

POSC 1990

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

SUMMER 2018
1 CREDIT HOUR
ONLINE COURSE

PROFESSOR: Dr. Amber Curtis

EMAIL: acurti2@clermson.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Email me if you'd like to set up an appointment to chat via "virtual" office hours on Skype (name: drambercurtis)

*** Although this course is offered entirely online, I welcome student communication to get acquainted, chat about the course or politics, or anything else. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email with any questions, concerns, or to set up an appointment to Skype. ***

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a one-hour graded online course primarily geared towards students entering the political science major, for whom it is required (along with taking POSC 4990 Professional Development in Political Science during one's senior year). Non-majors are welcome to take the course and will find slight adaptations for certain assignments, but are expected to be just as thoughtful and thorough in their responses. Please note the intensity of this course, due to condensing a semester's-worth of material into just a few short weeks!

OBJECTIVES: Assignments are designed to review the many subfields within political science, to look at core research methodologies and source materials, and to consider ethical issues related to the study of political science. Through active engagement, students will:

- Be introduced to the discipline of political science
- Learn about the political science department at Clemson
- Explore some of Clemson University's unique expectations
- Be prepared to conduct rigorous analytical research in future courses

REQUIRED READING: You will need the following textbook immediately—and no later than Monday, July 16th. Please obtain it (new or used) in whichever way you prefer: purchase at the university bookstore, order or rent online, borrow from a friend, etc.

- Grigsby, Ellen. 2014. *Analyzing Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*. SIXTH Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. ISBN 13: 978-1285465593.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This course consists of submitting 2 short written responses (Assignments 1 & 2), taking 11 multiple-choice/true-false online quizzes based on the Grigsby chapters (Assignments 3-13), and completing one longer research-oriented activity (Assignment 14). Specific instructions—including how to take the online quizzes using the Respondus LockDown Browser—are posted in the "Assignments" and "Resources" folders on the "Modules" tab of Canvas. All assignments must be completed no later than the date specified; see the late policy below! It is imperative that you read the separate "Quiz Instructions" document before taking your first quiz; that contains all the specifics you need to know. In the meantime, know that each quiz may only be taken once, must be completed in a single sitting, and must be finished in **30 minutes or less no later than**

11:59pm on the date it is due. Each quiz may be taken any time before its respective due date, after which point it will no longer be accessible online. You are highly encouraged to complete all assignments as early as possible and well ahead of their specified deadlines.

Assignments #1-13 are each worth 100 points. Your two lowest scores will be dropped at the end of the semester so only your best 11/13 will count towards your final grade. Assignment #14 is worth 400 points and is mandatory for everyone; failure to complete this assignment will result in an “F” grade for the entire course.

******* If you have any questions concerning an assignment or quiz, please contact me via email ASAP. If you have technical difficulties accessing Canvas material or a quiz, please contact both CCIT (phone: 864-656-3494 or email: ITHelp@clermson.edu) and Dr. Curtis ASAP. *******

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Best 11/13 Online Assignments	1100 points
<u>Assignment 14</u>	<u>400 points</u>
1500 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	

GRADING POLICY: This is a letter-graded course. At the very end of the term, final grades will be calculated by dividing the number of points a student has accumulated by the total number of points possible. At that time, grades ending in .5 to .9 will be rounded up to the nearest whole number; those below .5 will not be. Incompletes will be not be given for this course.

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- 0-59 = F

LATE POLICY: Assignments #1 & 2 may be turned in late but will be penalized 5 points per day. Assignment #14, Part I will be penalized 5 points per day; Assignment #14, Part II will be penalized 25 points per day and may only be submitted until Sunday, 8/5 to allow adequate time for grading before final course grades are due. Assignments #3-13 (the quizzes) must be completed no later than the dates specified below. No quiz make-ups are allowed (see FAQs below). Failure to obtain the textbook in a timely manner is NOT a legitimate reason for being unable to take the quizzes! Again, I strongly recommend students complete all assignments well in advance of their due date.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: I have a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Violations of any kind, including—but not limited to—cheating or plagiarism, are unacceptable and will be seriously prosecuted. **Since this is an online course, cheating includes—among many other things—referencing your book, phone, friend, or other source while taking a quiz; taking and sharing pictures of an online quiz; discussing quiz questions and answers with any other student until after grades have been posted; etc.** If I suspect that any of these things are occurring, you will be reported to University administration. Note that plagiarism includes borrowing ideas and paraphrasing them within a paper without properly citing them, copying passages directly from sources without enclosing them in quotation marks, purchasing or stealing another person’s paper to turn in, or having someone else write an assigned paper. Plagiarism also includes

submitting your own identical work for more than one assignment or course without prior approval from both instructors. I highly recommend that you review the “Plagiarism Packet” posted in the “Resources” folder on Canvas. If you have further questions regarding plagiarism, you should consult Clemson University’s current Undergraduate Announcements catalog for information on rules and regulations related to academic integrity. If you have any doubt about what is or is not permissible, ask first.

Clemson University’s official statement on academic integrity is as follows: “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.” See the Student Handbook or <http://www.clemson.edu/academics/academic-integrity/> for more information.

For the purposes of this course, students are especially reminded not to access or consult any outside resources (including other students) while taking an online quiz and not to discuss quiz answers with anyone else until *after* all parties have received their graded scores.

DISABILITY POLICY: Students needing accommodations for disabilities should make an appointment with Dr. Arlene Stewart, Director of Disability Services, to discuss their specific needs. (See contact info below.) Qualified students must then provide me with an Academic Accommodation Letter from Student Disability Services within the first week of classes to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. I cannot guarantee accommodations for students who notify me of a disability request after this date! Please be aware that accommodations are not retroactive and that new Academic Accommodation Letters must be presented to each instructor each semester.

Student Disability Services
Suite 239

Academic Success Center Building
836 McMillan Rd.
Box 344060

Clemson, South Carolina 29634-4060

Phone: 864-656-6848

Fax: 864-656-6849

E-mail: sds-l@clemson.edu

Website: <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/sds/index.html>

FAQs

“Are you a hard professor?”

Absolutely! Like the rest of the Clemson faculty, I have extremely high standards and am constantly striving to push my students far beyond their comfort zones. While the notion of an online course may make it seem like it’s easier than a face-to-face one, the truth is that online courses are that much more difficult because such an intense amount of material is crammed into a significantly-shorter-than-normal timeframe. I expect the same quality of scholarship, dedication, and performance in this course that you would put into any other course—in some ways, more. As previous students attest, I go out of my way to help my students find the resources and develop the skills they need to be successful, but the proverbial “ball” is always in your court. I have no tolerance for excuses and no student receives special treatment. If you’re not ready and willing to work hard (perhaps harder than you ever have!), this is not the course for you.

“I don’t have the textbook. What should I do?”

There is only one textbook for this course and, as of 6/25/18, it is available for rental on *Amazon* for as cheap as \$17. If that still doesn’t work for you, your next best bet is to find a friend from whom you can borrow or co-purchase the book. As a last resort, the next earliest publication edition (5th) is better than nothing...but it obviously doesn’t contain all the information that’s subject to being on the quizzes. If your financial circumstances still make all the above difficult, let me know so we can make arrangements for you to borrow my copy of the book during pre-arranged office hours (provided you’re in the Clemson area).

“I’m having trouble accessing the quiz. Help!”

Make very sure you have thoroughly read the “Quiz Instructions” document prior to attempting any quiz. If you follow all steps precisely, you shouldn’t encounter any trouble.

“My internet connection went down in the middle of a quiz. Can I re-take it?”

Nope. We’ve all experienced the inconvenience and frustration of unreliable technology but, as specified above, there are no makeups under any circumstances. Instead, I automatically drop your two lowest assignment/quiz scores at the end of the semester (not counting Assignment 14, which is mandatory). The same policy applies if you forget to take a quiz, have a family emergency arise, etc.

“I’m going to be on vacation for part of the course. Can I turn in my assignments late when I get back?”

Not likely. The best course of action is always to let me know of your travel plans as early as possible and to turn in all assignments/take any quizzes early before you go. Only certain assignments can be made up or submitted late; quizzes must all be taken by the specified deadline. Past students have encountered numerous technological difficulties trying to connect to shaky wireless connections and log-in to take quizzes while on vacation. This is a short, three-week course and by registering for it, you agreed to take on all its associated responsibilities. Therefore, devoting anything less than your full time and energy to doing well in it is not recommended.

“How can I get an A?”

The only recipe for success is to work hard, communicate often with the professor, and seek help immediately when needed. Even then, an “A” is never guaranteed or automatic. I highly discourage students from being solely focused on an extrinsic reward like their grade. True achievement stems from being intrinsically motivated and knowing that, while necessary, grades are far from everything in life. *Learning* and *growing* are much more important.

CLASS SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

(Subject to change. Please check Canvas & your Clemson email regularly for important updates!

Note that the first few quizzes are doubled-up in order to allow time to obtain the textbook—however, students are highly encouraged to get the textbook, read the assigned chapters, and take the associated quizzes as soon as possible.)

*****Note that some days have multiple assignments/quizzes due and that some assignments deadlines fall on the weekend! Remember that you can (and are highly encouraged to) complete things earlier than their specified deadlines but that most things (i.e., the quizzes) cannot be taken late.*****

Course Introduction

- Familiarize yourself with the course Canvas page and all its material, especially the syllabus
- Read: Grigsby Chapter 1

Assignment 1: Getting to Know the POSC Department

- Written response uploaded to Canvas no later than 11:59pm on Thursday, 7/19

Assignment 2: Research Resources

- Written response uploaded to Canvas no later than 11:59pm on Friday, 7/20

Assignment 14, Part I: Research Question

- Written response uploaded to Canvas no later than 11:59pm on Saturday, 7/21

Assignment 3: Political Science & Scientific Methods in Studying Politics

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 2
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Monday, 7/23

Assignment 4: Key Concepts in Political Science

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 3
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday, 7/24

Assignment 5: Political Theory

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 4
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Wednesday, 7/25

Assignment 6: Political Ideologies I

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 5
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Thursday, 7/26

Assignment 7: Political Ideologies II

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 6
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Friday, 7/27

Continued →

Assignment 8: Political Ideologies III

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 7
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Friday, 7/27

Assignment 9: Comparative Politics I

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 8
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Saturday, 7/28

Assignment 10: Comparative Politics II

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 9
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Monday, 7/30

Assignment 11: Comparative Politics III

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 10
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday, 7/31

Assignment 12: International Relations I

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 11
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Wednesday, 8/1

Assignment 13: International Relations II

- Read: Grigsby Chapter 12
- Complete online quiz no later than 11:59pm on Thursday, 8/2

Course Evaluations

- Please complete on Canvas no later than 10:00pm on Friday, 8/3

Assignment 14, Part II: Research Bibliography → NOTE THAT YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE!

- Project uploaded to Canvas no later than 11:59pm on Friday, 8/3

*** There is no final exam in this course. ***

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO EMAIL ME ASAP
WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS!**



Looking forward to a great term,
Dr. Curtis