

Political Science: Politics in the Modern World

Spring 2021

Instructor: Prof. David Green

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Office Hours: *by appointment*

Meeting day and time: Tuesdays, 14:45-16:15

Goals: This course is intended to provide an introduction to the study of political science, looking at politics in the modern world and in the comparative perspective. Not only will this course provide some general organizing principles to students for understanding politics, but it will be useful in improving critical thinking and writing skills.

Objectives: By the end of the course, students should obtain a basic understanding of organizing political principles, including types of political systems, classifications of political culture, predominant legal regimes and preeminent institutions

Course Materials:

Caramani, Daniele (ed.). *Comparative Politics*, 4th edition (2017): Oxford University Press.
ISBN: 978-0198737421

Additional course materials will be distributed in class or online as necessary.

Requirements for taking the course: Because this is an introductory course, no prerequisites are required. However, students should have a good command of the English language and come to class willing to discuss the week's topic.

Evaluation Methods:

15% Class Participation/Attendance
25% Short assignments
30% Midterm Exam
30% Final Exam

Class schedule for the Spring 2020 term

Dates: April 12 – August 6

Class 1 – April 13

Course intro/syllabus

Class 2 – April 20

Political power, authority and the state

Caramani – chapter 4: the nation-state

Class 3 – April 27

Political ideologies

Caramani – chapter 2: approaches in comparative politics

May 4 – Golden week holiday

Class 4 – May 11

Political culture

Caramani – chapter 17: political culture

Class 5 – May 18

Political parties

Caramani – chapter 12: political parties

Class 6 – May 25

Executive institutions

Ethridge & Handelman, eds.(2013) *Politics in a Changing World*, 6th edition.

Chapter 8: executive institutions, political leadership and bureaucracy, pp. 189-220

https://books.google.co.jp/books?id=Eief2AMN5AwC&printsec=frontcover&hl=ja&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

Review for midterm

Class 7 – June 1

Midterm exam

Class 8 – June 8

Legislative institutions

Caramani – chapter 7: legislatures

Class 9 – June 15

Judicial institutions

Caramani – chapter 9: constitution, rights and judicial power

Class 10 – June 22

Bureaucratic institutions

Caramani – chapter 8: governments and bureaucracies

Class 11 – June 29

Interest groups

Caramani – chapter 14: interest groups

Class 12 – July 6

Electoral systems

Caramani – chapter 10: elections and referendums

Class 13 – July 13

International organizations

Abbott, K. & Snidal, D. 1998. “Why States Act through Formal International Organizations”. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 42, No. 1: pp. 3-32.

Class 14 – July 20

Concluding summary

Final Exam – due July 27