Course Description and Purpose

This class is designed to be an introduction to three of the subfields of Political Science. After successfully completing this class, you should be able to understand the difference between comparative politics and international relations, as well as have a grasp of some of the guiding theories and ideologies in Political Science. Also, you should be able to understand how the political environment in other countries differs from that found in the United States, and—in the wider sense—how America is viewed abroad.

In our increasingly interconnected world, it is vitally important to be able to understand world politics to understand our place in the world. With the development of international news networks like CNN and the explosive growth of the internet, there are increasingly few corners of the globe that are isolated—we truly are becoming more and more an interconnected and interdependent world.

University/College/Departmental Curricular Objectives Met

Political Science 102 fulfills a general education requirement for the Social Sciences and is a prerequisite that must be successfully completed before taking most upper-division courses in the major. It is necessary to complete both Political Science 101 and 102 before declaring Political Science as your major.

Program-Level Learning Objectives that the Course Supports

Students will gain basic knowledge and understanding of political science and its subfields; comparative politics, with a focus on political ideology, power, and the political systems of major nations; international relations, with a brief introduction to international political economy, conflict, and IR theory; public policy, with a focus on policy issues that directly affect people's lives.

Expectations

Active participation in your discussion sections and regular attendance in both discussion and lecture hall is necessary for overall success in the course and a good grade. Students will be expected to attend all discussion sections on Friday and missing more than two discussion sections will result in a lowered course grade. Missing more than four discussion sections with unexcused absences (out of 12) will result in a zero for your participation grade and seriously harm your ability to pass the course. Attendance will be taken at every discussion section and during most M/W lecture sections, and therefore coming to class late will result in you not being considered “present.”
Required Textbook

Suggested News Websites
Australia: www.theaustralian.com.au (Sydney)
Canada: www.theglobeandmail.com (Toronto)
China: www.chinaview.cn (Beijing)
India: www.hindustantimes.com (New Delhi)
Israel: www.jpost.com (Jerusalem)
Japan: http://www.asahi.com/ajw/ (Tokyo)
South Africa: www.iol.co.za (Johannesburg)
United Arab Emirates: www.gulfnews.com (Abu Dhabi)

Graded Assignments and Course Requirements
Students will be expected to complete all readings by the date assigned. In addition to the textbook (*A Novel Approach to Politics, NP*), it is recommended that students regularly stay informed of international news by checking the suggested news websites. These websites may be used in your discussion sections. In addition to two exams (September 25th and October 30th) and a Final (December 9th), you will be evaluated based on your participation/attendance grade, and the seven highest grades out of ten weekly quizzes.

Reading-Based Comprehension Quizzes  
*(top 7 of 10 at 3% each = 21% total)*
During the semester you will be given ten weekly quizzes during your weekly discussion section. These quizzes will cover both the assigned readings for that week as well as questions about that week’s lecture. These quizzes will normally include ten multiple-choice questions. The purpose of the quizzes is both to ensure your attendance during lecture sessions as well as to ensure that you are keeping up with the assigned readings. Of the ten quizzes, only your seven highest grades will be counted. If you miss a quiz for any reason (whether for an excused or unexcused absence) that day’s quiz will be recorded as a zero.

There will not be a quiz during discussion section on the Friday after a Wednesday exam, but on October 2, October 23, and November 6 there will be larger “Mega” quizzes that will cover information from three lectures. All quizzes are the same weight, but Mega quizzes will include 2-4 more questions to cover three course lectures.

Exams #1 and #2  
*(20% each [40% total]—September 25th and October 30th)*
The first two exams on September 25th and October 30th will cover information discussed in class during the first and second third of the semester respectively. Each exam will include a comprehensive essay (with two essay choices), short-answer (where you write 3-4 sentences about terms, concepts, events, or people we discussed in class), possibly some fill-in-the-blank questions, and approximately 25 multiple-choice questions. The exams will cover the material from class lectures, the textbook, and from your discussion sections. You will receive a review sheet approximately one week before each exam.

Review sessions will be held in Physics 415 on September 23rd (Monday) from 4:30-6:00pm and September 24th (Tuesday) from 7:00-8:30pm for Exam 1. Review sessions for Exam 2 will be on October 28th (Monday) from 4:30-6:00pm and October 29th (Tuesday) from 7:00-8:30pm also in Physics 415. Teaching Assistants will conduct these study sessions. The exam will be passed out at 10:00am on exam day to give you a full hour to work on it.

Final Exam  
*(25% of your grade—December 9th)*
The final exam on December 9th at 10:15am will be cumulative but will focus primarily on information covered after the second exam. It will include a variety of question formats like the first two exams but will include both a long and a short essay. Study Sessions will be conducted by TAs on December 6th (Friday) from 4:30-6:00pm and December 8th (Sunday) from 7:00-8:30pm in Hodges Library Auditorium.
Attendance/Participation  (14% of your grade)

Keeping up with the assigned reading, attending class lectures, and participating actively in class discussion will ensure a good participation grade. Conscientious students who regularly attend class rarely fail my course, but if your attendance is poor you are unlikely to be able to pass the class.

However, if you are deathly ill or have just been informed of the death of a close relative, don’t come to class. Bring a copy of your medical paperwork (personal information crossed out) or the obituary of your departed loved one (with the dates you missed class written on the paperwork) and the absence will be excused. Getting excuses to your TA during a discussion section is your responsibility, and all excuses must be turned in by the last discussion section on November 22nd. This grade is calculated by your TA, so questions about your attendance and participation grade should be directed to them.

Use of your laptop for non-notetaking purposes, listening to music, reading a non-Political Science 102 book or the Daily Beacon, or texting on/playing with your phone during class lecture or your discussion section will result in the lowering of your participation grade for each infraction.

Extra Credit  (+0.66 point each, up to a maximum of three events [+2.00pts] added to your Overall Grade)

Since awareness of international culture and society is an important part of understanding and enjoying this class and being a scholar of international politics, you can benefit from attending university or community-sponsored international events. These could include everything from academic lectures to foreign films and musical performances. Appropriate events will be announced in class, and you should be able to fit one, two, or a maximum of three into your semester. After attending the event you will need to write a 1.5-2-page description (double-spaced with 1” margins and 12pt Times New Roman font) of both what you saw and how it influenced your thinking about international culture/politics/society. You may turn in extra credit immediately following the event or at any time up until the last discussion section on November 22nd. These extra-credit points will benefit your overall grade, but they will not substitute for an excessive number of class absences. Plagiarism on your write-up or falsifying attendance at an extra credit event will be treated as an Honor Code violation and could result in your being placed on probation or kicked out of the University of Tennessee.

My Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93.00-99.99</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.00-92.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.00-89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.00-86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.00-82.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77.00-79.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>73.00-76.99</td>
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<td>70.00-72.99</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.00-69.99</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.00-66.99</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.00-62.99</td>
<td>D-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Canvas and Communication of Announcements

By checking the grades posted on Canvas, you will be able to keep up to date on your progress in the class. Grades will usually be posted on Canvas about 1-2 days before being handed back during your discussion section. You will be able to view your exams during discussion sections, but for security reasons you can’t keep your exams. You will also be informed of class schedule changes via Canvas or email; pertinent announcements about assignment or room changes will be posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to frequently monitor your UTK email account and look at the Canvas site when informed of course changes.

The Student’s Role in Improving Teaching and Learning through Course Assessment

At UT, it is our collective responsibility to improve the state of teaching and learning. During the semester, you may be requested to assess aspects of this course either during class or at the completion of the class. You are encouraged to respond to these various forms of assessment as a means of continuing to improve the quality of the UT learning experience.
Notice on School-Sponsored Absences

If you miss class because of a school-sponsored academic or athletic event, your absence is considered excused provided you give us prior notification. However, all assignments are due to your TA's box in the Political Science Department (10th floor of McClung Tower) before you depart or at the start of class on the date due.

If you are a UT Band member or an athlete, and you have UT travel commitments that take you away from UT during Friday discussion sessions, you may take a make-up quiz on the following Monday at 10:05am in the large lecture hall on the front row nearest the podium. Failure to take advantage of this opportunity will forfeit your right to a make-up. This is because we do not usually do make-up quizzes, but we don’t want to penalize you for service to the university.

Policy on Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty

Each student is responsible for his/her personal integrity in academic life and for adhering to UT’s Honor Statement. The Honor Statement reads: “An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

As defined in Hilltops, “plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit.” I expect every student to live up to the UT Honor Code (as amended in 1995) and to document all papers using MLA, APSA, or APA parenthetical documentation styles. I have caught and successfully prosecuted instances of plagiarism and cheating, and I am good at detecting it. Don’t risk your college career to save yourself a few minutes. Signing the roll for a friend who is not present in lecture hall counts as an honor code violation and we have become good at detecting it.

The use of studyblue.com (or similar websites) for anything other than sharing notes or blank study guides will be treated as plagiarism. If a completed study guide is put online or shared on an email list, the class will not have a study guide for the subsequent exam and the poster will be referred to the Dean of Students for suspension or expulsion.

Writing and Class Assistance

Sadly, only about one out of every four students take advantage of professors’ or TA’s office hours to discuss their academic progress. Please utilize your discussion section TA’s office hours for most class issues but contact me directly if you run into problems as well. TA office hours are listed on the front page of the syllabus. If you are unable to attend your own TA’s office hour, you may visit with another TA to get assistance. My office hours are from 9:00-9:45am MF and 11:15-12:00pm on MW in McClung Tower 1008E. In addition, please use the Writing Center in HSS 211. They are open for extended hours to help with writing assignments; they can be contacted at 974-2611 writingcenter@utk.edu. Their phone number can also serve as a grammar hotline.

University Civility Statement – http://civility.utk.edu/

“Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, gracious-ness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteous-ness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus.”

Emergency Alert System – http://safety.utk.edu/

The University of Tennessee is committed to providing a safe environment to learn and work. When you are alerted to an emergency, please take appropriate action. Learn more about what to do in an emergency and sign up for UT Alerts. Check the emergency posters near exits and elevators for building specific information. In the event of an emergency, the course schedule and assignments may be subject to change. If changes to graded activities are required, reasonable adjustments will be made, and you will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines.
**Students with Disabilities** – [http://sds.utk.edu](http://sds.utk.edu)

“Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Student Disability Services (SDS) at 865-974-6087 in 100 Dunford Hall to document their eligibility for services. Student Disability Services will work with students and faculty to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.” Requests for the use of the Testing Center must be made at least one week prior to the exam.

**Accessibility** – [http://accessibility.utk.edu/](http://accessibility.utk.edu/)

UT values accessibility for everyone in our community and has expressed this value in system-wide policy. All communications, learning material, and technology at UT should be accessible. For more information about accessibility including the full policy and opportunities for training, visit the UT accessibility webpage.


The Student Counseling Center is the university’s primary facility for personal counseling, psychotherapy, and psychological outreach and consultation services.

The Center for Health Education and Wellness manages 974-HELP, the distressed student protocol, case management, the Sexual Assault Response Team, and the Threat Assessment Task Force.

**Alteration of this Syllabus**

The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter and/or amend this syllabus, as necessary. Students will be notified by email and/or Canvas of any such revisions, alterations and/or amendments.

**Key Resources for Students**

- Political Science Department Website: [http://web.utk.edu/~polisci/](http://web.utk.edu/~polisci/)
- Academic Planning: [http://www.utk.edu/advising](http://www.utk.edu/advising)
- Arts and Sciences Advising Services: [http://artsci.utk.edu/advising/](http://artsci.utk.edu/advising/)
- Student Success Center: [http://studentsuccess.utk.edu](http://studentsuccess.utk.edu)
- Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs: [http://catalog.utk.edu](http://catalog.utk.edu)
- Hilltopics: [http://dos.utk.edu](http://dos.utk.edu)
- Course Timetable: [https://bannerssb.utk.edu/kbanpr/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched](https://bannerssb.utk.edu/kbanpr/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched)
- Library: [http://www.lib.utk.edu](http://www.lib.utk.edu)
- Career Services: [http://career.utk.edu](http://career.utk.edu)

**Travel Advice**

I have traveled to almost seventy countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe, encountering a few minor problems along the way but never a serious incident. If you need any help planning a foreign vacation or are wondering whether a place might be interesting to visit, please ask me and I will be happy to help you plan out a trip. I also cannot encourage you strongly enough to take advantage of the numerous study abroad opportunities available to UT students. I have traveled to Cameroon on a USC sponsored summer trip, to South Korea on a Fulbright delegation sponsored by the federal government, and I spent most of 2002 at the University of Stellenbosch outside Cape Town, South Africa (whose website you can access at [www.sun.ac.za](http://www.sun.ac.za)). In 2017 my family and I sailed around the world with Semester at Sea ([semesteratsea.org](http://semesteratsea.org)), an amazing study abroad experience that docks in twelve countries on a voyage from San Diego to Hamburg.
Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

August 21 (W)  
Introduction to the Class/Review Syllabus

August 26 (M)  
Defining Government and the Political World  
* A Novel Approach to Politics NP 1-21

August 28 (W)  
Ideologies: Understanding the Frames of the Political World  
* NP 22-43  
(August 30—Quiz 1/First Discussion Section)

September 2 (M)  
No Class—Labor Day Holiday

September 4 (W)  
Understanding Government: Concepts of Security and Power  
* NP 44-58  
(September 6—Quiz 2)

September 9 (M)  
Hierarchy, Alliances, and Group Identity  
* NP 59-75

September 11 (W)  
Governing Society: Collective Action and Legitimacy  
* NP 76-104  
(September 13—Quiz 3)

September 16 (M)  
Exploring Concepts in Political Economy: Capitalism  
* NP 105-128

September 18 (W)  
Exploring Concepts in Political Economy: Socialism  
* NP 129-139  
(September 20—Quiz 4)

September 23 (M)  
Introduction to Political Structures and Institutions  
* NP 140-169

September 25 (W)  
Exam #1  
(No Quiz during September 27th Discussion Section)

September 30 (M)  
Executive Institutions  
* NP 170-196

October 2 (W)  
The Function of Legislatures  
* NP 197-214  
(October 4—Mega Quiz 5)

October 7 (M)  
Presidential versus Parliamentary Systems  
* NP 214-229

October 9 (W)  
The Challenge and Opportunities of Bureaucracies  
* NP 230-250  
(October 11—Quiz 6)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page Numbers</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 14 (M)</td>
<td>Courts and Politics</td>
<td>NP 251-284</td>
<td></td>
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<td>October 16-20 (W-F)</td>
<td>No Class—Early Fall Break</td>
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<td>October 21 (M)</td>
<td>The Democratic Ideal in Politics</td>
<td>NP 285-319</td>
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<td>October 23 (W)</td>
<td>The Media and Politics: Does the Tail Wag the Dog?</td>
<td>NP 320-343</td>
<td>(October 25—Mega Quiz 7)</td>
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<td>October 28 (M)</td>
<td>Globalization and Public Opinion</td>
<td>NP 344-354</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 30 (W)</td>
<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>(No Quiz during November 1st Discussion Section)</td>
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<td>November 4 (M)</td>
<td>Explorations in International Politics: Understanding Realism and Conflict</td>
<td>NP 355-371</td>
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<td>November 6 (W)</td>
<td>The Cold War and the Aftermath</td>
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<td>(November 8—Mega Quiz 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11 (M)</td>
<td>Challenges to Realism: International Institutions and International Law</td>
<td>NP 372-394</td>
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<td>November 13 (W)</td>
<td>Understanding International Political Culture</td>
<td>NP 395-421</td>
<td>(November 15—Quiz 9)</td>
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<td>November 18 (M)</td>
<td>Case Study on the United Kingdom: Understanding Political Foundations</td>
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<td>November 20 (W)</td>
<td>Case Study on Mexico: Using Latin American Exceptionalism</td>
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<td>(November 22—Quiz 10)</td>
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<td>November 25 (M)</td>
<td>Case Study on Russia: Understanding the Authoritarian State</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27-1 (W-F)</td>
<td>No Class or Discussion Sections—Thanksgiving Holiday!!</td>
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<td>December 2 (M)</td>
<td>Case Study on China: Preparing for the Asian Century</td>
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<td>December 4 (W)</td>
<td>Why Studying Political Science is a Worthy Endeavor: For You and the World</td>
<td>NP 422-432</td>
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**FINAL EXAM: Monday December 9th at 10:15am in Physics 415!!**