion – Democracy

Reader: Zakaria “A Brief History of Human Liberty”
Reader: Schmitter & Karl “What Democracy Is ... and Is Not”
Reader: Putnam “Tuning In, Tuning Out,”
Reader: Berman “Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic”
Personal Statement peer review

Tues. October 27th

Research draft extension peer review

Film: TBA

Tues. November 3rd

Discussion – Political Institutions

E-reserve: Mayhew “Electoral Connection”

E-reserve: Fenno “Congressmen in Committees”

Reader: Duverger “The Number of Parties”

Reader: Lijphart “Constitutional Choices for New Democracies”

D2L: Reilly: “Electoral Systems for Divided Societies”

D2L: Allen: “The Case for a Multi-Party U.S. Parliament?”

Portfolio Draft peer review and discussion

Tues. November 10th

Discussion – Globalization and Development

Reader: Pritchett “Divergence, Big Time”

Reader: Florida “The World is Spiky”

Reader: Hoffmann “Clash of Globalizations”

Reader: Galbraith “A Perfect Crime”

Reader: Collier & Gunning “Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?”

Tues. November 17th

Discussion – Media and Politics

Readings: TBA

Research extension final draft peer review

Tues. November 24th

Research extension final draft due

Major Field Test

Film: TBA

Tues. December 1st

Course Exam

Portfolio Due

Tues. December 8th

Student Research Presentations

Tues. December 15th

Student Research Presentations