

Course Title	Introduction to Political Science		Instructor(s)	Rui Saraiva
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Class Style	Lecture		Office Hours	Wednesdays 14:00~17:00
Track			Mode of Instruction	Single
Credits	2		Allocated Year	2023 / 2024
Active Learning	Lectures will include an interactive element, such as discussions or group presentations. I encourage critical thinking and the expression of diverse viewpoints in class and in writing assignments.		Compulsory or 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, we will be addressing a broad range of issues that cover the nature of politics and the structures of authority and power within political systems. During this course, the students will also explore issues related with the rights and responsibilities in contemporary representative democracies, as well as the diversity of different 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 be able to 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?	Defining Political Science: Key Concepts and Understandings	
	2	Conceptual and Theoretical Framework From classical to modern theories on political power	Tracing the Evolution of Classical to Modern Theories of Political Power	
	3	The State (1) Institutionalized power, effective, weak, and failed states	Analyzing States: Characteristics of Effective, Weak, and Failed States	
	4	The State (2) Federalism and unitary governments	Comparative Analysis: Federalism vs. Unitary Governments	
	5	Constitutions and rights	Exploring Constitutions Around the World: The Role and Importance of Rights	
	6	Political Parties and Interest Groups	Dynamics of Political Parties: Understanding Party Systems and Interest Groups	
	7	Review and Assessment	Midterm Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points	
	8	Electoral Systems Majority systems and proportional systems	Exploring Case Studies of Majority and Proportional Systems	
	9	Political Ideologies Liberalism, conservatism, socialism, and nationalism	The Ideological Spectrum: From Far-Left to Far-Right Ideologies. Finding the "Center."	
	10	Political Regimes Democracy and authoritarianism	Contrasting Political Regimes: Democratic and Non-Democratic Forms of Government	

	11	Political Attitudes Political culture and public opinion	Surveying the Landscape: Understanding Political Culture and Public Opinion
	12	Political Communication The mass media and politics	Media's Role in Politics: Analyzing a Recent Political News Story
	13	What Political Systems Do? Sovereignty, political economy, and system breakdown	Exploring the Functions of Political Systems Through Case Studies
	14	Political Systems in the 21st century The role and challenges of the state	The "Modern" State? Identifying the Challenges and Roles of the State in Today's World"
	15	Final Review	Final Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points
Grading	In-Class participation: 20% Assignments and presentations: 20% Mid-term examination: 30% Final examination: 30%		
Textbooks	Students will be asked to read several chapters of the book(s) listed in the reference section. Other relevant reading materials will be provided by the instructor.		
References	Roskin, Michael G., R. L. (Cord.); Medeiros, J. A. and Jones, W. S. 2017. Political Science: An Introduction, Longman: Pearson Education International.		
NOTES	To succeed in this course, your active participation is crucial. Doing well in this course will also depend 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.		