

PLS 101: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Autumn 2018

Instructor:	Dr Neil Collins
Office:	Block C3 Room 6001
Email:	neil.collins@nu.edu.kz
Office hours:	MW 2-3pm, by appointment
Class logistics:	MW 10-11:15am, Blue Hall
Course TA:	Guldana Khamzina, office #8.239

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This module is geared to helping you figure out answers to questions such as:

- What are politics? How does politics shape us? How do we shape politics?
- What is political science? How can the study of politics help us better “see”, understand, and evaluate the social world of which we are a part?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the Module, the student will be expected to be able to:

- conceptualise and present their political science analysis in an appropriate format;
- describe and interpret basic qualitative and quantitative data and evidence;
- synthesise arguments within political science;
- access academic literature independently through library and online sources;
- make their own evidenced-based arguments;
- apply their knowledge to understand political problems by using fundamental concepts and theoretical tools learned in class; and,
- recognise and analyse patterns in the on-going narrative of politics.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus. Please remember to check your @nu.edu.kz email and the course page on a regular basis.

*Nazarbayev University provides cost-free mental health services through **the Psychological Counselling Center** to help you manage personal challenges including stress, mood swings, excessive worry, eating/sleeping disorders that threaten your personal and academic well-being. For an appointment please login to your account at nu.edu.kz, go to the Psychological Counselling Center section and choose available time slot.*

REQUIRED TEXTS¹

Roskin, Michael G. *et al.*, 2017, *Political Science: An Introduction*, 14th ed., London:

¹ All required and optional reading materials outside of the course textbooks can be found on the course page on Moodle and through library databases.

Longman.²

Shively, W. Phillips, 2008, *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. New York: McGraw Hill.³

Audio presentation: weekly podcasts posted via Moodle.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

Danziger, James N., 2013, *Understanding the political world: a comparative introduction to political science*. 11th ed., London: Pearson Education.

Ethridge, Marcus E. 2013, *Politics in a changing world: a comparative introduction to political science*, Boston MA: Cengage Learning.

Heywood, Andrew, 2007, *Politics*, 3rd ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan

Minogue, Kenneth, 1995, *Politics: a very short introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Savigny, Heather and Lee Marsden, 2011, *Doing Political Science and International Relations: Theories in Action*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.

ASSESSMENT

Attendance (10%) is mandatory.

Briefing Assignment 1 (20%): for the American state assigned to you, write a summary of its political system with particular reference to parties, elections and prominent policy issues. (800 words in length⁴).

Briefing Assignment 2 (30%): for the American state assigned to you, comment on the results of the November 2018 elections with particular reference to the impact locally and nationally and to the policy debate during the contest. (1,000 words in length⁵).

Final Exam (40%) is comprised of two equally weighted parts, first of which is multiple-choice and true/false questions covering cumulative course material, and second is a short essay.

(See Appendix Two for the grading scale and criteria)

² A limited number of hard copies is available for in-library use only.

³ Any edition is fine. 124 copies of textbook's 12th ed. can be found on the 2nd floor of the library and upon request.

⁴ Excluding the title page and bibliography. The essay should be one-and-a-half-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, with 1-inch margins on each side of the page. Pages must be numbered consecutively. Include an unnumbered title page with the title of your paper, your name, student ID number and the module number. The paper should be stapled. Bibliography (single-spaced, alphabetic order) must include academic articles from high quality research journals. All relevant articles/chapters from the module material, including the recommended readings, can be used as inside sources. Recent peer-evaluated articles from a scholarly journal can be used as outside sources. Please use Chicago Style citation.

⁵ Same guidelines ↑

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. Introduction and Overview

Required reading: Chapter 1 of *Power and Choice*
Chapter 1 of *Political Science: An Introduction*

Week 2. Models of State

Required reading: Chapter 3 (pp. 49-55) of *Power and Choice*
Chapter 3 (pp. 63-71) of *Political Science: An Introduction*

Week 3. The Process of State Formation

Required reading: Chapter 3 (pp. 57-76) of *Power and Choice*
Chapter 4 of *Power and Choice*

Week 4. TA's lecture on the Politics of Identity and Workshop by the Writing Center

Lecture by Bagnur Karbozova, MSc, London School of Economics and Political Science

Week 5. Democracy: Liberalism

Required reading: Chapter 7 of *Power and Choice*
Chapter 2 & 5 of *Political Science: An Introduction*

Week 6. Political Parties

Required reading: Chapter 10 of *Political Science: An Introduction*
Chapter 11 of *Power and Choice*

Week 7. Electoral Systems

Required reading: Chapter 10 of *Power and Choice*

Recommended reading: Moser, Robert G. 2008. "Electoral Systems and the Representation of Ethnic Minorities: Evidence from Russia", *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 40, No. 3, pp. 273-292.

Lublin, David, 2017, "Electoral Systems, Ethnic Heterogeneity and Party System Fragmentation", *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 47, Issue 2, pp. 373-389.

Barkan, Joel D., Paul J. Densham, and Gerard Rushton. "Space Matters: Designing Better Electoral Systems for Emerging Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 50, no. 4 (2006): 926-39.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4122924>.

Teorell, Jan, and Catharina Lindstedt. "Measuring Electoral Systems." *Political Research Quarterly* 63, no. 2 (2010): 434-48. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20721502>.

Week 8. Parliamentary & Presidential Systems

Required reading: Chapter 12 of *Political Science: An Introduction*
Chapter 14 & 15 of *Power and Choice*

Week 9. Reading Week.

Recommended readings: Morelli, Massimo. "Party Formation and Policy Outcomes under Different Electoral Systems." *The Review of Economic Studies* 71, no. 3 (2004): 829-53. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3700746>.

Karp, Jeffrey A., and Susan A. Banducci. "Political Efficacy and Participation in Twenty-Seven Democracies: How Electoral Systems Shape Political Behaviour." *British Journal of Political Science* 38, no. 2 (2008): 311-34. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27568347>.

Naoi, Megumi, and Ellis Krauss. "Who Lobbies Whom? Special Interest Politics under Alternative Electoral Systems." *American Journal of Political Science* 53, no. 4 (2009): 874-92. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20647956>.

Boix, Carles. "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *The American Political Science Review* 93, no. 3 (1999): 609-24. doi:10.2307/2585577.

Gilbert, Charles E., and Christopher Clague. "Electoral Competition and Electoral Systems in Large Cities." *The Journal of Politics* 24, no. 2 (1962): 323-49. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2127894>.

Moser, Robert G., and Ethan Scheiner. "Strategic Ticket Splitting and the Personal Vote in Mixed-Member Electoral Systems." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 30, no. 2 (2005): 259-76. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3598672>.

Simpser, Alberto. "Does Electoral Manipulation Discourage Voter Turnout? Evidence from Mexico." *The Journal of Politics* 74, no. 3 (2012): 782-95. doi:10.1017/s0022381612000333.

Singh, Shane. "Contradictory Calculi: Differences in Individuals' Turnout Decisions across Electoral Systems." *Political Research Quarterly* 64, no. 3 (2011): 646-55. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23056382>.

Week 10. Bureaucracy

Required reading: Chapter 16 of *Power and Choice*
Chapter 13 (pp. 274-283) of *Political Science: An Introduction*

Week 11. Political Corruption

Required reading: Chapter 4 (pp. 115-119) of *Power and Choice*

Recommended reading: *Corruption Perception Index-2017*. Transparency International.

Farrales, Mark J. "What Is Corruption? A History of Corruption Studies and the Great Definitions Debate." *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 2005.

doi:10.2139/ssrn.1739962. Available at SSRN:

<https://ssrn.com/abstract=1739962> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1739962>

Dollar, D., Fisman, R. and Gatti, R. (2001). "Are women really the "fairer" sex? Corruption and women in government", *Journal of Economic Behaviour & Organization*, 46(4): 423-429.

Treisman, Daniel. "What Have We Learned About the Causes of Corruption from Ten Years of Cross-National Empirical Research?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 10, no. 1 (2007): 211-44.

Cobb, M. and Taylor, A. "State-level corruption scandals do little to change voters' minds about political parties." <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk> 16/11/2015

Helping Countries Combat Corruption: The Role of the World Bank. <http://www1.worldbank.org/publicsector/anticorrupt/corruptn/cor02.htm>

BRIEFING ASSIGNMENT #1 DEADLINE: 29/10/2018

Week 12. Comparative Politics

Required reading: Chapter 18 of *Power and Choice*

Week 13. US Elections

Required reading: Chapter 11 of *Political Science: An Introduction*

Recommended reading: Schofield, Norman, Christopher Claassen, Ugur Ozdemir, and Alexei Zakharov. "Estimating the Effects of Activists in Two-party and Multi-party Systems: Comparing the United States and Israel." *Social Choice and Welfare* 36, no. 3/4 (2011): 483-518. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41108139>.

Samuels, David, and Richard Snyder. "The Value of a Vote: Malapportionment in Comparative Perspective." *British Journal of Political Science* 31, no. 4 (2001): 651-71. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3593296>.

Shugart, Matthew Soberg. "'Elections': The American Process of Selecting a President: A Comparative Perspective." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 34, no. 3 (2004): 632-55. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27552617>.

Warf, Barney. "The U.S. Electoral College and Spatial Biases in Voter Power." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 99, no. 1 (2009): 184-204. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25515184>.

BRIEFING ASSIGNMENT #2 DEADLINE: 12/11/2018

Week 14. Feminism

Required reading: TBA

Week 15. Revision and Discussion

FINAL EXAM: DATE TBA

Appendix One: Additional Information.

Tentative dates for the exams will be posted on the class website, and exact dates will be confirmed on the second week of the course.

A make-up examination will be arranged only if evidence of a valid excuse is presented promptly. If a student misses an examination without a valid reason, the student will receive a grade of F for that exam.

In preparation for the exams all students must read and understand the [Nazarbayev University Student Code of Conduct](#) and the following **rules and procedures**:

- Students who are late for an exam will not be allowed to enter the classroom and will receive a grade of zero. Students who nevertheless attempt to enter the classroom disturbing other students and exam supervisor will be liable to disciplinary action including (but not limited to) removal from the course with a failing grade.
- All personal belongings (such as bags, coats, purses, headphones, laptops, etc.) must be placed in the designated area at the front or rear of the classroom at your own risk. Possession and the use of unauthorised materials may result in student removal from the exam room and a grade of zero on the exam. In possession means on the desk or writing surface, on the clothing, body or any other location specifically prohibited.
- Students who are suspected of cheating are liable to disciplinary action including (but not limited to) suspension or expulsion from the University.
- Students who communicate (verbally or non-verbally) with any student during an exam and while answer scripts are being collected and counted will be removed from the exam with a grade of zero.
- Students must raise their hand if they wish to communicate with an invigilator. Unless granted permission by an invigilator, they are not allowed to leave their seat.
- Having handed in their examination papers, students must refrain from any questions or discussions until they leave the examination room quickly and quietly.

CLASS POLICIES

The rules contained in this section may be supplemented by the Nazarbayev University Student Code of Conduct and regulations specific to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Students must familiarise themselves with University's academic rules and procedures. By remaining enrolled in this course, students confirm that they agree to abide by class policies. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in the imposition of penalties including (but not limited to) dismissal from course with a failing grade in addition to other disciplinary action from the University authorities.

University Attendance Policy says that students who miss more than 80% of classes will not be allowed to take the final exam. Please note that sleeping in class will be considered as a missed class. If you miss a class for medical reasons, you need to submit your medical certificate no later than four days after the consultation with the doctor. Medical notes submitted after this deadline will not be accepted, and your absence will be recorded as a

missed class. *Keep in mind that it is your responsibility to make sure that course instructors have checked the database of the medical office and marked you excused for the days you missed when you felt sick.*

Office hours. Students should send an email at least one day prior to announce their wish to come to the office hours. Such requests should always include course title and a short description of the reason for wanting to meet. Please show up on time, stick to the point and keep your tone and language professional during office hour. If a student is late for more than 10 minutes, the appointment is cancelled with no other opportunity to use office hours. If a student needs to cancel/reschedule a meeting, they need to send a prior notice at least 24 hours in advance.

Email etiquette must be maintained at all times:

- Always check the course syllabus for the answer first. Course instructors will not reply to questions answered in the syllabus.
- Use your @nu.edu.kz account to avoid the spam filter.
- Include a strong and clear subject line so that course instructor can set aside an appropriate amount of time to deal with it.
- Start with a greeting using course instructor's title and surname. For example: "Dear Professor Collins," followed by a comma. Course instructors will not reply to emails which have no formal greeting or start with "hey" or "hi" and other forms of impolite greetings.
- Email must contain information on student's name and the class they have with the course instructor.
- Write in complete sentences, proper spellings, keep your language professional and run your email through spellcheck.
- Make sure you have said exactly what you want from the course instructor at or near the end of the email. For instance, if you want a reply, let the professor know. If you need to meet with them, make that known as well.
- End the email with a salutation. You are recommended to use a formal word like "Sincerely" or "Best," followed by a comma and your full name.

Academic misconduct as defined in Chapter 2 of the Nazarbayev University Student Code of Conduct. It is an act in which a student: (1) seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation ("plagiarism"); (2) uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise; (3) forges or falsifies academic documents or records; (4) intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others; (5) engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of any student's academic performance; (6) engages in any form of cheating on an exam or assignment; (7) assists other students in any of these acts.

Acts of academic misconduct may result in the imposition of any of Category A, B, or C sanctions as described in Articles 3-5 of Chapter 2 of the Nazarbayev University Student Code of Conduct. Each particular instance of misconduct will be judged on its own merits, taking into account the severity of the incident, the existence or absence of a prior record of wrongdoing, and the extent to which the interests and mission of the University are affected.

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using the ideas or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own without giving proper credit to the source. Such an action is not plagiarism if it is ascertained that the ideas were arrived at through independent reasoning or logic or where the thought or idea is common knowledge. Acknowledgement of an original author or source must be made through appropriate references; e.g., quotation marks, footnotes, or commentary. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to the following: the submission of a work, either in part or in whole completed by another; failure to give credit for ideas, statements, facts or conclusions which rightfully belong to another; failure to use quotation marks (or other means of setting apart, such as the use of indentation or a different font size) when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or even a part thereof; close and lengthy paraphrasing of another's writing without credit or originality; use of another's project or programs or part thereof without giving credit.

Grade lawyering is the act of a student going to a professor and/or teaching assistant and asking for a grade to be raised for no legitimate reason. If course instructors feel any form of **coercion** on your part to change grade, they will be obliged to file an academic misconduct report (category B offence) against grade grabber. Please note that coercion includes flattery, insults, tears, threats, and explanations of how your grade not being changed will cause you to lose your scholarship/stipend, not get into graduate school, be forced to leave university, have to return to your hometown, etc.

If a glaring error has been made in grading, such as points added incorrectly, or a clearly correct answer was inadvertently marked wrong, then by all means student should talk to the course instructors and they will likely change their grade immediately. Likewise, if student does not understand why you lost points, or want clarification (not justification) of the grading, course instructors are happy to talk to student. And, if student wants to discuss the material, learn what they did wrong, or discuss how to do better on future work, course instructors will be thrilled to speak to student about this.

Non-academic misconduct includes but are not limited to conduct that threatens safety or health of oneself or other students, stalking, bullying, hate speech, rudeness directed at course instructor, teaching assistant or fellow students, grade grabbing, etc. Disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed for non-academic misconduct vary from disciplinary probation and loss of monthly stipend payment to dismissal from Nazarbayev University. For more detailed information on this topic please refer to Chapter 3 of the Nazarbayev University Student Code of Conduct.

Appendix Two

GRADING SCALE AND CRITERIA

Grade	Meaning	Requirements
A 95-100 A- 90-94.99	very good	The analysis is complex, solidly structured, fully convincing. References are complete and properly handled, and statements from sources are questioned in relation to their context.
B+ 85-89.99 B 80-84.99 B- 75-79.99	good	The analysis is solid and consistent, but not compelling. Phrasing is always correct, but not necessarily complex. References are almost always complete and adequately handled.
C+ 70-74.99 C 65-69.99 C- 60-64.99	acceptable	The analysis is understandable, but not always adequately supported.
D+ 55-59.99 D 50-54.99	insufficient	Analysis is not clear, and statements lack adequate academic support. References are incorrect or incomplete.
F 50-0	poor	Fail to submit the paper or assignment on time. It is either too long or too short. Plagiarism of sources, missing references, cheating. Lack of internal coherency, severe inconsistencies in the analysis.