

Course Title	Introduction to Political Science		Instructor(s)	Rui Saraiva
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Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours		TBA
Track	Global liberal arts	Mode of Instruction		Single
Credits	2	Allocated Year		1 <sup>st</sup> year, Fall
Active Learning	2.3. Presentations, 4.1. Interactive lectures, 4.3. Free discussions, 4.4. Case studies, 4.8. Informal debates, 4.9. Group work on questions, 4.10. Think-pair-share and Think-group-share.	Compulsory or Elective		Elective
Course Overview	This course presents an introduction to the basic conceptual and theoretical tools for research and analysis in the field of politics. To understand the core concepts used by political scientists and political theorists, students will address a broad range of issues that cover the nature of politics and the structures of authority and power within political systems. During this course, students will also explore issues related to the rights and responsibilities in contemporary representative democracies, as well as the diversity of contemporary political systems and ideas in a regional and global context.			
Course Objectives	The goal of this course is to give students grounding in the basic tools of political science so that they can develop the ability to critically examine the political phenomena that structure contemporary societies. By the end of this course, students will understand the key concepts, methods, and theories related to the field of politics.			
Prerequisite				
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework	
	1	Introduction - What Is Political Science?	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	2	Classical Theories and Key Concepts: Descriptive and Normative Theories, Legitimacy, Authority, and Sovereignty	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	3	The State: Institutionalized Power, Effective, Weak, and Failed states	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	4	Theories and Data Collection Methods in Political Science	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	5	Workshop I: Data Collection on State Stability, Freedom, and Corruption	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	6	Workshop II: Data Visualization on State Stability, Freedom, and Corruption	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.	
	7	Review and Assessment	Midterm Presentations: Students present country case studies and research findings.	

	8	Political Ideologies	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	9	Political Regimes (1): Representative and Participatory Democracy	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	10	Political Regimes (2): Democracy in Practice—Elitism or Pluralism?	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	11	Political Regimes (3): Dictatorships: Authoritarian and Totalitarian Regimes	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	12	Political Attitudes: Political Culture and Public Opinion	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	13	Political Communication: Media and Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	14	Technology, Digital Politics, and AI: Social Media and Polarization, Digital Authoritarianism, and AI in Governance	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	15	Final Review	Preparation for final presentations.
Grading	<p>In-Class participation: 30%</p> <p>Assignments and presentations: 20%</p> <p>Mid-term examination: 25%</p> <p>Final examination: 25%</p>		
Textbooks	<p>Students will be asked to read sections of the book listed in the reference section. Other relevant reading materials will be provided by the instructor.</p>		
References	<p>Roskin, M. G., Cord, R. L., Medeiros, J. A., &amp; Jones, W. S. (2017). <i>Political science: An introduction</i> (12th global ed.). Pearson Education.</p>		
NOTES	<p>Attendance: Mandatory. Missing more than 2 sessions significantly impacts your participation grade. Missing more than 5 sessions means you will not be able to pass this course. Preparation: Doing well in this course depends on completing the readings before class. Students are expected to discuss textbook materials, readings, and current events during class. A two-hour preparation and review period is required for each class.</p>		