

PLSC 4351



Introduction to Political Theory

Section 783 – Fall 2020

Syllabus

Basic Information

Instructor: Robert L. Perry, Ph.D.

Office: MB 3230

Hours:

M, W: 9:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

T, Th: 11:00a.m. – Noon

(or by appointment)

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This course is a Web Course and is conducted within Canvas at <http://utpb.instructure.com>

NOTE: The due dates and times for the activities will adhere to the Central Time Zone.

Course Description

This is a survey course exploring the nature of politics, political environments and culture, the organization of political activities, and various political systems.

We will examine issues and debates in the context of the major ideologies, demonstrating the connection between political science and the issues that matter in our lives. Because politics—the political issues of the day—are what draw most people to the study of political science, we will look at key issues and ideas in the political world to capture your interest and to help you think like political scientists.

Course Prerequisites

While there are no formal prerequisites for this course, it is strongly recommended that you have taken PLSC 2305 and 2306 before attempting this course.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Define political power.
- Identify the political dilemmas faced by the framers of the U.S. Constitution.
- Identify the major components and sub-disciplines of political science.
- Identify and explain the ideas of significant political thinkers Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Mill, and Marx.
- Identify the relationships among liberalism, capitalism, and democracy.
- Identify the central ideas in democratic socialism and communism.
- Explain differences between parliamentary and presidential forms of government.
- Recognize the major criticisms of globalization
- Explain how liberal capitalism, liberal democracy, egalitarian communism, illiberal capitalism, right-wing authoritarianism, and democratic socialism can affect economic improvement within countries.

Materials

There is one required text for this class: The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science. Riemer, Neal, et. al. 6th ed., Los Angeles: Sage/ CQ Press. 2015. ISBN 978-1-5063-2347-3

Important Academic Dates

UTPB [Academic Calendar](#)

Course Overview

Unit # Due Date	Readings	Assignments
1 Sep. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 1 & 2 in <i>The Challenge of Politics</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Quiz
2 Sep. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 3 & 4 in <i>The Challenge of Politics</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Quiz
3 Sep. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 in <i>The Challenge of Politics</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion
4 Sep. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 in <i>The Challenge of Politics</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Quiz
5 Sep. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 in <i>The Challenge of Politics</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Quiz
6 Oct. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 8 & 9 in <i>The Challenge of Politics</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion
7 Oct. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 10 & 11 in <i>The Challenge of Politics</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Quiz
8 Oct. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14 in <i>The Challenge of Politics</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion

Important Things to Note:

- Units close at 11:59p.m. (Central Time) on the due dates listed. You may note that all the quizzes and discussions are open from the first day of class. You may complete any unit at any time, as long as you do so before the respective due date.
- Each unit contains either a discussion question or a unit quiz.
 - For the quizzes, remember as stated above that you may take the quiz any time before its respective due date. You will only be allowed ONE chance to take each quiz; however, there is no time limit on the quizzes themselves. Take your time; do them right.
 - For the discussions, there are really two parts:
 1. **Your initial response.** Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to submit an initial response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 500 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, include an explanation of **why** you answered the way you did, and **must** include at least two citations.
 2. **Your response to your fellow students.** In addition to the initial response thread, the student is required to reply to three classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 150 words. Keep in mind that you will not be able to respond to others' posts until you have first submitted your own post.
 - Again, each unit closes at 11:59p.m. on the dates listed above. In order to allow your fellow students the time to respond to your post(s), you should post your initial response by at least **two days prior to the unit's due date**. Again, this will allow adequate time for others to read and respond to each other's posts.
 - Keep in mind that I don't generally get involved in discussions. If discussions get too far off-track, I may intervene to say something. I may also add a web citation or the like, if I feel it would add to the discussion. If I say something in response to your post, please don't take this as something personal; rather, it's just something to keep the conversation going.
 - For each unit with a unit quiz, you will be asked about twenty questions in multiple-choice, short answer, or fill-in-the-blank formats.

Grading:

Course Activity	Percentage of Total Grade
Unit 1 Quiz	11
Unit 2 Quiz	11
Unit 3 Discussion	15
Unit 4 Quiz	11
Unit 5 Quiz	11
Unit 6 Discussion	15
Unit 7 Quiz	11
Unit 8 Discussion	15
Total	100

Grading Scale:

Grade Range	Letter Grade
90 and above	A
80 to 89	B
70 to 79	C
60 to 69	D
Less than 59	F

**Unless otherwise stated, all materials, activities, and assessments are required and are not optional.*

Communication, Grading & Feedback

Owing to this being an online class, the best form of communication is through Canvas messaging. I check it every day. However, this is not to imply that I check it constantly. I will answer your messages within 24 hours. I will check for messages once in the morning, once in the afternoon, and once in the evening. Just because you may be on the internet at 3:00a.m., doesn't mean that I am.

As for grading discussions, please allow a 72 hour turn around. I don't start grading the discussions until after the units' due dates.

Time Management:

This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 10-25 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, and writing essays.

Policies

1. **Discussion Board:** Discussion Board is primarily for discussing course related topics and issues.

Best practices are:

- a. Read all message postings in online discussion.
- b. Respond to the question directly
- c. Reply to minimum of three other student posts (as explained above).
- d. Use a person's name in the body of your message when you reply to his or her message.
- e. Avoid postings that are limited to 'I agree' or 'great idea', etc. Ask questions, try to keep a conversation going. If you are asked questions from your fellow students, respond to them.
- f. Ensure responses to questions are meaningful, reflective.
- g. Support statements with concepts from course readings, refer to personal experience, examples.
- h. In the past, in terms of responding to other students' posts, some students have copied and pasted others' posts, and then just added something like "I agree with you." That won't work here. The minimum number of words that you are required refers to *your* input.
- i. Follow **Rules of Behavior**.

2. **Rules of Behavior:** Discussion areas are public to every student in this class (including your instructor) who will see what you write. Please pay attention to the language you use and adhere to the following guidelines:

- j. Do not post anything too personal.
- k. Do not use language that is inappropriate for a classroom setting or prejudicial in regard to gender, race, or ethnicity.
- l. Do not use all caps in the message box unless you are emphasizing (it is considered shouting).
 - a. Be courteous and respectful to other people on the list
 - b. Do not overuse acronyms like you would use in text messaging. Some of the list participants may not be familiar with acronyms.
 - c. Use line breaks and paragraphs in long responses.
 - d. Write your full name at the end of the posting.
 - e. Be careful with sarcasm and subtle humor; one person's joke is another person's insult.

3. **Make-Up/Late Submission Policy:**

All course activities should be submitted before or on set due dates and times.

- Discussions cannot be submitted late. Once the due date and time pass, they will be closed for any further comment or submission.
- Quizzes cannot be submitted late. The unit closes on the due date.

4. Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism/Cheating: The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will be reported and investigated. A student who engages in scholastic dishonesty that includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will receive an “F” for the course.

All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. For complete information on UTPB student conduct and discipline procedures consult the [University's Handbook: Scholastic Dishonesty](#).

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit.

5. Attendance and Class Participation: Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. Students will log on a minimum of three times every seven days. All students are expected to do the work assigned, notify the instructor when emergencies arise.

6. Tracking: The learning management systems have a tracking features. Statistics are collected that quantifies how often and when students are active in the course and provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course.

7. Absenteeism: All the course activities have set dates to be completed and submitted. After the due dates the activities will not be available for the students. Not logging into an online course is considered absenteeism. Contact instructor immediately in case of emergency medical situation.

8. **Course Incomplete/Withdrawal/Grade Appeal:**

All students are required to complete the course within the semester they are signed up. Incomplete grades

for the course are rarely given, will only be granted if the student provides a valid, documented excuse for not being able to complete the course on time, and has contacted the instructor prior to the scheduled last class to request an extension. The student signs a contract that includes the incomplete course activities and the new due dates.

Find information and dates regarding drops and withdrawals consult the University Handbook: [Drops and Withdrawals](#) and [Appeal Process](#).

NOTE: The due dates and times for the activities will adhere to the Central Time Zone.

9. Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities. Only those students, who an Instructor has received an official Letter of Accommodation (LOA) sent by the Office of ADA for Students, will be provided ADA academic accommodations.

ADA Officer for Students: Mr. Paul Leverington

Address: Mesa Building 4242 /4901 E. University, Odessa, TX 79762

Voice Telephone: 432-552-4696

Email: ada@utpb.edu

For the accessibility and privacy statements of external tools used within online and blended UTPB courses, go to [Accessibility and Privacy Statements](#).

Computer Skills, Technical & Software Requirements

This course requires basic proficiency in the use of Word to create and edit documents, and to save and submit files. Students also need basic proficiency in receiving, sending, and attaching files to email, and in the use of Internet search tools. In order to submit photo identification (mentioned in the section concerning online student authentication, students will need access to a camera or a camera phone.”

Students can use cloud version of Word, PowerPoint and other Microsoft products through use of their UTPB Outlook 365 and UTPB email address. For more information, refer to [UTPB Office 365 Page](#).

Computer Technical Requirements: See [Technical Requirements](#).

Online Student Authentication

UTPB requires that each student who registers for an online course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course. UTPB’s Distance Education Policy requires faculty members to employ at least two methods of verification to ensure student identities. To access online courses students must login to the UTPB learning management system using their unique personal identifying username and secure password. UTPB’s Distance Education Policy requires at least one additional student identification method within the course that has been determined and approved by the faculty or academic program. This course satisfies the second method of student authentication by:

- A submission of photo and ID to an authentication assignment submission

*Approved up to date photo identifications are: passports, government issued identification, driver's licenses, military ID from DoD. Dual credit and early college high school students use school district identifications.

Preparation for Emergencies

Computer Crash: Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

Complete Loss of Contact: If you lose contact with course connectivity completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Canvas or email), you need to call instructor, and leave message regarding connectivity loss and contact information.

Lost/Corrupt/Missing Files: You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external drive, UTPB Outlook 365 OneDrive, or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g. virus infection, student's own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc) or any contradictions/problems, you may be required to resubmit the files.

End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation

Every student is encouraged to complete an end of course evaluation survey provided by UTPB. During the last two weeks of class, there will be an announcement in Canvas, an email, and a button in your course navigation that will take you to any available surveys.

The survey is anonymous and your responses are confidential. Your feedback is critical to us and to your instructor as we strive to improve our offerings, and our support of you, the students.

Student Support Services

SERVICE	CONTACT
ADA Accommodation/Support	Services for Students with Disabilities (432) 552-4696
Testing Services	Testing Services & Academic Accommodations Department (432) 552-2630
Advising	(432) 552-2661 UTPB Academic Advising Center
Bookstore	UTPB Campus Bookstore (432) 552-0220
Email, Office 365, my.utpb.edu	Information Technology
Financial Aid and Scholarship	UTPB Financial Aid (432) 552-2620
Library	The J. Conrad Dunagan Library Online at (432) 552-2370

SERVICE	CONTACT
Registrar	UTPB Registrar (432) 552-2635
Student Services	Student Services (432) 552-2600
Technical Support	Canvas 1-866-437-0867
Tutoring & Learning Resources	If you are taking courses through UTPB the following links provide services: Smarthinking Online Tutoring (provides tutoring services), SmarterMeasure (measures learner readiness for online course).

Disclaimer & Rights

Information contained in this syllabus was to the best knowledge of the instructor considered correct and complete when distributed for use in the beginning of the semester. However, the instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of UTPB to make changes in the course content or instructional techniques without notice or obligation. The students will be informed about the changes, if any.

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