

The American University in Cairo  
POLIS 1001: Introduction to Political Science  
U (General Lecture): 3:30-4:45 Mary Cross Hall  
Fall 2019

**Course Aims and Description**

Welcome to the class, and for most of you, to the POLS Department! The goal of our introductory course in political science is to introduce you to the study of politics and the 'political' from the perspective of the discipline. As such, we will explore some of the major concepts and themes which arise in the analysis of political power, choice, and ideology, to name a few. We will also engage with understandings of the modern state, political participation, development and change, as well as international relations and political economy. The selected themes and topics are broad for a reason: politics is a vast field and this course surveys that terrain. For some of you, this course will be your only step in the process of learning about political science; however, for the majority, it will be the first of several steps along the road to your degree. Regardless of where your path leads, the focus of this course is to refine and enlarge some of the skills of critical inquiry, debate, and scholarship. In specific terms, our goal is to teach you to read, to write, to converse and utmost to argue politics in a systematic way. The course is structured around a weekly general lecture (Sunday), in which all 1001/2003 sections convene together, along with a weekly discussion (Wednesday). Five political science faculty members, who belong to different disciplines in the field, teach this course collectively and will alternate in delivering the mass lectures on Sundays. The smaller discussion groups will enable students to explore and have more in-depth understanding about the topic covered in the weekly lecture and assigned materials. The expectation is that each student will come prepared for both the mass lecture and the discussion section, and attendance will be taken at each session.

**Grade Distribution**

Participation 10%  
Assignments x 2 (15% each) 30%  
Exam 1 20%  
Exam 2 20%

Exam 3 20%

Please note the following:

- All grades are decided in individual sections, with each instructor designing his/her own assignments and exams.
- Students will be assigned three assignments, and the best two scores will count toward their final grade.
- Each examination is not comprehensive, but only covers that Part (e.g. lectures 1-3 only for Exam 1)
- ALL GRADES ARE FINAL and NON-NEGOTIABLE
- Plagiarism will result in incontestable failure of the assignment and possibly further action, including an "F" for the course and reporting to the Academic Integrity Committee. Please consult with the AUC policies on academic integrity

### Attendance and Participation

The first step to success in this course is attendance, and each student is expected to attend all classes. Obviously things come up-- whether sickness, personal issues, or something else. As such, you are allowed in accordance with Registrar policy, the equivalence of three weeks of absences from the total number of sessions though we encourage you to minimise the number as much as possible. Please note that any absence counts towards this three-week limit, meaning that university-sanctioned activities (e.g MUN/MAL), sickness with medical clinic documentation, and any other such absence counts. Without documentation that is approved by your instructor, missed assignments are calculated as zero toward the final course mark. As per AUC policy, 'a student who misses more than the equivalent of three weeks of class meetings during a semester for any reason may be assigned a reduced grade for the course — including the grade of “F” — solely on the basis of inadequate attendance, regardless of excuse.' After all, we can surely agree that missing that much time would call into question what you are able to get out of this course. By far the easiest way to guarantee a strong participation assessment is with substantive contribution to class discussion in our weekly meetings; that means quality takes precedence over quantity. In short: make your contributions count whichever way you feel most comfortable; the point is to engage with the class and its material and to demonstrate clearly that you are doing so.

### Required Text(s)

A POLS Reading File is available in the AUC Copy Center and via Blackboard

In addition to doing the readings, students are encouraged to regularly read the newspapers, and be familiar with current international affairs. Interesting websites include newspapers, think tanks, research centres, as well as electronic blogs and magazines such as Jadaliyya

### Key Terms and Concepts:

By the end of the semester you should be familiar with the following concepts, amongst many others:

- Democracy
- Treaty of Westphalia
- Nation-State
- Imperialism
- Nationalism
- Sovereignty
- Polarity
- Unipolar System
- Bipolar System
- Multipolar System
- Bretton Woods Institutions
- Intergovernmental Organizations
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Human Rights
- International Relations
- Economic Development

## OVERVIEW OF LECTURES AND READINGS

### INDIVIDUAL LECTURES: PART I

0	Sunday, 1 September	<i>Discussion Session: Introduction</i>	<i>All faculty</i>
	Wednesday, 4 September	<i>Discussion Session: Introduction</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
1	Sunday, 8 September	<b>Politics as Power</b>	<b>Dr. Manar Shorbagy</b>
	Wednesday, 11 September	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
2	Sunday, 15 September	<b>The State</b>	<b>Dr. Mostafa Hefny</b>
	Wednesday, 18 September	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
3	Sunday, 22 September	<b>International Relations</b>	<b>Dr. Marco Pinfari</b>
	Wednesday, 25 September	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
4	Sunday, 29 September	<b>Political Theory</b>	<b>Dr. Chris Barker</b>
	Wednesday, 2 October	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>

### INDIVIDUAL LECTURES: PART II

5	Sunday, 6 October	<b>National Holiday</b>	----- --
	Wednesday, 9 October	<b>EXAM 1 (in discussion section)</b>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
6	Sunday, 13 October	<b>Political Ideologies</b>	<b>Dr. Amr Adly</b>
	Wednesday, 16 October	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
7	Sunday, 20 October	<b>Political Violence/Civil War</b>	<b>Dr. Sean Lee</b>
	Wednesday, 23 October	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
8	Sunday, 27 October	<b>Human Rights</b>	<b>Dr. Marco Pinfari</b>
	Wednesday, 30 October	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
9	Sunday, 3 November	<b>Political Economy of Globalization and Development</b>	<b>Dr. Sayed Javed Maswood</b>

	Wednesday, 6 November	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
<b>INDIVIDUAL LECTURES: PART III</b>			
10	Sunday, 10 November	<b>National Holiday</b>	----- --
	Wednesday, 13 November	<b>EXAM 2 (in discussion section)</b>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
11	Sunday, 17 November Wednesday, 20 November	<b>Religion and Politics</b> <i>Discussion Session</i>	<b>Dr. Omneya El-Naggar</b> <i>Individual faculty</i>
12	Sunday, 24 November	<b>Is Political Science a ‘Science’?: Counting, Interpretation and History</b>	<b>Dr. Sean Lee and Dr. Mostafa Hefny</b>
	Wednesday, 27 November	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
13	Sunday, 1 December	<b>Democratization</b>	<b>Dr. Omneya El-Naggar</b>
	Wednesday, 4 December	<i>Discussion Session</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
14	Sunday, 8 December	<b>Political Participation (Including Media and Politics)</b>	<b>Dr. Maye Kassem</b>
	Wednesday, 11 December	<i>Discussion Session: Review</i>	<i>Individual faculty</i>
13	Sunday, December 15, 2:30-4:30	<b>EXAM 3 (in Mary Cross Hall)</b>	<b>All faculty</b>

