

Introduction to political Sciences

UGRA_014059

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	3
Teacher responsible	Perisa Raznatovic - peko.raznatovic@esade.edu

Course Goals

These course learning objectives are designed to provide students with a strong foundation in the study of politics and international relations, enabling them to analyze and understand complex political phenomena and engage in informed discussions about global affairs.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and define fundamental political concepts such as power, authority, sovereignty, democracy, and globalization.
- Explain major theories and perspectives in politics, including socialism, conservatism, and liberalism.
- Evaluate the implications of political decisions, policies, and actions on individuals, societies, and nations.
- Engage in thoughtful analysis and debates on contemporary political issues using appropriate evidence and arguments.
- Recognize and appreciate diverse political systems, cultures, and values around the world.

Prerequisites

This course is designed as an introductory level course and does not require any prior knowledge or background in politics or international relations. It is open to students from various disciplines and academic backgrounds. It is recommended that students have a genuine interest in politics, international relations, and global affairs. This course will explore various political systems, ideologies, institutions, and international actors. A curiosity and passion for understanding political phenomena will enhance the learning experience. While not a strict prerequisite, having a general understanding of current global events will greatly benefit students in this course. The ability to connect theoretical concepts and frameworks to real-world examples and contemporary issues will deepen the understanding of politics and international relations.

Teaching

Course Content

methodology

1. PART I: Key Concepts

Session 1: The Nature of Politics: What is Politics and How to Analyze it

Session 2: Political Power, Authority, and the State

Session 3: States and The Nation-State

2. PART II: Political Theories

Session 4: Traditional Ideologies (Liberalism, Socialism Conservativism, Fascism, Anarchism)

Session 5: Challenges to Dominant Ideologies (Post-Modernism, Feminism, Environmentalism, Multiculturalism, Religious Fundamentalism)

3. PART III: Political Institutions

Session 6: Legislatures & Elections

Session 7: Executives

Session 8: Courts and the Law

4. PART IV

Session 9: The Role of Media and the Internet in Politics

Session 10: Democracies, Democratization, and Authoritarian Regimes

Session 11: Group Debate 1

Session 12: Group Debate 2

Assessment criteria

Class Discussions and quizzes

The course is designed as a face-to-face interaction between the students and the course instructor.

The course adopts the interrogative and "through-discovery" approach, thus situating the student at the center of the learning process. The classes will be structured as discussion seminars during which students will engage in discussion around the assigned reading and audio and video materials. The discussions will be guided by topic questions selected by the professor. Students will be asked to participate in class discussions by sharing their viewpoints and contributing to the informed discussion.

This interrogative process of interaction, reflection, and deliberation on the study materials and past experiences is critical for understanding the relationship between international development theory and practice. It is essential that the students complete the reading and listening assignments before the class. Students will take a short quiz with three to five short questions about the weekly readings during one of the two classes each week. The average mark from these courses will count as 30% of the final grade. Two

quizzes with the lowest mark will not be calculated in the quiz average grade. Participation in class discussions is highly recommended as it forms 20% of the student's final grades. ESADE requires mandatory attendance of a minimum 80% of the sessions. This amounts to 20 classes in this course. Students who miss more than 4 out of 24 classes will fail the course.

Group Position Paper and Group Debate

Students will be divided into pairs of groups and would be asked to prepare an argument for or against the motion put forward in advance (e.g. "Globalization is a positive force in international politics; "The national security is more important than civil liberties,? etc.). Students would need to use the materials covered in class to build their arguments. Each group will be asked to submit a 2000-word position paper outlining their arguments for or against the proposed motion. The position paper grade will form 20% of the final grade for each student in the group. The debate grade will form 25% of the final grade.

Peer-to-Peer Assessment

Lastly, the group members will assess each other's participation in completing the group assignments. This will be an anonymous survey in which each group member will grade others on several criteria (group meeting attendance, leadership, taking a fair share of the group work, etc.). The average peer assessment will form 5% of the individual final grade. To pass the peer-to-peer assessment, students need to get at least 3.80 (out of 5) from their group peers. Otherwise, they will be asked to submit a short essay on a topic assigned by the professor in order to pass the course.

In conclusion, the final grade of each student will be formed as follows:

1. In-class average quiz grade (30%)*
2. Participation in class discussions (20%)*
3. Group Position Paper grade (20%)
4. Group Presentation grade (25%)
6. Peer-to-peer assessment (5%)**

* Minimum student attendance of 80% of sessions (9 classes) is required to pass the course and have the grades from the quiz and class participation counted as part of their final grade.

** Students who get peer-to-peer grades below 3.8 (out of 5) due to their lack of participation in group work will be required to submit an essay to pass the course.

Program Learning Objectives

GEL25-Bachelor of

- General Management Skills

Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order

- Recognise the economic, legal and social concepts that define the context of different stakeholders in the context of international relations and global governance.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Quizzes/tests	In-class quiz	Ordinary round	30.00%
In-class analysis and discussion of issues	Participation in class discussions	Ordinary round	20.00%
Group project	Group Position Paper	Ordinary round	20.00%
Group project	In-class group debate	Ordinary round	25.00%
Peer evaluation	Peer-to-peer assessment	Ordinary round	5.00%

PROGRAMS

BBA15-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)

BBA15 Year 4 (Mandatory)

BBA15 Year 2 (Mandatory)

BBA15 Year 1 (Mandatory)

BBA15 Year 3 (Mandatory)

BBA20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)

BBA20 Year 1 (Mandatory)

BBA20 Year 3 (Mandatory)

BBA20 Year 4 (Mandatory)

BBA20 Year 2 (Mandatory)

BBE15-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)

BBE15 Year 4 (Optative)

BBE15 Year 2 (Optative)

BBE15 Year 3 (Optative)

BBE20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)

BBE20 Year 3 (Optative)

BBE20 Year 4 (Optative)

BBE20 Year 2 (Optative)

GEL25-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)

GEL25 Year 1 (Optative)

GEL25 Year 2 (Optative)

MUA23-Master in Professional Legal Practice and Procuring (Masters: MUA)

MUA23 Year 1 (Mandatory)