

Political Science 199
Clemson University

Online Course
Fall Semester 2009

Introduction to Political Science

Section 400

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Hours: 10:00-12:00 TTh,
And by appointment

Section 401

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This course is designed to introduce you to political science as a discipline. You will receive an overview of the subfields within political science, core research methodologies, and source materials, and ethical issues related to the study of political science. We will also cover the University's ePortfolio and distributed competency requirements. This course satisfies half of the University's academic and professional development requirement for political science majors.

Readings

The required text for this course has been ordered at the Clemson University Bookstore:

Scott, Gregory M., and Stephen M. Garrison. 2008. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*, 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

There will be additional readings provided to you free of charge on our course's BlackBoard site.

Contact

The best way to contact either instructor is via email. If you call and no one answers, leave a voice mail.

In this online course, you will interact with the content, instructor, and classmates on at least a weekly basis through various online assignments and activities.

Distributed Competencies

Your Clemson general education is built around developing 19 competencies, or skill sets. You will develop most of these competencies through specific courses (for example, you develop competency in oral communication by taking COMM 150 or 250).

However, there are five competencies—the “distributed competencies”—that are not tied to specific courses. Instead, we expect that you will develop these competencies across all of the coursework you take as a political science major.

This course is designed (in part) to introduce you to the distributed competencies and to help you develop a plan for gaining these skill sets during your college career.

The distributed competencies include:

Reasoning, Critical Thinking, and Problem Solving

- Acquire and analyze information to determine its quality and utility.
- Analyze disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge and abilities gained during the undergraduate experience.

Ethical Judgment

- Demonstrate knowledge of what ethics is and is not, its relation to academic integrity, and its importance in one’s life and work.
- Demonstrate understanding of common ethical issues and construct a personal framework in which ethical decisions can be made in a systematic, reflective, and responsible way.

Mathematical, Scientific, and Technological Literacy

- Apply information technologies to intellectual and professional development.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact us as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. “Qualified students” are those who present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Student Disability Services to the instructor. Student Disability Services is located in G-20 Redfern (656-6848). Accommodations are not retroactive. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

Grades

Please be aware that this is a graded class. The Department of Political Science officially changed PO SC 199 from a pass/fail class to a graded class during the Spring Semester of 2008.

There will be a total of 100 points possible in this course. Grading will follow this scale: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 59 and below.

*As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a "high seminary of learning." Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form. When, in the opinion of a faculty member, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, including a description of the misconduct, to the Associate Dean for Curriculum in the Office of Undergraduate Studies. At the same time, the faculty member may, but is not required to, inform each involved student privately of the nature of the alleged charge. **Anyone caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of F for the course.***

Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

1. Online Activities (60 points)

By 5:00 PM on Friday of every week (beginning on Friday, August 28), you will complete an online activity about the week's subject matter. We shall post each week's assignment on our course's BlackBoard site. Each activity will be worth 5 points. If you do all 13 assignments, we shall drop your low score. Alternatively, you may choose one assignment during the semester to omit (except for Week 3).

2. Online Discussion Board Participation (20 points)

Our course will feature an online discussion board this semester. You may access the discussion board at our course BlackBoard website. We expect each of you to post to the discussion board on a regular basis throughout the semester. We shall create threads about various topics that should be of interest to all political science majors.

3. Annotated Bibliography (20 points)

By Friday, December 4, you will email us an annotated bibliography on a political science topic that interests you. Your annotated bibliography must include bibliographic citations for five academic articles, along with 4-5 sentence summaries of each entry. All entries must deal with the same topic. More details about this assignment will be offered via the BlackBoard site.

Be advised that we take academic dishonesty very seriously and will pursue sanctions against you if you plagiarize. In the absence of a compelling excuse (e.g. serious illness, death in the family), late bibliographies will be penalized by the equivalent of one letter grade for each day they are late, including weekend days. You must contact us as soon as possible if you believe you have a compelling excuse for submitting a late bibliography without penalty, and you must provide written documentation of the severe emergency that prevented you from handing in the bibliography with the rest of the class.

***** *Course Outline* *****

Week 1: August 24-28

Introduction to the Course and the Department

READ: <http://business.clemson.edu/polisci/index.htm>

Week 2: August 31-September 4

Introduction to the Discipline

READ: Scott & Garrison, chapter 1

Week 3: September 7-11

*Your ePortfolio**

READ: <http://www.clemson.edu/ugs/eportfolio/documents/3easysteps.pdf>

*You may **not** choose this assignment as your “free skip.”

Week 4: September 14-18

Clemson University’s Distributed Competencies

READ: Materials posted on our BlackBoard site

Week 5: September 21-25

Library Resources

READ: Scott & Garrison, chapters 10-11

Week 6: September 28-October 2

Research Methods in Political Science

READ: Scott & Garrison, chapter 4

**** We will take the week of October 5-9 off, leading in to Fall Break. ****

Week 7: October 14-16 (shortened Fall Break week)

Political Theory

READ: Scott & Garrison, chapter 2

Week 8: October 19-23

American Politics

READ: Materials posted on our BlackBoard site

Week 9: October 26-30

Public Policy/Public Administration

READ: Scott & Garrison, chapter 18

Week 10: November 2-6

International Relations

READ: Douglas Van Belle and Kenneth Mash, *A Novel Approach to Politics*, chapter 12 (posted on our BlackBoard site)

Week 11: November 9-13*Comparative Politics*

READ: Scott & Garrison, chapter 17

Week 12: November 16-20*Internships*READ: <http://www.washingtonsemester.com/> and <http://www.dcinternships.org/>**** We will take the week of November 23-27 off because of Thanksgiving. ******Week 13: November 30-December 4***Career Paths*READ: <http://www.lsac.org/> and *Careers and the Study of Political Science*, 6th ed., selected chapters (posted on our BlackBoard site)**** There is no final exam in this course. ****