

## SCOPE OF THE DISCIPLINE

POL 5023.27493 / Spring 2018

6:00 PM – 8:45 PM / Thurs

LAR 216



DR. RYAN KIGGINS

Office: LAR 102C

Office Hours: by appointment

E: rkiggins@uco.edu

P: 405-974-5543

---

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is *an analysis of the various fields of political science, as well as an assessment of the contributions of other disciplines and scientific approaches to the study of politics*. Students will gain substantive knowledge of the scope of political science as a social science in addition to critically assessing the extent to which political science can be properly characterized as science. Representative scholarship from the political science fields of political theory, American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and public administration will be relied upon to achieve course objectives. Last, students will grapple with the issue of crisis focusing on how political actors and institutions address or, fail to address, crises for the purpose of preparing students for future professional and academic endeavors.

This is a reading intensive course. Reading assignments will regularly exceed 200 pages per week. You should complete all assigned readings by the beginning of class on the date indicated on the course schedule.

Course prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission from course instructor.

Please note that the Political Science Department is committed to furthering the academic mission, vision, goals, values, and philosophy of the University community as outlined in its Academic Mission/Vision 2009.

See: <http://www.uco.edu/academicaffairs/MissionVision2009.pdf>.

This course directly incorporates the following Transformative Learning Goals:

- Discipline Knowledge – of the interaction among nation-states to establish order in anarchy while striving to advance their national interests as explained and described by international relations theories.
- Leadership – by critically examining the leadership styles of important actors working to establish international order through cooperation, as well as the challenges of cooperative processes.
- Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities – by requiring the critical analysis of issues related to international cooperation or conflict in a research paper or art project, and demonstrating the critical and creative thinking ability necessary to integrate course material, independent research, and international relations theories in the quest for deepened understanding of ourselves as political actors and the political institutions and collectivities one which we depend.
- Service Learning and Civic Engagement Activities – by acquiring the knowledge to become an informed voter, and the motivation to become an active participant in the political life of the national and global community.
- Global and Cultural Competencies – by examining the ways in which the state actors interact with peers and the global community to address common problems, and by examining how others perceive and deal with these challenges.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- E. H. Carr (2001). *The Twenty Years Crisis*. Palgrave: London. ISBN-13: 978-0061311222.
- Cramer, K. J. (2016). *The politics of resentment: Rural consciousness in Wisconsin and the rise of Scott Walker*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN-13: 9780226349114.
- Jared Diamond (2005). *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. New York: Viking Press. ISBN-13: 978-0143117001.
- Gattone, C. F. (2006). *The social scientist as public intellectual: critical reflections in a changing world*. Rowman & Littlefield. 9780742537934.
- Philip Howard (2015). *Pax Technica: How the Internet of Things May Set Us Free or Lock Us Up*. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0300199475.

- Thomas Kuhn (1960). *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. ISBN-13: 978-0226458083.
- Lewis, M. (2015). *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine*. WW Norton & Company. ISBN-13: 978-0393338829.
- O'Neill, D. (2016). *Edmund Burke and the conservative logic of empire* (Vol. 10). Univ of California Press. ISBN-13: 9780520287839.
- Slater, D. (2010). *Ordering power: Contentious politics and authoritarian leviathans in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0521165457.
- Singer, P. W., & Cole, A. (2015). *Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. ISBN-13: 978-0544705050.
- Tegmark, Max (2017). *Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. ISBN-13: 9781101946596.
- Other readings noted in course schedule are available on D2L.

Recommended Texts:

- W. Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White (1999). *The Elements of Style*. New York: Longman. ISBN-13: 978-0205309023
- Russell Bernard (2011). *Research Methods in Anthropology*. New York: Altamira. ISBN-13: 978-0759112421

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading Scale: A, 90 – 100; B, 80 – 89.9; C, 70 – 79.9; D, 60 – 69.9; F, 59.9 – 0

Evaluation: Class Participation 20%; Weekly Syntheses 30%; Seminar Paper 50%. Extra credit work is not allowed. Make up assignments are available only in exigent circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor.

Participation (20%): Students are expected to attend all class sessions, raise relevant questions in class, take copious notes, and be prepared to answer questions posed by the instructor to the student during lecture and discussion in class. Be prepared through doing the readings, discussing the readings with fellow students individually or in groups, and, if necessary, speaking with me during office hours or by appointment, for the purpose of further clarification. Texting, messaging, emailing, or otherwise engaging in activities that detract, distract, or disturb the class and prevent your full participation in class will negatively affect your course participation grade.

Weekly Syntheses (30%): Members of the learning community will arrive equipped with written syntheses of a chosen week's assigned readings (book and articles). Five syntheses must be submitted, through Dropbox on D2L, during the semester term. You may choose the week to submit a synthesis, however, your synthesis must be submitted by 11:00 PM, Wednesday.

Syntheses generally begin with a short one or two paragraph summary of main arguments from each reading, followed by an attempt to thread together the readings in relation to the week's topic (i.e., Political Theory), broader course themes, and past, current, and future course readings.

Syntheses must be 4 to 5 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 point font, one-inch margins, top, bottom, and sides of page. Syntheses longer than five-pages are not necessary, but may be helpful in terms of preparing for class discussions.

Be careful to submit one synthesis per dropbox. Dropboxes do not correspond to each week, instead corresponding to the total number of syntheses you must submit, during the course. It is your responsibility to track how many syntheses you have submitted, during the term. Note, that ALL written work submitted through D2L is scanned for plagiarized material.

Fundamentally, this course interrogates the idea of science, the application of the idea of science to the study of politics, and how political scientists apply the idea of science in their scholarship. Your challenge in each synthesis, is to demonstrate understanding of the contribution made by each reading / set of readings to each area we will interrogate; in addition to, assessing the merits of each scholarly work in relation to the idea of science. Most importantly, each weekly reading / set of readings represent a single contribution to our overarching conversation about political science qua science. You must situate weekly readings within this overarching conversation. On weeks, when multiple readings have been assigned, take care to note that two types of conversations are occurring: one conversation among the assigned weekly readings; and, the second is our overarching conversation about political science qua science.

Seminar Paper (50%): Each student will conduct original research into a topic of his or her choosing with the facilitator's approval. Research papers will flow from hypotheses developed during class discussions, and draw from a minimum of **fifteen** books, scholarly articles, government documents, personal interviews, or other **approved** sources, and incorporate appropriate references. Internet resources can be used, but as with all sources they must be cited properly. The paper will be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on the sides, top, and bottom. Your 18-20 page paper should be written in a consciously chosen and **approved** style (APA,

MLA, etc.), while observing the rules of correct spelling and sentence structure. **NUMBER YOUR PAGES!** Papers turned in late will be reduced in grade at the facilitator's discretion. This research paper should be treated as an exercise in developing analytical and critical skills, and as an opportunity to express research in the form of a reasoned, consistent argument.

Research topics (10% of Seminar Paper grade) must be distributed, in class, for peer feedback on **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Bring to class sufficient copies for all! Substantially finished drafts, listing source material, including literature and data, are due **March 28<sup>th</sup>** (25% of Seminar Paper Grade). Final submissions are due **April 30<sup>th</sup>** (65% of Seminar Paper Grade). The draft and final version must be submitted by, 11:59PM, on these dates through dropbox on D2L. Note, that ALL written work submitted through D2L is scanned for plagiarized material.

## COURSE POLICIES & OTHER DISCLOSURES

You are expected to attend each scheduled course period for the entire assigned time. However, the time you spend in class is only a portion of your expected course time commitment. For every hour you spend in class, it is expected that you will spend two hours outside of class in preparing for or critically examining the course material and content. This includes: reading the chapters, working on assignments, coordinating and working with group members, performing library research, and preparing for quizzes and exams. This expectation of time is the standard for all 3-credit courses at the University of Central Oklahoma. Please consider this time commitment when budgeting your time across the semester.

Late assignments are penalized according to the mercy (or lack thereof) of the instructor. Generally, I penalize a late assignment some measure of percentage points up to half the total possible grade for the assignment depending on how late a violator turned in the assignment. Deadline extensions will only be granted under special circumstances and only if requested prior to the deadline. For example, if you are observing a religious holiday that is in conflict with an assignment or exam deadline, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor prior to the assignment or exam deadline of any difficulty completing the assignment or exam on time, due to your religious observance.

Plagiarism: I abhor those who cheat and rip off the intellectual property and work product of others. Cheaters and plagiarists will be dealt with swiftly in accordance with the University of Central Oklahoma Academic Honor Code. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work, ideas, or thoughts of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. When in doubt, use a citation.

Electronic device use in class should be limited to note taking unless otherwise given permission by the course instructor. All mobile and / or electronic devices should be turned off prior to entering the classroom. Any inadvertent beep, jingle, ring or texting, instant messaging, emailing, or other unauthorized use of a mobile and / or electronic device in class will result in an immediate pop quiz for the entire class. Grading and course credit of the pop quiz will at the discretion of the instructor.

Institution Nondiscrimination Policy: Our institution does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability, and I concur fully with that commitment and expect my students to act in class in a manner that is consistent with tolerance, mutual respect, and the university nondiscrimination policy.

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their request by contacting Disability Support Services at 405/974-2516 or, in person at the DSS office located in the Nigh University Center, Room 309.

Students experiencing an emotional or psychological issue that may affect course performance are encouraged to contact the Student Counseling Center, located in the Nigh University Center, Room 402 or, by phone at 405/972-2215.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures: A map of this floor is posted in the main hallway marking the evacuation route and the Designated Rescue Area. This is an area where emergency service personnel will go first to look for individuals who need assistance in exiting the building. Students who may need assistance should identify themselves to the teaching faculty.

Emails received by 11 AM, M-F will be returned by 5 PM of the date of receipt, under normal conditions. Weekend emails may or may not receive a response until the following Monday.

Note: Course requirements, readings, policies, or schedule may change given the exigencies of the semester. My responsibility is to keep you informed of any changes and I will do so, if warranted.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **PART I. Science of Politics and The Politics of Science**

- 11-Jan Week 1 **Course Introduction / Organization**
- 18-Jan Week 2 **What is Science?**  
Thomas Kuhn (1960). *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. ISBN-13: 9780226458083
- 25-Jan Week 3 **Social Science in Society**  
Gattone, C. F. (2006). *The social scientist as public intellectual: critical reflections in a changing world*. Rowman & Littlefield. 9780742537934
- 1-Feb Week 4 **Political Science qua Science**  
Smith, M. (1886). Introduction: the domain of political science. *Political Science Quarterly*, 1(1), 1-8.  
Grofman, B. (2007). Toward a science of politics? *European political science*, 6(2), 143-155.  
Kaufman-Osborn, T. V. (2006). Dividing the domain of political science: On the fetishism of subfields. *Polity*, 38(1), 41-71.  
Jackson, PT. 2015. Must International Studies be a Science? *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 43(3).  
Salter, M. B. (2015). # sorrynotsorry: A Well-meaning Response to PTJ 1. *Millennium*, 43(3), 970-974.
- 8-Feb Week 5 **The Study of Politics**  
Plato, *The Republic*, "The Allegory of the Cave," Chapter XXV, pp. 227-235.  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau. 1750. "Discourse on the Sciences and Arts (First Discourse)."  
Isaiah Berlin (1996). "On Political Judgement," *NY Review of Books* (Nov. 1996).  
Gabriel Almond & Stephen Genco (1977), "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics." *World Politics*, 29(4). Pgs. 489-522.  
Taylor, Charles (1969) – "Neutrality in Political Science," in P. Laslett and W. Runciman, eds., *Philosophy, Politics, and Society*, Blackwell, pp. 25-57  
Hardin, G. (1969). THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS. *Ekistics*, 27(160), 168-170
- 15-Feb Week 6 **American Politics**  
Cramer, K. J. (2016). *The politics of resentment: Rural consciousness in Wisconsin and the rise of Scott Walker*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN-13: 9780226349114
- 22-Feb Week 7 **Comparative Politics**  
Slater, D. (2010). *Ordering power: Contentious politics and authoritarian leviathans in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 9780521165457
- 1-Mar Week 8 **International Relations**  
E. H. Carr (1939). *The Twenty Years Crisis*. Palgrave: London. ISBN-13: 9780061311222
- 8-Mar Week 9 **Political Theory**  
O'Neill, D. (2016). *Edmund Burke and the conservative logic of empire* (Vol. 10). Univ of California Press. ISBN-13: 9780520287839
- 15-Mar Week 10 **Spring Break**

## **Part II. Crisis, War, Technology, and Democracy**

- 22-Mar Week 11 **What contributes to society success or failure?**  
Jared Diamond (2005). *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. New York: Viking Press. ISBN-13: 9780143117001
- 29-Mar Week 12 **How does an economy experience crisis?**  
Lewis, M. (2015). *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine*. WW Norton & Company. ISBN-13: 9780393338829
- 5-Apr Week 13 **Technology and War**  
Shaw, I. G. (2016). *Predator empire: drone warfare and full spectrum dominance*. University of Minnesota Press. ISBN-13: 9780816694747
- 12-Apr Week 14 **(Near) Future war**  
Singer, P. W., & Cole, A. (2015). *Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. ISBN-13: 9780544705050
- 19-Apr Week 15 **Democracy and Technology**  
Philip Howard (2015). *Pax Technica: How the Internet of Things May Set Us Free or Lock Us Up*. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN-13: 9780300199475
- 26-Apr Week 16 **The future of society**  
Tegmark, Max (2017). *Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf ISBN-13: 9781101946596
- 30-Apr Week 17 **FINALS Week**