

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Fall 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	PSCI100		
Course Title	Introduction to Political Science		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	LARATTA Rosario	Year Available (Grade Level)	1
Subject Area	Political Science	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	The purpose of this entry-level course is to impart a preliminary overview of political science so that students can gain an understanding of key concepts of the discipline. Through active discussions, debates, and group works, this course familiarizes students with a range of political issues and arguments related to power, state, ideologies, democracy, human rights, interest groups, parties, elections, and key political institutions. The course will be of interest to all those students who want to gain a basic understanding of politics.
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	A special weekly session in Japanese will be offered to support those students who still have a limited English language ability to engage in discussions about political issues and arguments in English. The goal is to help them prepare in advance of class, so they can fully understand the lecture and actively participate in discussions.
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	N/A
Learning Goals	<p>This course attempts to help students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Become passionate about politics through discussions and develop communication skills as well as critical thinking and collaborative skills;</li> <li>2. Realize that politics influence every aspect of society and that every action we take and every decision we make is inseparable from politics;</li> <li>3. Believe that change is possible if we transform our thinking and unlock the potential of our current systems;</li> <li>4. Build the foundations on which they can explore further the sub-fields of the discipline.</li> <li>5. Possess an inter-cultural understanding and be open-minded towards other cultures.</li> </ol>

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3/DP4
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## iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adapt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning/Flipped Classroom/Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	This course uses the Harkness Method where a student in each session must be actively engaged in the discussions in one of these roles: moderator, participant, or observer.				
Use of ICT	Miro Team is used by students in this class to create Mind Maps. Those will help students to deeply understand how concepts in politics are interconnected among them.				
Contents of class preparation and review	Students must: 1) Read a specific textbook chapter each week. 2) Answer questions about each chapter. 3) Act as a moderator, participant, and observer during class discussions when such roles are being assigned by the instructor. 4) Work in assigned groups to create mind maps summarizing each chapter. 5) Study for the written test (only the group-made mind maps can be used, without extra materials, during exams). 6) Research their local government structure and share findings for a final group project.	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	Correspondence between students and the instructor will take place via UNIPA. Students can discuss privately with the instructor in person during his office hours (please look at the office hours timetable provided by the administration office). A previous appointment with the instructor via email is required.  Regarding feedback for written tests, the instructor will hold periodic individual meetings with students after each written test to let the student know about his/her progress based on the Rubric for the course.				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Group Work	50%	group work on an assigned topic
Written Tests	30%	essay questions (3 written tests)
Discussion & Debate	20%	asking critical question and being able to argument

Required Textbook(s)	For this course, we will be using this textbook: -MARK CARL ROM et al. (2022), Introduction to Political Science, Rice University Publisher (This book costs approximately 5,000 JPY)
Other Reading Materials/URL	There will be other additional journal articles that will be shared by the instructor with the class week by week and at zero cost for the students.

Plagiarism Policy	Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense, which depending on the gravity can cause you to fail a course or you are suspended from the university. Plagiarism Checking: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to iCLA for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. The use of ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence or paraphrasing software is strictly forbidden in WRITTEN TESTS for this class.
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	It is strongly advised for students not to miss the first class of this course as, in this orientation session, the instructor will share all the necessary information necessary to perform well in this course.

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Class 1: Orientation This session entails an orientation session coupled with an elucidation of the syllabus, serving to acquaint participants with the structural framework of the course and to provide a comprehensive overview of its contents.
Class 2	Class 2: What Is Politics and What is Political Science? (review and debate) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 1
Class 3	Class 3: What Is Politics and What is Political Science? (mind map and discussion) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 1
Class 4	Class4: Political Behaviour is Human Behaviour (review and debate) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 2
Class 5	Class5: Political Behaviour is Human Behaviour (mind map and discussion) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 2
Class 6	Class6: Political Ideology (review and debate) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 3
Class 7	Class7: Political Ideology (mind map and discussion) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 3

Class 8	Class 8: Civil Liberties (review and debate) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 4
Class 9	Class 9: Civil Liberties (mind map and discussion) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 4
Class 10	Class10: Political Participation and Public Opinion (review and debate) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 5
Class 11	Class11: Political Participation and Public Opinion (mind map and discussion) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 5
Class 12	Written Test 1 (For this test students must review the first 5 textbook chapters covered in the previous 10 classes)
Class 13	Class 13: A comprehensive reassessment of the first test questions to elucidate the requisite criteria and delineate areas of oversight for students (Section I)
Class 14	Class 14: A comprehensive reassessment of the first test questions to elucidate the requisite criteria and delineate areas of oversight for students (Section II)
Class 15	Class 15: The Fundamentals of Group Political Activity (review and debate) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 6
Class 16	Class 16: The Fundamentals of Group Political Activity (mind map and discussion) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 6
Class 17	Class 17: Civil Rights (review and debate) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 7

Class 18	Class 18: Civil Rights (mind map and discussion) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 7
Class 19	Class 19: Interest Groups, Political Parties, and Elections (review and debate) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 8
Class 20	Class 20: Interest Groups, Political Parties, and Elections (mind map and discussion) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 8
Class 21	Written Test 2 (For this test students must review textbook chapters 6, 7, and 8 covered in the previous 6 classes)
Class 22	Class 22: A comprehensive reassessment of the second test questions to elucidate the requisite criteria and delineate areas of oversight for students (Section I)
Class 23	Class 23: A comprehensive reassessment of the second test questions to elucidate the requisite criteria and delineate areas of oversight for students (Section II)
Class 24	Class 24: Legislation ((GROUP A – Teamwork Assignment) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 9
Class 25	Class 25: Executives, Cabinets, and Bureaucracies (GROUP B – Teamwork Assignment) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 10
Class 26	Class 26: Courts and Law (GROUP C – Teamwork Assignment) Mandatory Reading: Textbook Chapter 11
Class 27	Written Test 3 (For this test students must review textbook chapters 9, 10, and 11 and everything covered during the three GROUP Works)

Class 28	Class 28: A comprehensive reassessment of the third test questions to elucidate the requisite criteria and delineate areas of oversight for students (Section I)
Class 29	Class 29: A comprehensive reassessment of the third test questions to elucidate the requisite criteria and delineate areas of oversight for students (Section II)
Class 30	Class 30: This session serves as the culminating recapitulation of the course, encapsulating key concepts, synthesizing learning outcomes, and providing a comprehensive review of the course material.