



Korea University International Summer Campus (KU ISC) 2020

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June 30, 2020 ~ August 6, 2020

ISC135 – Introduction to Political Science

I . Instructor

Professor : Anders Uhlin
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Home Institution : Lund University
Office :
Office Hours :

II. Textbook

Required Textbook : Heywood, Andrew (2019) *Politics*, London: Macmillan Education. (Fifth edition) (528 pp)

Please note that students must purchase this book in advance. It will not be sold at Korea University.

Additional recommended readings will be given in class depending on individual student interest. Students will select additional readings of approximately 200 pages for the group presentation and essay.

III. Course Description and Objectives

What is politics? What can politics do? And what can't it do? How does politics work in different settings from the local to the global? Such questions are thoroughly addressed for those coming to the subject for the first time, while offering fresh insights and perspectives for all. The course offers a comprehensive and engaging introduction to political science for students who have no or little prior knowledge in this field. Covering key issues and approaches in political theory, comparative politics, public administration and international relations it provides an excellent base for further studies in Political Science and International Relations. The course may also be a useful complement in the educational profile of students majoring in other subjects who would like to gain basic knowledge concerning political ideas and processes.

Themes like political ideologies, state and civil society, democracy, political economy, political culture, political parties and elections, political regimes, bureaucracy, security and global governance are discussed with references to current events from across the world.

The course is based on active student participation throughout. Students are expected to have

read the assigned literature prior to lectures and seminars. Short discussions in small groups as well as in the whole class will take place during all lectures. One session will be devoted to a debate in which students are defending different positions. There will also be presentations by groups of students on selected topics.

On completion of the course, the student shall demonstrate the ability to:

- Describe and discuss main issues in politics across the world.
- Describe and discuss central concepts and theoretical traditions in the study of politics.
- Analyze selected political processes and phenomena based on a reflective and analytical treatment of the course literature.
- Contribute to a common learning environment and to group dynamic aspects of learning.

IV. Grading

The requirements for the course are as follows:

- 1) Active participation in class: 20 %
- 2) Mid-term exam: 15 %
- 3) Group presentation: 15 %
- 4) Essay: 25 %
- 5) Final exam: 25 %

Class attendance of at least 70% is required to earn a passing grade.

1) Active participation in class

Students are encouraged to read the assigned literature prior to the lecture or seminar and be prepared to ask questions and comment on the literature in class discussions. Active contribution to a common learning environment through engaged participation and pertinent comments in class positively affects the final grade.

2) Mid-term exam

The mid-term exam is a no books or notes written exam on the literature and lectures. It consists of multiple-choice and short essay questions.

3) Group presentation

For the seminars in week 4 and 5, groups of students will prepare a 20 minutes presentation (including questions and answers) on selected political issues. This will be based on selected chapters in "Politics" and additional material which students search themselves. You may use power-point or prepare a one-page handout to your class mates.

4) Essay

Students will write an essay on an individually selected topic related to the course. The essay should be 2000 words long (+/- 10 %). More precise instructions will be given in class.

5) Final exam

The final exam is a no books or notes written exam on the literature and lectures. It consists of multiple-choice and short essay questions.

V. Class Outline

Date	Topic	Chapter	Remarks
June 30 (Tue)	Orientation Day		
July 1 (Wed)	Introduction and Overview of the Course: What is Politics?	1	
July 2 (Thu)	Political Ideas and Ideologies	2	
June 28 (Fri)	Nationalism	6	
July 6 (Mon)	The State	3	
July 7 (Tue)	Civil Society	12	
July 8 (Wed)	Democracy and Other Regime Types	4, 5	
July 9 (Thu)	Seminar: Role play debating democracy from different ideological standpoints		
July 13 (Mon)	Political Economy	7	
July 14 (Tue)	Political Culture	8, 9	
July 15 (Wed)	Political Parties and Elections	10, 11	
July 16 (Thu)	Mid-term Exam		
July 20 (Mon)	Constitutions	13	
July 21 (Tue)	The Executives and Assemblies	14, 15	
July 22 (Wed)	Bureaucracy	16	
July 23 (Thu)	Seminar: Group Presentations		
July 27 (Mon)	Multilevel Governance	17	
July 28 (Tue)	Security	18	
July 29 (Wed)	Global Governance	19	
July 30 (Thu)	Seminar: Group Presentations; Deadline for handing in essay		
August 3 (Mon)	Political Science: A Summary	20	
July 4 (Tue)	Final Exam		
July 5 (Wed)	Wrap-up session and course evaluation		
Aug 6 (Thu)	Consultation on grades and graduation ceremony		

VI. Additional Information

A more detailed course document with seminar instructions and suggested readings will be provided before the start of the course.