POLS 101Y, Section 3 – Introduction to Political Science
Fall 2015
Tuesdays and Thursday, 2:00-3:15, Morgan Hall 312

Instructor: Julia Albarracín
Office: 428 Morgan Hall 298-1055
Email: J-Albarracin@wiu.edu
Office Hours: T and Th 1:00-2:00 PM; W 1:00-3:00 PM; or by appointment.

Objectives
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the central ideas, institutions, and practices which structure government in the United States and other countries. The first part of this class focuses on understanding basic concepts, the relationships/tensions between society and government, and institutions of government. The second part of this course analyzes the nation-state in the context of globalization.

Required Readings
a. Political Science: A Comparative Introduction, 6th Edition, by Rod Hague and Martin Harrop (Palgrave). This is the primary textbook for this class and should be available at the bookstore. This book is identified in the schedule of readings as (T).

b. Other required readings are indicated in the syllabus and can be accessed through the class website. These readings are identified in the schedule of readings as (W).

Films are part of the required readings and questions on them will appear on exams.

Examinations & Course Requirements

Participation points assignments (10 points): Students are expected to complete assigned readings for each week of class and the participation points assignments indicated in the syllabus. These assignments will account for 15% of your grade.

Peace Day (10 points): Students will prepare a presentation for Peace Day in groups of 4 or 5. Further guidelines will be distributed in class.

Exams (45 points): There will be 3 written examinations (worth up to 20 points each). Make-up exams will be arranged only in DOCUMENTED special circumstances, and students are responsible to notify the instructor within 24 hours after the exam.

Mock Election (25 points): Students will take part in the mock election taking place on October 20, 22nd, 27th, 29th and November 2nd. More details will be explained in class.

Report (10 points): Students will write a research report on a major challenge facing the Obama administration (economic crisis, wars, immigration reform). During the last day of class, each student will turn in an individual 4-page report summarizing the issue chosen, possible solutions and their potential impact, and a policy recommendation. Further guidelines will be distributed in class. Students will also turn in a report proposal on 11/05.

Grades

Grade Breakdown. The following table summarizes the breakdown of the final grade for the course:

| Weekly exercises | 10% |

1
Peace Day 10%
Exams 45%
Mock Election.........................25%
Report 10%
Total 100%

**Grading Scale.**

**Other Course Policies**

**Academic Honesty.** I expect all students to adhere to the university’s standards of academic honesty in their class work. Please see http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php.

**Students with Disabilities.** In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for accommodation. You just need to let me know. If you have questions, you can contact Disability Support Services at 298-2512.

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

**Part 1- Basic Concepts**

**Week 1: Foundations**
08/25: Introduction
08/27: Chapter 1 (T)

**Week 2: Foundations: Democracy**
09/01: Chapter 5 (T)
09/03: Freedom House Reports? – **Participation points assignment** -

**Week 3: Democracy and Authoritarian Rule**
09/08: Chapter 6 (T)-Reviews
09/10: Exam 1

**Week 4: Political Culture**
09/15: Preparing for Peace Day
09/17: Preparing for Peace Day

**Week 5: Participation**
09/22: Chapter 9

**Week 6: Elections and Voters.**
09/29: Chapter 10 (T)
10/01: **Primaries and General Elections**
Week 7: Interest Groups
10/06: Chapter 12 (T)
10/08: Ex uno, Plures. The Economist 8/19/99 - Participation points assignment (read article and bring hard copy)-Announce exam review Monday night.

Week 8: Political Parties
10/13: Exam 2
10/15: Chapter 11; Empty Vessels? The Economist 6/22/99 - Participation points assignment (read article and bring hard copy)

Week 9: Executives and Legislatures
10/20: Chapter 16
10/22: Chapter 15
Part 3 – The State in Global Context

Week 10: The State
10/27: Chapter 4 (T).

Week 11: Arms Trafficking
11/03: Lord of War-Movie
11/05: Lord of War Movie--Paper Proposal Due

Week 12: Issues on Globalization: Trade and Immigration
11/10: Immigration Lecture.
11/12: Should America restrict immigration? (W)– Participation points assignment (read article and bring hard copy)

Week 13: Immigration to the US
11/17: Projection of Movie Wetback
11/19: Projection of Movie Wetback- Participation points assignment.

Thanksgiving: 11/23-27

Week 14: Global Hegemony (materials available on Class website)
12/01: What should be the US policy on Terrorism? The threat of ISIS
12/03: What should be the role of the US in the world? Participation points assignment.

Week 15: Issues on Globalization: Islam and Democracy
12/10: Wrap up and review. Final Report Due

Final Exam: December 15th at 3:00 PM, 312 Morgan Hall.