



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII
WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Ko'olau

POLS 110, Introduction to Political Science

Fall 2024

3 Credits | CRN 64476

Windward Community College Mission Statement

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide the Ko'olau region of O'ahu and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

Instructor Information

How to Contact Your Instructor

John Rivers

Office: N/A

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 in LC3 or virtually by appointment

Email: jrive29@hawaii.edu

ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/96430439789?pwd=GKJ7Ujip8Rs4ti6kvIRfTahhaHKOWE.1>

About

Welcome to POLS 110! In addition to the student learning outcomes listed below, you can expect to learn about the foundations of political theories, the interplay between citizens and their governments, why countries have different political systems, how to present your ideas factually and persuasively, and how to apply all that you've learned to your life and the world around you. Regardless of the career path you ultimately choose, political science provides a strong foundation for understanding the world, fostering critical thinking, enhancing communication skills, promoting civic engagement, and preparing for diverse and meaningful careers. My hope is that this course will change the way you view politics. Rather than viewing the world of politics as idiosyncratic events, it will demonstrate that politics is a system. It will teach you how to study the system and make you a more thoughtful participant in it.

I am very happy to meet with you outside of class time. Whether it be to discuss concerns about the course, remediation with the material, or simply to engage further with the topic, please feel free to visit me during my office hours. If you are unable to meet during my office hours listed at the top of this syllabus, please email me at jrive29@hawaii.edu to set up a time to talk. **Direct email is the best way to reach me. Do NOT use the Lulima email function.** While I do my best

to respond to emails as quickly and thoroughly as possible, please expect a response within 24 hours and plan accordingly.

Alternate Contact Information

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

- Location: Alaka'i 121
- Phone: (808) 235-7422

Course Information

Catalog Description

Introduction to politics as a human activity. Discusses theories, ideologies, systems, and processes of politics.

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other than Class Times

There are currently no activities for this course planned outside of regularly scheduled class time.

Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, students can expect to attain the following outcomes:

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.

Required Materials

We will primarily be using two textbooks for this course:

1. "Introduction to Political Science – A Basic Framework" by Jesse Cragwall. This textbook is provided free as an Open Education Resource (OER) which means that it is free for you to use. You can either read it online or download it as a PDF using the following link.

<https://oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/106094/student/437013>. The link to the textbook can also be found in the "Resources" tab of Lulima.

2. "An Introduction to Politics" by T.M. Sell. This textbook is also provided at no cost through LibreTexts. You can either read it online or download it as a PDF using the following link

[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Political_Science_and_Civics/An_Introduction_to_Politics_\(Sell\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Political_Science_and_Civics/An_Introduction_to_Politics_(Sell)). The link to the textbook can also be found in the "Resources" tab of Lulima.

To supplement the information in the textbooks, additional readings will be assigned periodically over the course of the semester. These reading assignments are noted below in the schedule section of the syllabus and are available for viewing/download in the "Resources" tab of Lulima.

Additional readings may be assigned occasionally throughout the semester.

Course Format

General – This is a 16-week, 3-credit face-to-face course. In order to achieve the learning goals of the course, students should expect to set aside an average of 6 hours each week for reading, preparing for class sessions, and working on papers and other assignments.

Schedule – A detailed course schedule is provided below. I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule at any time. If changes are made, you will be informed through email and verbally in class. Adjustments will be made based on how quickly we work through material.

Course Technology

Lulima Learning Management System

- [Lulima \(Sakai\) Accessibility](#)
- Lulima will be unavailable daily from 3:00 am-4:00 am HST for server backup and maintenance.
- Lulima automatically logs you out *if it does not detect activity for two hours*. A warning message will appear, notifying you of the lack of activity. Activity is defined as clicking a button in Lulima, such as "Save Draft" or "Next" (in a test), clicking on a course tab, or taking an action that sends information to the server.

Other Technology

Review the privacy/security policies before using the technologies we will be using in this class. Contact me if you would like to discuss the use of alternate options or technologies.

- [Google Docs](#) is used to create the Course Design Document and rubrics ([accessibility statement](#), [privacy policy](#))
- [YouTube](#) is used for delivering some of the course content ([accessibility statement](#), [privacy policy](#))
- [Zoom](#) is used for the Synchronous Sessions and virtual office ([accessibility statement](#), [privacy policy](#))

Participation Verification

Campuses are required by federal regulations to verify the participation of students in their classes. In accordance with [Executive Policy 7.209](#), all students in the University of Hawai'i system are required to establish "participation" to ensure that they are not dropped from their class(es). Students who fail to participate by the late registration period for a class will be administratively dropped from that class. Students may also be dropped from dependent prerequisite and/or corequisite classes if both courses do not establish participation.

Grading Policy

Course Grades – Your grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

- A = 1000 – 900 points (percentage of 90 – 100%)
- B = 899.9 – 800 points (percentage of 80 – 89.9%)
- C = 799.9 – 700 points (percentage of 70 – 79.9%)
- D = 699.9 – 600 points (percentage of 60 – 69.9%)
- F = Below 600 points (percentage of 0 – 59.9%)

Specific details on how each assignment will be graded are included in the "Assessment Tasks and Grading" section below. You may view your grades at any time using the "Gradebook" feature of Lulima.

Grading Rubric – I have provided a grading rubric for papers and essay question answers. It is available in the "Resources" section of Lulima and provides a general overview of the criteria that I will use to grade papers and examinations.

A Note About Grades - I realize that grades likely matter to you very much. To maximize your chances of getting a good grade, I recommend that you keep up with the reading, attend class regularly, and submit quality work in a timely fashion. The two exams have been designed in a way that rewards those who have both done the reading and attended class.

Assessment Tasks and Grading

Class Participation (15%/150 points)

This course involves thoughtful and active participation in class discussions. Our class discussions are an excellent way of demonstrating that you have read and understand the assigned reading, improving your speaking skills, and providing you with experience in developing a convincing argument and then supporting your position with well-reasoned analysis supported by evidence. Your class participation grade will be determined by your attendance, how often you contribute to class discussions, and the quality of your contributions. In addition, you will be required to write a short introductory paragraph describing a bit about yourself and what you hope to gain from this course. This paragraph will be due via the corresponding Assignment tab in Lulima by **Thursday, August 29th at 2:44 PM**. We will discuss my expectations for this assignment and class discussions in greater detail on the first day of class. If you are uncomfortable speaking up in class, please consider this section an opportunity to grow and push yourself to contribute to the discussion. Feel free to come chat with me during office hours if you are having trouble participating.

Quizzes, Article Paragraphs, and Research Design Paper Topic Submission (10%/100 points)

****Important note**** This grade item will be calculated as a running tally of total points, **NOT** as an average of the individual quizzes/assignments. In other words, some graded tasks in this section are worth more points than others and your final score will be your total points earned out of the total possible points.

Quizzes (Four quizzes/10 points each/ 40 points total)

In general, quizzes will be closed-book and administered during class time. Quizzes will consist primarily of multiple choice and short essay questions designed to ensure your understanding of the material that we have covered in class as well as to give you an opportunity to practice answering the type of questions that will appear on the midterm and final examinations. The exception to this is the Syllabus Review Quiz which will be taken via Lulima. All quizzes are noted in the "Assignments Due" column of the course schedule below.

Article Paragraphs (three paragraphs/15 points each/45 total points) **

****Important note – Extra Credit Opportunity**** Students may complete no more than two additional article paragraphs for up to 30 extra credit points.

The purpose of this assignment is to help familiarize yourself with current political issues, become a critical consumer of information, apply the concepts that you have learned in this class to real-world issues, and to write concisely, accurately, and persuasively. I will provide you with a list of several topics to choose from in the "Resources" tab of Lulima. For each assignment, you will choose a topic and then choose a position as it relates to that topic. You will then find two articles from credible sources relating to that topic – one article in support of your position and one article in opposition to your position. You will then write a paragraph in which you...

- (A) State your position on the topic
- (B) Provide two to three pieces of supporting evidence from one of your chosen articles
- (C) Provide a counter argument supported by evidence from the other article
- (D) Drawing upon the evidence contained in the articles and the material we covered in class, offer an analysis of/justification for your position.

Paragraphs are due as specified in the course schedule below via the “Assignments” tab in Lulima.

Up to two additional paragraphs may be submitted for extra credit at any time **prior to 11:59 PM, Friday, 06 December, 2024.**

Research Design Paper Topic Submission (15 points)

You are required to submit your proposed Research Design Paper Topic **prior to class on September 12th, 2024** via the corresponding Assignment tab in Lulima. This will allow me to provide you with feedback early enough in the research/writing process to ensure that you are on the right track. Therefore, the earlier you submit your topic proposal, the better off you will be. Please note that you will receive full credit if you (a) submit your topic proposal prior to the deadline and (b) have made a reasonable effort in formulating your topic. You will not be penalized if I suggest modifications or improvements.

Research Design Paper (20%/200 points)

As specified above, all students must submit their topic for approval by **Thursday, September 12th prior to class** via the corresponding Assignment tab in Lulima. The research design paper itself must be submitted via the corresponding Assignment tab in Lulima by **Tuesday, October 1st, 2024 at 2:44 PM.**

You will first choose a political issue, problem, or question that interests you. You will then utilize the scientific method by describing a problem as it relates to an independent variable causing a change in the dependent variable. More information about the paper will be discussed in class and in Chapter 2 of the textbook. In general, papers will include 1) an introduction, 2) literature review and analysis of the problem, 3) hypothesis and theory, 4) an explanation of how one would conduct research related to the chosen topic, 5) conclusion and implications section. **Please note that you will not be required to conduct the actual research.**

Format/Requirements for Research Design Papers

The final paper will consist of 1,500-2,500 words (double-spaced, not including references). Papers that do not meet the length requirement or include “filler” will be penalized.

Papers must include a title page and bibliography page.

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, and thoroughly proofread for spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors.

Papers must have 1-inch margins and be written in 12-point Times New Roman typeface.

Pages are to be numbered in the bottom center of each page starting on the first page of text (not on the title page).

Research papers must include a bibliography in the MLA format with in-text citations. They must employ at least six (5) sources in total. A minimum of three (2) of those sources must be academic sources such as academic books and journal articles. The other three sources may be non-academic sources (magazines, newspapers, etc.). Websites such as Wikipedia, Ask.com, and various Encyclopedia sites may not be used at all. Citations are necessary for:

1. Direct quotations from other authors
2. Paraphrasing of other authors
3. Any information (facts, lines of argument, analysis, etc.) that is not common knowledge or the result of your own experience or thought.

Constitution Paper (20%/200 points)

The autocratic People's Democratic Republic of Rivers (PDRR) has decided to redesign its institutional structure and implement democracy. You are placed in charge of the constitutional design committee and have control over the institutional design the country will adopt. Your task is to design a constitutional framework for this new country. The paper will be judged on its ability to incorporate general theory as a justification for the institutional choices made. (You may write this paper as an essay, as an actual Constitution, or as a letter proposing your ideas, but the paper should be in paragraph form no matter the writing style you choose.)

The following institutional choices must be made and justified in your Constitution paper:

Executive: Will the country follow a presidential, parliamentary, or semi-presidential system? Why? What are the benefits and drawbacks to the system you have selected?

Legislative: What sort of legislature will the country have? What kinds of powers will it have in relation to the other institutions?

Electoral system: What kind of electoral system will the country adopt? Why? Is there a particular type of sub-system you would like to implement? What will the ramifications of the system be for political party competition in the country? What are the implications for mass political participation?

Political Party System: How will the party system of the new country be designed? How will party competition be organized? i.e. along ethnic lines, class lines, gender, occupation, ideological beliefs? What will serve as the major dividing lines in society that party competition will reflect?

(Note that the Judicial system is not a requirement.)

Papers should be 1,500 – 2,000 words in length and are due via the appropriate Assignments tab in Lualima by **Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 11:59 PM**. You are also encouraged to consult with me about the development of your paper if you have any questions.

Examinations (35%/350 points)

There are two scheduled exams for this course, a midterm and a final.

Midterm Exam (150 points) - The midterm exam is closed book and will contain multiple choice questions, short answers to terminology (terms emphasized in the reading and in lecture) and short essays.

Final Exam (200 points) – The final exam will consist primarily of essay questions that will require you to synthesize, integrate, and apply the political science knowledge you have acquired over the course of the semester. You will be allowed to bring one 8 ½" by 11" piece of paper into the final exam with any notes that you would like (front and back). This exam will be cumulative meaning it will include information from the entire semester.

Weekly Assignments

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments Due
1	8/27/24	Course Overview Syllabus Review	Read Course Syllabus Ensure access to Laulima
	8/29/24	Part 1 – The Basics An Introduction	Read Cragwall Ch. 1 Complete Quiz 1 (Syllabus Review) and submit Intro Paragraph in Laulima prior to class (2:45 PM)
2	9/3/24	The “Science” of Political Science	Read Cragwall Ch. 2
	9/5/24	The Scientific Method and Politics Research Design Paper Overview	Read Handout 1
3	9/10/24	Foundational Terms and Concepts	Read Cragwall Ch. 3
	9/12/24	Part 2 - Political Theory Socrates and Plato	Read Cragwall Ch. 4 (Socrates & Plato) Research Design Paper Topic Due Prior to Class (2:45 PM) Quiz 2
4	9/17/24	Aristotle and Machiavelli	Read Cragwall Ch. 4 (Aristotle) and Cragwall Ch. 5 (Through Machiavelli) Read Handout 2 Article Paragraph 1 Due Prior to Class (2:45 PM)

	9/19/24	Hobbes, Locke, & Rousseau	Read Cragwall Ch. 5 (Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau) Read Handout 3
5	9/24/24	Jefferson and Madison	Read Cragwall (remainder of Ch. 5) Read Handout 4
	9/26/24	Political Ideologies Liberalism and Alternatives to Liberalism	Read Sell Ch. 3
6	10/1/24	Review	Research Design Paper Due Prior to Class (2:45 PM)
	10/3/24	**Midterm Exam**	None
7	10/8/24	**Fall Break - No Class**	None
	10/10/24	**Fall Break - No Class**	None
8	10/15/24	Part 3 - Types of Governments Democracies	Read Sell Ch. 4
	10/17/24	Non -Democracies	Read Cragwall Ch. 8 Article Paragraph 2 Due Prior to Class (2:45 PM)
9	10/22/24	Elections	Read Sell Ch. 6.2 Quiz 3
	10/24/24	Political Parties Constitution Paper Overview	Read Sell 6.3
10	10/29/24	Legislatures	Read Sell Ch. 7.1
	10/31/24	Executives	Read Sell Ch. 7.2

11	11/5/24	Election Day	*TBD*
	11/7/24	Public Policy and Administration (The Process of Governing)	Read Cragwall Ch. 9 Article Paragraph 3 Due Prior to Class (2:45 PM)
12	11/12/24	Part 5 – The People Side of Politics Political Culture	Read Sell Ch. 5.1 Quiz 4
	11/14/24	The Media	Read Sell Ch. 5.2
13	11/19/24	The Media (continued)	Read Handout 6
	11/21/24	Interest Groups	Read Sell Ch. 5.3
14	11/26/24	Part 6 – How Governments Interact Global Perspectives	Read Cragwall Ch. 12 Constitution Paper Due at 11:59 PM
	11/28/24	**Thanksgiving Break – No Class**	None
15	12/3/24	War, Conflict. And Terrorism	Read Cragwall Ch. 14
	12/5/24	Review	Extra Credit Article Paragraphs Due By 11:59 PM
16	12/10/24	**Final Exam**	None
32	12/12/24	Course Wrap-Up	None

Academic Integrity

Work submitted by a student must be the student's own work. The work of others should be explicitly marked, such as through the use of quotes or summarizing with reference to the original author.

In this class, students who commit academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism will have the following consequence(s):

Students will receive a failing grade for plagiarized assignments.

All cases of academic dishonesty are referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

[Windward CC Student Conduct Information](#)

[UH System Student Conduct Policy EO 7.208](#)

In addition, students are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT) on any assignment for this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without assistance from AI. Use of AI will be treated as a form of academic dishonesty akin to plagiarism or cheating.

Student Responsibilities

- Attendance and late work – Attendance is mandatory with the exception of documented illness, emergencies, religious holidays, or participation in an official school event. Regardless of the reason, beginning with your fourth absence, your class participation grade will be reduced by 2% for each day that you miss. All late work will normally be penalized 5% for each day that it is late (including weekends) unless an extension has been coordinated in advance. As a general rule, make-ups for quizzes and exams will not be given. Students who must miss exams because of a documented illness, emergency, or religious holiday must contact me in advance so that alternative arrangements can be made. **Bottom Line - If you have a legitimate excuse and need an accommodation for class assignments or exams, you must inform me in advance.**
- Electronics Policy - In class, our aim is to engage deeply with the subject matter as well as with each other. This means that we must actively listen to each other and develop thoughtful responses. Therefore, the use of cell phones is not permitted during class. Laptops and tablets may be used periodically for specific tasks, but in general, they will not normally be used. I highly encourage taking notes by hand. By taking notes by hand, you learn more, retain it longer, and contribute to your classmates' ability to focus (for research on this, see e.g. Carter, Susan Payne, Kyle Greenberg, and Michael Walker. 2016. "The Impact of Computer Usage on Academic Performance: Evidence from a Randomized Trial at the United States Military Academy" and Mueller, Pam A. and Daniel M. Oppenheimer. 2014. "The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard," Psychological Science, 25(6): 1159-1168.).
- Classroom conduct - Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. This may not always be easy given that our discussions will likely cover philosophically sensitive issues about which you may have very strong feelings.

Above all else, I expect that you will treat me and your classmates with respect. You may not shut down legitimate class discussions, however strongly you might disagree and you may not substitute feelings, epithets, or personal attacks for substantive arguments. Keep in mind that there is an important distinction between thoughts, feelings, and off-the-cuff reactions and informed questions/answers. Serious academic discussion is based on empirical evidence and theoretical conjectures, presented coherently and debated openly. The best way to do this is to listen closely to what people say and to formulate your responses with the understanding that reasonable people can respectfully disagree.

- Final Thoughts – I am very excited about teaching this class and am committed to your success. This is a college-level course and therefore will be challenging. As such, doing well will require an appropriate level of effort. That said, if you feel as if you do not understand something, are having trouble keeping up, or would like feedback, please reach out to me early! It is easier to correct problems sooner in the semester as opposed to later.

How to Seek Academic or Technical Support

Academic Support

- [Windward Community College Library](#)
- [Library eResources](#)
- [Ka Piko Writing Lab](#)
- [Ka Piko Speech Lab](#)
- [Ka Piko Math Lab](#)
- [Evening and Online Learning at Windward Community College](#)
- [STAR Balance](#)

Technical Support

- [UH ITS Help Desk](#) – email help@hawaii.edu or call 956-8883 (or 1-800-558-2669) for Lulima and most technology support. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.
- Student Tech Support - email winhelp@hawaii.edu, call 808-235-7437, or stop by in person at Hale La'akea 228. Available Monday–Friday from 8:00 am–4:00 pm.
- Lulima – Click on the [Request Assistance](#) link at the bottom of any Lulima Page to fill out and submit a question and get your answer via email.
- [Information Security for Students](#)

College Policies & Support Services

Disabilities Accommodations Statement

The Windward Community College's Disability Student Services Office (WCC-DSSO) is committed to providing equal access to qualified students with disabilities.

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to participate fully in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor, Roy Inouye, to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. The Disabilities Counselor can be reached at 808-235-7448, wccdsso@hawaii.edu, or stop by the office (Hale Kako'o 106) for more information.

Basic Needs

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources, and transportation. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation, and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the [UH System Basic Needs website](#).

Mental Health Counseling

Mental Health and Wellness at Windward Community College counseling services and activities on campus to support students' life goals as well as their academic goals. Information about services can be found at the [WCC Mental Health & Wellness website](#).

UH Alerts

The UH Alert emergency notification system alerts the university community in the event of a natural, health or civil emergency. The information you provide will only be used in the event of an emergency that impacts the health and safety of the UH community or the closure of whole campuses. It will not be shared with others or used for routine UH communications or announcements. To sign up, visit [UH Alerts website](#) for more information.

Financial Aid

If you are receiving financial aid and are contemplating not completing the course, BEFORE you withdraw, it is highly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office at 808-934-2712 or email them at wccfao@hawaii.edu to discuss the impact this decision may have on your financial aid eligibility.

Student Conduct Code

Windward Community College follows the University of Hawai'i Code of Student Conduct which defines expected conduct for students and specifies those acts subject to University sanctions. Students should familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct since, upon enrollment at Windward Community College, the student has placed herself/himself under the policies and regulations of the University and its duly constituted bodies. The disciplinary authority is exercised through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Copies of

the Student Conduct Code are available at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or [online](#).

Title IX - Sex Discrimination And Gender-Based Violence Resources

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Leslie Cabingabang, UH System Confidential Advocate
Phone/Text: (808) 348-0432 or (808) 341-4952
Email: advocate@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kāko'o 107 (Wednesdays)

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D., Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7468
Email: mozoa@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kāko'o 109

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: dkahale3@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kāko'o 101

Karen Cho, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7404
Email: kcho@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale 'Alaka'i 120

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University's Title IX resources, and the University's Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/