

Vesalius College

Course description

Course title: Introduction to Political Concepts and Theories

Course code: POL101E

Teacher responsible: Prof. Dr. J. Men

Course description:

This is a basic introductory course to political science. In this course, students will study the concepts such as democracy and justice; nation and nationalism; power and authority; state and sovereignty; leadership and government and so forth. The study of these concepts helps outline the relationship between the individual, society and the state. Furthermore, these concepts serve as a basis for students to understand different political theories and prepare them to conduct research in political science.

Course objectives:

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Articulate the basic concepts in political science;
- Trace the connections among these concepts as well as between them and other concepts;
- Use these concepts to formulate useful questions and possible answers about the political world;
- Be able to demonstrate understanding of the core concepts in political theory and applying them to study current political events.

Grade weighting scheme:

- (1) Attendance = 10%
- (2) three written assignments (including one oral presentation on the third assignment) = 30%
- (3) midterm exam = 25%
- (4) final exam = 35%

Course material:

The course materials consist of (1) PowerPoint presentations of lectures (2) a textbook: Heywood, Andrew (2004). *Political Theory: An Introduction*. Palgrave MacMillan, third edition. ISBN-10: 0333961803; ISBN-13: 978-0333961803 (3) a reference book: Heywood, Andrew (2002). *Politics*. Palgrave: Houndsmill, Hampshire, second edition. ISBN-10: 0333971310; ISBN-13: 978-0333971314.

Recommended periodicals in political science with full text available at VUB database:

- 1) JOURNAL OF POLITICS
- 2) PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICS

- 3) POLICY STUDIES JOURNAL
- 4) POLICY STUDIES
- 5) POLICY STUDIES REVIEW
- 6) POLITICAL BEHAVIOR
- 7) POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
- 8) POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY
- 9) POLITICAL QUARTERLY
- 10) POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY
- 11) POLITICAL STUDIES
- 12) POLITICAL STUDIES REVIEW
- 13) POLITICAL THEORY
- 14) POLITICS
- 15) POLITICS AND POLICY
- 16) POLITICS AND SOCIETY
- 17) POLITICS AND THE LIFE SCIENCES