

**Introduction to Political Science**  
**POLS 2101A**  
**Jim Peterson**  
**Spring 2007**  
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This course serves as an introduction to Political Science as a field of inquiry. It is an Area E elective for any student and an Area F requirement for a Political Science major. The main structural focus of the course will be the eight principal specialties within Political Science itself. Foundation topics include political theory and methodology. Specialties that are very much a part of the American setting will encompass American politics, public law, and public administration. For those interested in politics beyond the shores of the United States, comparative politics and international relations should prove interesting. Finally, all the specialties flow into the eighth area of public policy. As you can see, some of these areas of study are quite practical and career-related, while others are more historical and/or theoretical. As we study each of the eight areas of political science, we will also pull in current events that occur in all parts of the world. These discussions will enable students to apply academic conclusions to analysis of some of the most troubling problems of the day.

There will be four graded requirements during the course, and they will be of equal value (25% of the final grade). They will all be exams, and the fourth one will be the non-cumulative final exam. Each exam will contain ten questions, and students will write a paragraph on each question. In most cases, they will be presenting a conclusion about a political problem and providing some evidence to support it. Factors such as attendance, class participation, and upward/downward progress in the grade will influence the final grade of those students who are caught between two grade levels. Incompletes will be given only in situations of personal or medical emergency. Students must notify the instructor ahead of time if circumstances prevent the taking of an exam at the scheduled time. Students needing the assistance of the Access Office should notify both that office and the instructor the first week of class. There is only one text for the course, and it is the third edition of *Political Science: An Overview of the Fields*, edited by Peterson, Allen, and Argyle

This is a time of tumult in both American and global politics. It will be fascinating to watch the new Democratic majorities begin to set part of the agenda in Congress this winter. The class will also keep an eye on the continuing challenges presented to the Bush Administration by civil strife in Iraq, instability in Afghanistan, simmering conflict in the Middle East, new criticisms from populist anti-American leaders in South America, and the provocations from countries on the verge of possessing nuclear technology. There are several huge elephants in the room that will provoke discussion on more than one occasion. One is the trade deficit with China, a deficit that is three times that with any other country. A second is the upcoming presidential election in 2008 and the early moves by potential candidates. All these factors require focus and create excitement.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1	Jan. 9, 11	Ancient Political Theories	Pages 1-12
2	Jan. 16, 18	Modern Political Theories	13-26
3	Jan. 23, 25	Methods of Analysis	27-58
4	Jan. 30, Feb. 1	<i>Exam Review</i> <i>Exam # 1</i>	
5	Feb. 6, 8	Sources of American Politics	59-80
6	Feb. 13, 15	Challenges in American Politics	81-98
7	Feb. 20, 22	Public Law and Legal Profession	99-130
8	Feb. 27, March 1	<i>Exam Review</i> <i>Exam # 2</i>	
9	March 6,8	Public Administration and Managers	131-158
10	March 20, 22	Comparing Political Systems	159-173
11	March 27, 29	Combining Political Systems	175-194
12	April 3, 5	<i>Exam Review</i> <i>Exam # 3</i>	
13	April 10, 12	Interactions among Nations	195-228
14	April 17, 19	Policy on the Domestic Front	231-238 257-261
15	April 24, 26	Policy on the International Front	239-256 264-265
16	April 30, May 4	<i>Exam Review</i> <i>Final Exam</i>	<i>8:00 to 10:00 am</i>

