
**National Research University Higher School of Economics
School of World Economy and International Affairs**



**Undergraduate Programme
in International Relations
(Parallel Degree from HSE and UoL)**

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Course Syllabus
(Fall 2019)**

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Department of Political Science

Introduction to Political Science

Course Syllabus

Course Description

Abstract and Learning Objectives:

The working language of the course is English. The main aims are to:

- introduce students to the main differences between democratic and non-democratic regimes, and between different models of democratic government
- introduce students to how political preferences are formed, how voters behave, how parties compete, how interest groups form, and how electoral systems shape behaviour
- explain how political institutions work, such as presidential and parliamentary systems, single-party and coalition governments, federalism, and courts and central banks
- explain how political behaviour and institutions shape policy outcomes, such as economic performance, public spending, and immigration and environmental policies
- prepare students for further courses in political science.

Methods of Instruction: lectures, seminars.

Grading System

The formula for calculating the final grade is the following:

$$G_{final} = 0,20 * G_{UoL\text{written exam}} + 0,40 * 2MOCK\text{ exam} + 0,40 * G_{seminar}$$

- a. The UoL exam (20%): The final exam at the end of this course will make up 20% of your final grade for the course at HSE.
- b. Two written exams (40%): There will be a written examination at the end of each module. The exams will each make up 20% of your final grade. The exams will be evaluated according to the completeness and correctness of the answers provided.
- c. Class attendance and participation (40%): Students' participation in class discussions is assessed according to the frequency of their participation, and their ability to understand and analyze basic concepts.

Examination Type

The UoL written final exam. Two MOCK written exams at the end of each module.

Main Readings

There is one textbook that we will use in this class:

- Clark, W.R., M. Golder and S. Nadenichek Golder, *Principles of Comparative Politics*, Washington DC: CQ Press, 2017.

Other readings that are assigned will be accessible to the students via the online link provided by the instructor.

Course Plan

Course Title				
Week#	Topic	Seminar Questions	Readings	
			Required	Optional
MODULE 1				
SECTION A. THINKING LIKE A POLITICAL SCIENTIST				
1	<p>What is political science?</p> <p>Main approaches in the field Methods in political science</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is political science? • History of the discipline and subfields • Rational choice theory • Institutionalism • Qualitative methods • Quantitative methods 	<p>Seminar 1: Hall and Taylor, 'Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms'. Textbook, Chapters 2 & 3</p> <p>Seminar 2: Mahoney and Goertz, A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research.</p>	
2	<p>Defining and measuring democracy</p> <p>Explaining democracy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is democracy? • Measuring democracy • Explaining democracy • Case studies of democratization 	<p>Seminar 3: Textbook, Chapter 5 Schmitter and Karl, 'What democracy is... and is not'</p> <p>Seminar 4 Inglehart and Welzel, 'Changing mass priorities: The link between modernization and democracy. North, D.R. and B.R. Weingast</p>	

			‘Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England’, Journal of Economic History 49(4) 1989, pp.803–832. Textbook, Chapters 6 & 7	
SECTION B. ANALYSING POLITICAL BEHAVIOR				
3	Political preferences & voting behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference formation • Left-right dimension • Mapping political preferences • Cleavages and voting behavior • Strategic voting 	<p>Seminar 5: Benoit, K. and M. Laver, “Party Policy in Modern Democracies”, Chapter 6. Kitschelt, H., “Class structure and social democratic party strategy”.</p> <p>Seminar 6: Evans, Geoffrey. "The continued significance of class voting." Downs, A. “An economic theory of political action in a democracy.”</p>	
4	Electoral systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of electoral systems • Political consequences of electoral systems 	<p>Seminar 7: Textbook, Chapter 13. Carey, J.M. and S. Hix ‘The Electoral Sweet Spot: Low-Magnitude Proportional Electoral Systems’, American Journal of Political Science 55(2) 2011, pp.383–97.</p> <p>Seminar 8: Carey, J.M. and A. Reynolds ‘Comparing the Arab Revolts: the Impact of Election Systems’. Carey, J.M. and M. Shugart</p>	

			‘Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote’, Electoral Studies 14(4) 1995, pp.417–39.	
5	Political parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are political parties? • Measuring the number of parties • Explaining party behavior • Measuring party positions 	<p>Seminar 9: Textbook, Chapter 14. Lipset, S.M. ‘The Indispensability of Political Parties’ Downs, A. ‘An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy’</p> <p>Seminar 10: Katz and Mair, The emergence of the cartel party.</p>	
6	Social movements and interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social movements or interest groups? • Dahl’s pluralist theory and Olson’s logic of collective action • Alternatives to pluralism • Political explanations for interest group influence 	<p>Seminar 11: Tarrow, S. ‘Social Movements in Contentious Politics: A Review Article’ Dahl, ‘Who governs?’, Chapter 1. Olson, ‘The logic of collective action’, Chapter 1.</p> <p>Seminar 12: McFarland, A.S. ‘Neopluralism’. Thies and Porsche, ‘The political economy of agricultural protection’.</p>	
SECTION C. ANALYSING POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS				
7	Regime types, agenda setters and veto players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majoritarian and consensus democracies • Parliamentary, presidential and mixed systems • Political implications of regime types 	<p>Seminar 13: Textbook: Chapter 16, Part 1 “Majoritarian or Consensus Democracy” (pp. 701-725) Lijphart, A. ‘Patterns of Democracy’, chapters 1-3. Tsebelis, G. ‘Decision Making in</p>	

			<p>Political Systems’.</p> <p>Seminar 14: Textbook: Chapter 12, Part 1 (pp. 453-458) and Chapter 16, Parts 2-3-4 (change pages pp. 726-780 805-826). Linz, J.J. ‘The Perils of Presidentialism’. Cheibub, J.A. and F. Limongi ‘Democratic Institutions and Regime Survival’</p>	
MODULE 2				
8	Coalition and single-party government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types and patterns of government • Theories of coalition formation • The consequences of single-party and coalition government 	<p>Seminar 15: Textbook: Chapter 12, Parts 2 and 3. (pp. 458-499) Martin and Stevenson. ‘Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies’ Lupia and Strom. ‘Coalition Termination and the Strategic Timing of Legislative Elections’</p> <p>Seminar 16: Huber and Bingham-Powell. ‘Congruence Between Citizens and Policy Makers in Two Visions of Liberal Democracy’ Tsebelis, G. ‘Veto Players and Law Production in Parliamentary Democracies’</p>	
9	Federalism and decentralization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vertical designs of government • What states are federal? 	<p>Seminar 17: Textbook: Chapter 15, Part 1 (pp. 645-661)</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why decentralize? • The consequences of decentralization 	<p>Rodden, J.A. 'Federalism'. Elazar, D.J. 'Contrasting Unitary and Federal Systems'.</p> <p>Seminar 18: Erk, J. and L. Anderson 'The Paradox of Federalism: Does Self-Rule Accommodate or Exacerbate Ethnic Divisions?' Oates, W.E. 'An Essay on Fiscal Federalism'. Weingast, B.R. 'The Economic Role of Political institutions: Market-Preserving Federalism and Economic Development'.</p>	
10	Delegation of power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-elected institutions and democracies • The principal-agent framework • Independent courts • Independent central banks 	<p>Seminar 19: Hix, S., B. Høyland and N. Vivyan 'From doves to hawks: A spatial analysis of voting in the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England'. Steunenberg, B. 'Courts, Cabinet and Coalition Parties: The Politics of Euthanasia in a Parliamentary Setting'. Thatcher, M. and A. Stone Sweet 'Theory and Practice of Delegation to Non-Majoritarian Institutions'.</p> <p>Seminar 20: Bernhard, W.T. 'A Political Explanation of Variations in Central</p>	

			Bank Independence'. Gibson, J., G. Caldeira and V. Baird 'On the Legitimacy of National High Courts'.	
SECTION D. ASSESSING POLITICAL OUTCOMES				
11	Economic performance and equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of economic policies • Patterns of economic performance • The politics of economic performance • Patterns of redistributive public spending • The politics of public spending 	Seminar 21: Alesina, A. and E.L. Glaeser Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference. Chapters 2, 4 and 6. Persson, T. And G. Tabellini 'Constitutional Rules and Fiscal Policy Outcomes' Hall, P.A. and D. Soskice 'Varieties of Capitalism', Chapter 1. Seminar 22: Blais, A., D. Blake and S. Dion 'Do Parties Make a Difference? Parties and the Size of Government in Liberal Democracies' Ha, E. 'Globalization, Veto Players, and Welfare Spending' Iverson, T. and D. Soskice 'Distribution and Redistribution: The Shadow of the Nineteenth Century'	
12	Satisfaction with democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is satisfaction with democracy? • Patterns of satisfaction with democracy • Explanations of variations in satisfaction with democracy 	Seminar 23: Linde, J. and J. Ekman 'Satisfaction with Democracy: A Note on a Frequently Used Indicator in Comparative Politics' Canache, D., J.J. Mondak and M.A. Seligson 'Meaning and Measurement in Cross-National Research on	

			<p>Satisfaction with Democracy’ Easton, D. ‘A re-assessment of the concept of political support’</p> <p>Seminar 24: Anderson, C.J. and C.A. Guillory ‘Political Institutions and Satisfaction with Democracy’ Aarts, K. and J. Thomassen ‘Satisfaction with Democracy: Do Institutions Matter?’ Wagner, A.F., F. Schneider and M. Halla ‘The quality of institutions and satisfaction with democracy in Western Europe – a panel analysis’</p>	
13	Protecting the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • International and national environmental policy • Explaining environmental policies 	<p>Seminars 25-26: Neumayer, E. ‘Are left-wing party strength and corporatism good for the environment?’ Ostrom, E., J. Burger, C.B. Field, R.B Norgaard and D. Policansky ‘Revisiting the Commons’ Neumayer, E. ‘Do Democracies Exhibit Stronger International Environmental Commitment?’</p>	

