

POLS 110

Introduction to Political Science

3 Credits • Fall, 2006

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 to 6:55

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WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

Catalog Description

Introduction to politics as a human activity. Discusses theories, ideologies, systems, and processes of politics. (3 hrs. lect.) WCC: DS

Student Learning Outcomes

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Identify and describe the structure of political issues and political relationships.
2. Clearly explain and evaluate complex political thought and the positions of several thinkers in political theory.
3. Examine and interpret contemporary political issues through the application of political theory.
4. Relate media, technology, and language to the formation and maintenance of the political order.
5. Carefully justify one's own political position.

Course Content

Concepts or Topics

- **Power**
- **Manipulation**
- **Appearance and Reality**
- **Happiness**
- **Political Legitimacy**
- **Class**
- **Race**
- **Media**
- **Misinformation**
- **Language and Understanding**
- **Visual Interpretation**
- **Rhetoric**

Skills or Competencies

- 1. Understand, analyze, assess and use subject-specific concepts and arguments.**
- 2. Grasp, interpret, and critique relevant texts.**
- 3. Analyze and evaluate contemporary political problems with critical reasoning, logical arguments and evaluative concepts**
- 4. Interpret contemporary political problems by appealing to social science methods and philosophical categories.**
- 5. Clearly, concisely, and carefully express ideas and opinions orally and in writing.**

Course Content

Classes will combine discussion and lecture. Because of the heavy emphasis on discussions, the success of the class relies on the involvement of every one of the course participants.

The course will introduce basic arguments concerning the role of information in a democratic society. What kinds of information are valuable? What value does information have? Why do we want information anyway? It seems that most of the information we get is pretty useless (imagine not reading the newspaper for a month - what would you lose?). What is the relationship between information and politics? What is at stake in the way that information occurs in our society? What kinds of bias are there? Can there be an unbiased account?

The course combines a philosophical analysis with a concern for the material conditions (the media) on which political debate depends. It should be noted that "media" is not only television and newspapers, but includes anything we communicate through. Different kinds of media have different strengths and weaknesses. What kinds of information can a particular media communicate? How do different media organize information differently? How do media affect how people look at the world?

Course Tasks

This is a reading intensive class. Students must come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it. Many of the readings are not easy, and so students should expect to have to read them several times to understand them well.

Students will write two papers (roughly 3 to 5 pages), which critically address topics discussed in class. The paper topics will focus on class readings and students will be evaluated for critical analysis and clarity of thought. For late papers, a full letter grade will be deducted for every weekday (not class) that the paper is late.

The midterm and final exams will be held in class. The final exam will be held during the exam period.

Assessment Tasks and Grading

Students will write two papers (roughly 3 to 5 pages), which critically address topics discussed in class. The paper topics will focus on class readings and students will be evaluated for critical analysis and clarity of thought. For late papers, a full letter grade will be deducted for every weekday (not class) that the paper is late.

The midterm and final exams will be held in class. The final exam will be held during the exam period.

Grading

Papers (2 papers, 20% each)	40% total
Exam (midterm and final, 20% each)	40% total
Attendance and Quality of Participation	20%

Learning Resources

Textbooks

George Orwell. *Animal Farm* (NAL: 0-451-526341: \$7.05)

John Berger. *Ways of Seeing* (Penguin: 0-14-013515-4: \$14.00)

Neil Postman. *Amusing Ourselves to Death* (Penguin: 0-14-009438-5: \$14.00).

Aldous Huxley. *Brave New World* (Harper: 0060929871: \$13.95).

Herbert Marcuse. *One Dimensional Man* (Beacon Press: 0807014176: \$17.00)

Various. *Communist Manifesto and Other Revolutionary Writings* (Dover: 0486424650)

Additional readings will be handed out in class or made available via the internet. Students must check their UH email accounts on a regular basis.

Additional Information

Statement Regarding Academic Integrity

Students are required to adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity include cheating, plagiarism, and complicity in academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to be aware of behavior that constitute academic dishonesty. We take these policies very seriously; so, if we find a student to be in violation of academic integrity, we will notify the department chairperson and the appropriate dean, the result of which may be expulsion from the college.

Paper Writing and the Learning Center

The Learning Center provides excellent resources to help you succeed in this class. They can help you to develop, organize, and clearly compose your papers. Insofar as paper writing accounts for a large percentage of your final grade, we would highly recommend taking advantage of this resource. We are also available for assistance. Our schedule is flexible, so we can always arrange a time to meet if you cannot stop by during office hours.

Pols 110 - Spring, 2006 Course Outline

Tuesday, September 5 - Introduction, Plato's Myth of the Cave

Thursday, September 7 - Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, Chapters 1 and 2

Tuesday, September 12 - Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, Chapters 3 and 4

Thursday, September 14 - Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, Chapters 5 and 6

Tuesday, September 19 - Orwell, *Animal Farm*

Thursday, September 21 - Orwell, *Animal Farm*

Tuesday, September 26 - Orwell, "Politics and the English Language"

Thursday, September 28 - Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (handout)
paper #1 due

Tuesday, October 3 - Thomas Jefferson, in *Revolutionary Writings*, pages 41 to 55

Thursday, October 5 - Thomas Paine, in *Revolutionary Writings*, pages 56 to 62

Tuesday, October 10 - Karl Marx, in *Revolutionary Writings*, pages 123 to 151

Thursday, October 12 - Review for Midterm

Tuesday, October 17 - Midterm (in class)

Thursday, October 19 - Huxley, *Brave New World*

Tuesday, October 24 - Huxley, *Brave New World*

Thursday, October 26 - Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man*, Introduction

Tuesday, October 31 - Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man*, Chapter 1

Thursday, November 2 - Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man*, Chapter 4

Tuesday, November 7 - Election Day - No Class

Thursday, November 9 - Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man*, Chapter 9

Tuesday, November 14 - Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man*, Chapter 9 (continued)

Thursday, November 16 - Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Introduction, Chapter 1

Tuesday, November 21 - Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Chapters 2, 3 and 4
--- paper #2 due

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving - no class

Tuesday, November 28 - Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Chapters 5, 6 and 7

Thursday, November 30 - Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Chapters 8 and 9

Tuesday, December 5 - Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Chapters 10 and 11

Thursday, December 7 - Review and Conclusion

Tuesday, December 12 - 5:30 to 7:20 - Final Exam