

American University in Central Asia
International and Comparative Politics Department

Introduction to Political Studies – ICP 100

Fall Semester 2013

Monday 10:50 (lecture); Thursday 14:10, 15:35, Friday 14:10 (seminars)

Course Instructors:

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Course Description: This course is designed to provide an introduction to the study of politics. It focuses on the political systems and governmental institutions which are functional in the contemporary world. Through lectures, discussions, readings and various assignments students are expected to get familiarized with the following concepts: power and its dimensions; the state, its role and functions; constitutions and legal systems; political ideologies and political culture; political parties and governance structures.

The principal aim of the course is to provide students with general academic tools to interpret and understand contemporary political systems. Within the present course the students are expected to relate theoretical concepts to specific country cases and circumstances through developing constructive and critical attitude during the study process by using different methods and tools. The intention of the course is not to amass as much detailed information as possible but rather to better understand the complexity of political science and to gain the key skills to study politics further.

The course will be organized in the form of lectures and seminars. Students will also sign up for an oral presentation at the beginning of the course.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation:

Class attendance is mandatory. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class period. If you come in late it is your responsibility to see me after class so that I can mark you present. A student with more than three unexplained absences will be admin. dropped. Students who are ill are supposed to submit a *Spravka* from the examining physician and attested by AUCA physician. Any false or purchased *Spravkas* will not be accepted. The documentation should be presented at the first opportunity and NOT at the end of semester.

Active participation in group discussions is a prerequisite of this course. This requires you to read all assigned texts carefully so as to be an informed and thoughtful participant in discussions.

2. Essay:

Students will have to write a 3-5 page long essay on a topic/question to be offered during the third week of the semester. The questions and guidelines will be distributed in advance. The deadline for submitting research essays is November 11th, 2013. **Only hard copies will be accepted!**

Anti-Plagiarism Rule! AUCA and ICP do not tolerate plagiarism. The basic rule is:

- first-time plagiarizing is given an F for the assignment
 - second-time plagiarizing leads to an automatic F for the course
 - third-time plagiarizing leads to both F for the course and Probation/Removal from AUCA
- Learn what Plagiarism means and always avoid doing it!

3. Presentation:

Each student should prepare a presentation of approximately 15-20 minutes on a week's topic. The content of presentations should be derived from weekly readings; however additional materials are also encouraged. Group presentations (max. 2 persons) are also welcome. If you want to make a over point presentation, please inform me in advance so we can reserve a special room for your presentation.

4. Midterm and Final Exams:

The midterm and final exams will cover readings and class discussions. The half of the exam is short-answer questions and the other half is an essay question. Students should answer it in a clear and coherent essay by drawing on readings, lectures and discussions.

5. Quizzes:

There will be five unannounced quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will draw upon materials covered in the lectures, readings and seminars.

Assessment

Participation	10%
Oral presentation	15%
Five surprise quizzes	15% (3% each)
Essay	20%
Midterm	20%
Final exam	20%

Grading range:

100-93 = A	80>=77 = C+	63>=60 = D-
93>=90 = A-	77>=73 = C	
90>=87 = B+	73>=70 = C-	60>=0 = F
87>=83 = B	70>=67 = D+	
83>=80 = B-	67>=63 = D	

Readings: The main responsibility of the students will be to have completed all of the required readings prior to class. The assigned readings sometimes cover more specific aspects of the general topics. For additional materials check the university library. Based on the reading materials and extra sources students will be expected to participate in class discussions, which will be evaluated at the end of the semester.

Main reading (available at the library):

Phillips Shively, W [1999 or 2001]. *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. McGraw-Hill College.

Tansey, S. D. [2000]. *Politics: The Basics*. Routledge: London.

Additional reading (available in the department):

Roskin M.G., et al [2006]. *Political Science: An Introduction (Ninth Edition)*. Pearson-Prentice Hill: New Jersey.

Class Schedule:

Week 1	Sep 2	Introduction to the course and review of syllabus.	Phillips Shively, pp 2-16
	Sep 5	What is the politics?	
Week 2	Sep 9	The modern state: nature and evolution.	Phillips Shively, pp 38-65 Phillips Shively, pp 138-143
	Sep 12	[presentation] State and legitimacy	
Week 3	Sep 16	Political ideologies	Phillips Shively, pp 18-36
	Sep 19	[presentation] Communist ideology in comparison: USSR and China	
Week 4	Sep 23	Political parties and party systems	Phillips Shively, pp 234-254
	Sep 26	[presentation] Parties as main political forces	
Week 5	Sep 19	Elections and electoral systems	Phillips Shively, pp 213-232
	Sep 22	[presentation] Elections as a vital component of political systems	
Week 6	Sep 30	Political culture	Tansey, pp 106-118
	Oct 3	[presentation]	
Week 7	Oct 7	Constitution and governance forms	Phillips Shively, pp 194-212
	Oct 10	[presentation] Federalism	
Week 8	Oct 14	Mid-term exam	
	Oct 17	[presentation]	

Week 9	Oct 21	Bureaucracy and policy-making	Shively, pp 325-340
	Oct 24	[presentation]	
Week 10	Oct 28	Legislatures; Parliamentary and Presidential governments	Phillips Shively, pp 285- 321
	Oct 31	[presentation] Kyrgyzstan's shift from presidential to parliamentary system	
Week 11	Nov 4	Interest groups and civil society	Phillips Shively, pp 258-282
	Nov 7	[presentation] Civil society organizations	
Week 12	Nov 11	Political Violence	TBA
	Nov 14	[presentation]	
Week 13	Nov 18	International politics	Phillips Shively, pp 358-384
	Nov 21	[presentation] Systems of international relations and new world order	
Week 14	Nov 25	Law and legal systems	Phillips Shively, 342-357
	Nov 28	[presentation] International Court of Justice	
Week 15	Dec 2	Review for Final Exam	
	Dec 5	[presentation]	
Week 16	Dec 9	Final Exam	