

PSIR 101.1 Introduction to Political Science

Spring 2023

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Fatih Erol

Class Hours: Tuesday 01:00 PM to 04:00 PM

Physical Class Location: IIBF 323

Virtual Class Location: REDACTED

Office Hours: Wednesday 09:00 AM to 11:00 AM, or by appointment (on Zoom)

Office Location: IIBF 404

Instructor Email: fatih.erol@yeditepe.edu.tr

Course Description

This course is an introduction to a field of study that is anything but intellectually simple and easily comprehend. This is an introduction to broadly defined and experimentally nuanced sub-disciplines of the overall field: political theory, comparative politics, international relations, and scientific methods. Most aspects of our daily lives are influenced by political decisions made on local, state, and national governmental levels. We will examine the systems and processes that lead to these political decisions. We will learn how to analytically determine – who wins and who loses and why. Resulting in the just or unjust distribution of political means.

Course Goals and Objectives

Graduates will understand how knowledge is created and shared across forms and contexts.

Graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate contextual understand and sufficient factual and historical background to assess political science theories and concepts.
- Recognize and apply major concepts and approaches in the study of American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political thought.
- Present arguments and evidence clearly in written form, with increasing sophistication as they move through the major.

- Read carefully and comprehend theoretical texts.
- Graduates will demonstrate a strong work ethic.

Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will understand inquiry as sustained engagement with increasingly complex questions. Graduates will be able to:

- Critique and access scholarly writing.
- Correctly identify underlying assumptions and conceptual categories.
- Critically evaluate and incorporate information and its sources.
- Adjudicate between competing theories or arguments, giving credit to perspectives other than their own.
- Evaluate evidence to test theories and to make persuasive arguments.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches.
- Frame meaningful questions and devise strategies to answer them.
- Develop, plan, and defend a research project, and write up the results in the appropriate style.

Course Policies

Readings, Participation, and Discussion You will be asked to engage the readings in all your written assignments. All readings assigned for the week must be completed in time for the weekly discussions. Your insightful participation in discussions is an important element in your intellectual formation. During class discussion you are not expected to have fully developed points of view about the course materials. But you are expected to participate. No one will be penalized for being wrong or imprecise, for expressing uncertainty or frustration, for changing mind. But it should be clear that you are trying, that you have done the readings and are working toward a mastery of the material. The discussions may be provocative sometimes. Yet, for this reason the discussions should have “**rules of engagement**.” That means that participants should not only have respectful interaction in class, but also have research-focused discussion. Namely, statements in class must base on academic texts.

Make-up Exams Make-up exams will only be allowed in extraordinary circumstances. Any student that does not show up for an exam must have a documented, serious medical condition that is presented to both the professor and the chair of the department well in advance of the

scheduled exam date. Failure to make satisfactory arrangements in advance of exams will result in a zero. No exceptions.

Academic Integrity All students must be familiar with the rules of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity include plagiarism, multiple submissions of written works, unauthorized usage of materials, and cheating during exams. It may find its expression in the lack of citations, copy-pasting of texts from the internet, using unauthorized materials during exams, and sharing data and information during exams. Academic dishonesty will lead to an F grade in the course. Every incident will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee.

Electronic Devices Disruptions or interruptions in the classroom due to the improper use of cell phones or laptops (e.g., texting, chatting, browsing Facebook/Twitter) will not be tolerated. Students who are disrupting the class will be asked to stop using their electronic device and may be asked to leave. Any kind of **unauthorized recording** is **prohibited by law**.

Syllabus Change Policy This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

Emailing If you have a question about the course or an assignment, I would encourage you to check the syllabus first to see if the answer to your question is there. You are also encouraged to discuss any questions or concerns about the course with me at office hours or after class. If you need to reach me outside of class or office hours, please send me an email and I will attempt to respond as quickly as I can within reason. **Do not send messages on OBS, which are hard to keep track in terms of subject matter and timing-sender details.**

Evaluation Criteria

Midterm The questions for the midterm will be drawn from the readings and lectures. (40% of total grade)

Final Exam The questions for the final will be drawn from the entirety of the course with an emphasis on the **post-midterm** lectures. (45% of total grade)

Active In-class Attendance Participation by the students is a critical part to everyone's learning. What this means is that you will be expected to have done the readings assigned for each day and to come to class (or be present in the virtual meeting room) ready to discuss them in a thoughtful manner. Attendance is necessary but not sufficient to receive full participation points. Points can be earned by raising thoughtful comments and questions about the readings. Arriving late, leaving early, or otherwise disrupting the class will result in a lower participation grade. (15% of total grade)

Grading Scale

AA= 90-100; **BA**=85-89; **BB**= 80-84; **CB**= 75-79; **CC**= 70-74; **DC**=60-69; **DD**= 50-59;
F=0-49

Textbooks and Readings

This course does not build on a single textbook but instead relies primarily on select book chapters and articles. The following books can help the students get a general overview of the course content:

- Shively, W. P. (2019). *Power & choice: An introduction to political science*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 15th Edition.
- Heywood, A. (2019). *Politics*. London: Red Globe Press, 5th Edition.
- Grigsby, E. (2009). *Analyzing politics: An introduction to political science*.

* Additional readings and cases will be posted on Moodle. Make sure you follow it daily!

** We will be using examples from current events so you should have regular access to news sources in order to participate effectively.

Course Structure

Contents

Week 1: Introduction to the Course / Syllabus (February 21, 2023)	5
Week 2: The Study of Politics (February 28, 2023)	5
Week 3: Ideas and Traditional Ideologies: Liberalism (March 7, 2023)	6
Week 4: Traditional Ideologies: Socialism and Conservatism (March 14, 2023)	6
Week 5: Non-Traditional Ideologies: Fascism and Modern Ideologies (Feminism) (March 21, 2023)	6
Week 6: Nation and Nationalisms (March 28, 2023)	6
Week 7: Ideologies and Party Competition (April 4, 2023)	7
Week 8: Midterm (TBA)	7
Week 9: States (April 18, 2023)	7
Week 10: Development or Failed State (April 25, 2023)	7
Week 11: Constitution and Rule of Law (May 2, 2023)	8
Week 12: Established and Emerging Democracies: Parliamentary vs. Presidential Democracy (May 9, 2023)	8
Week 13: Authoritarian and Totalitarian Models (May 16, 2023)	8
Week 14: Established and Emerging Democracies: Democracy or Dictatorship? Transitional systems (May 23, 2023)	8
Week 15: Wrap Up (May 30, 2023)	9

Part I: Concepts and Ideologies

Week 1: Introduction to the Course / Syllabus (February 21, 2023)

Week 2: The Study of Politics (February 28, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Heywood (2019), Chapter 1 (What is politics?)
- Shively (2019), Chapter 1 (Politics: Setting the stage)

Optional

- **Skim through** Grigsby (2009), Chapter 2 (Political science and scientific methods in studying politics)

Week 3: Ideas and Traditional Ideologies: Liberalism (March 7, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Grigsby (2009), Chapter 5 (Political ideologies I: Liberalism, conservatism, and socialism), pp. 98-108
- Heywood (2019), Chapter 2 (Political ideas and ideologies), pp. 73-84

Week 4: Traditional Ideologies: Socialism and Conservatism (March 14, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Grigsby (2009), Chapter 5 (Political ideologies I: Liberalism, conservatism, and socialism), pp. 108-127
- Heywood (2019), Chapter 2 (Political ideas and ideologies), pp. 84-105

Week 5: Non-Traditional Ideologies: Fascism and Modern Ideologies (Feminism) (March 21, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Grigsby (2009), Chapter 6 (Political ideologies II: Fascism), pp. 128-143
- Grigsby (2009), Chapter 7 (Political ideologies III: Feminism, environmentalism, and postmodernism), pp. 144-154
- Heywood (2019), Chapter 2 (Political ideas and ideologies), pp. 107-112

Week 6: Nation and Nationalisms (March 28, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Grigsby (2009), Chapter 3 (Key concepts in political science), pp. 67-72
- Heywood (2019), Chapter 6 (Nations and nationalism)

Week 7: Ideologies and Party Competition (April 4, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Dalton, R. J. (1996). *Political cleavages, issues, and electoral change*. In L. LeDuc et al. (Eds.), *Comparing democracies: Elections and voting in global perspective* (pp. 319-42). Sage
- Downs, A. (1957). *An economic theory of democracy*. Harper Collins: **skim** ch. 8.
- Sartori, G. ([1976] 2005). *Parties and party systems: A framework for analysis*. ECPR Press: ch. 10.
- Zaller, J. R. (1992). *The nature and origins of mass opinion*. Cambridge University Press: **skim** ch. 11.

Week 8: Midterm (TBA)

Midterm examination timing and location will be announced.

Part II: Comparative Politics

Week 9: States (April 18, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Heywood (2019), Chapter 3 (Politics and the state)
- Shively (2019), Chapter 3 (The modern state)

Week 10: Development or Failed State (April 25, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Rotberg, R. (2003). *When states fail: Causes and consequences*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1 (The Failure and Collapse of Nation-States: Breakdown, Prevention, and Repair).
- Iqbal, Z., & Starr, H. (2016). *State failure in the modern world*. California: Stanford University Press. Chapter 2 (Why Do States Collapse? Determinants of State Failure).

Week 11: Constitution and Rule of Law (May 2, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Shively (2019), Chapter 9 (Constitutions and the design of government)
- Heywood (2019), Chapter 13 (Constitutions, law, and judges)

Week 12: Established and Emerging Democracies: Parliamentary vs. Presidential Democracy (May 9, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Heywood (2019), Chapter 4 (Democracy and legitimacy), pp. 176-182
- Grigsby (2009), Chapter 10 (Governing democracies: Executives, legislatures, and judiciaries), pp. 232-250

Optional

- **Skim through** Shively (2019), Chapter 14 (National decision-making institutions: Parliamentary government)
- **Skim through** Grigsby (2009), Chapter 8 (Nondemocracy: A fluid and varied governing process), pp. 183-190

Week 13: Authoritarian and Totalitarian Models (May 16, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Shively (2019), Chapter 7 (Democracies and authoritarian systems)
- Grigsby (2009), Chapter 8 (Governmental systems: Democracy and nondemocracy), pp. 183-190

Week 14: Established and Emerging Democracies: Democracy or Dictatorship? Transitional systems (May 23, 2023)

Mandatory Readings

- Heywood (2019), Chapter 5 (Regimes of the modern world)

Week 15: Wrap Up (May 30, 2023)

FINAL EXAM (TBA)

Suggested Reading for the Summer 2023

- Achen, C. H., & Bartels, L. M. (2017). *Democracy for realists: Why elections do not produce responsive government*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.