**Cairo University**

**Faculty of Economics & Political Science**

**Department of Political Science**

**Introduction to Political Science II (P 102)**

**Course Syllabus**

**Spring 2016**

**Group 4**

**Sunday and Tuesday 10:30-11:50**

**Room 14**

***Prof. Dr.* Amal Hamada**

***Office*: Room 25 (1st Floor)**

***Office Hours*: Sunday and Tuesday 12:30-1:30 pm.**

**Course Description:**

This is an introductory course to the study of political science. It introduces the students to the formal study of politics. It is a continuation for “Introduction to Political Science I”. It focuses on the subfields of comparative politics and international relations.

The first part of the course is concerned with politics within states. It focuses on political culture as a bi-product of political socialization; political communication and public opinion; interest groups and political parties; political institutions: the Legislative branch (the Parliament) and the Executive branch (the Cabinet); and the characteristics of both Parliamentary and Presidential systems.

The second part of the course deals with politics among states or “international relations” as a major subfield of political science. The focus will be on the national interests of the various states; the impact of economics and globalization; misperception, wars and keeping peace in international relations; and finally, foreign policy, its determinants and why and how it differs.

The course is designed in a way to help students learn about politics within and among states and develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills for future coursework in and out of the discipline.

A general schedule of topics/readings is provided below. Reading in addition to the text may also be assigned. Students should learn how to search for complementary relevant material, both in libraries and through using modern electronic media.

**Course Requirements & Class Policies:**

“Introduction to Political Science I” is a prerequisite for joining this class. Students are expected to attend all class sessions, read and think carefully about the examined topics, and participate actively in class discussions. They are advised to have the relevant readings done before attending the lectures. Keeping up with readings, especially from the required textbook, is very essential for achieving the learning objectives of this course. Independent research assignments, which will be supervised by teaching assistants, are of great importance. All of the work students perform for this class should be their own. Deadlines must be fully respected. Announcements in class (exam dates, assignments, etc.) will usually be made one time. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain the relevant information from any of his/her colleagues should he/she misses it in class. Due dates and exam dates given in this syllabus are tentative and subject to change.

**Learning Outcomes:**

On completing this course, students should have a substantial knowledge about the institutions, processes and values that shape both politics within and among states and be able to apply that knowledge to the world.

They are also expected to develop an ongoing interest in national and global politics.

Students will also develop critical thinking skills and ability to related the study of political science to different phenomena around them

**Required Textbook:**

* Michael G. Roskin & Others, Political Science: An Introduction (Essex: Pearson Education Ltd., 13th Edition, Global Edition, 2014).

**Recommended Supplementary Readings:**

* Austin Ranney, Governing: An Introduction to Political Science (Englewood Cliffs., N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 2000).
* Phillips Shively, Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science.
* Carleton C. Rodee & Others, Introduction to Political Science.

You are encouraged to read any other material and come to class willing to question and discuss them.

**Evaluation & Grading Policy:**

* Class participation 10%
* Assignments 10% two assignments, topics will be discussed and decided in class.
* Quizzes 10%
* Mid-term Exam 20%
* Final Exam 50%

**Course Outline**

**Week One, 14 Feb:** Introduction:

* Comparative Politics and International Relations as subfields of Political Science.
* Politics within States and Politics among States.

**Week Two 21 Feb:** Constitutions:

* The Constitution as a Supreme Law.
* Changing Constitutions.

*Readings, Chap. 5, pp. 92-98.*

**Week Three 28 Feb:** Political Culture:

* Political Culture as a bi-product of Political Socialization.
* Culture and Subcultures.
* The Civic Culture.
* Culture and Development.

*Readings, Chap. 7, pp. 127-138.*

**Week Four 6 March:** Political Communication andPublic Opinion:

* Political Communication.
* What is Public Opinion?
* The Shape of Public Opinion.
* Public Opinion Polls.

*Readings, Chap. 8, pp. 142-156.*

*Chap. 9, pp. 161-163.*

**Week Five 13 March:** Interest Groups:

* What is an Interest Group?
* Effective Interest Groups.
* Interest Groups Strategies.

*Readings, Chap. 10, pp. 177-190.*

**1st assignment due.**

**Week Six 20 March:** Political Parties:

* What is a Political Party?
* Functions of Political Parties.
* Types of Political Parties.
* Party Competition.

*Readings, Chap. 11, pp. 193-206.*

**Week Seven 27 March:** Political Institutions: The Parliament:

* The Origins of Parliaments.
* Unicameral and Bicameral Legislatures.
* The Role of Parliaments.
* The Relationship between the Legislative and the Executive Branches.

*Readings, Chap. 13, pp. 227-239.*

**Week Eight 3 April:**

**Mid-term Exam.**

**Week Nine 10 April:** Types of Governments:

* Parliamentary Systems.
* Characteristics of Parliamentary Systems.

*Readings, Chap. 13, p. 230.*

**Week Ten 17 April:** Types of Governments (a continuation):

* Presidential Systems.
* Characteristics of Parliamentary Systems.

*Readings, Chap. 13, p. 230.*

**Week Eleven 24 April:** Democratic systems:

Readings: chapter 6

**2nd Assignment due.**

**Week Twelve 3 May (one lecture only) :** International Relations and Economics:

* What is International Relations?
* Power and National Interests.

*Readings, Chap. 18, pp. 318-322.*

* The Impact of Globalization.

*Readings, Chap. 18, pp. 322.-324.*

**Week Thirteen 8 May:** Misperception and Wars inInternational Relations:

* International Relations and Wars.
* Keeping Peace in International Relations.

*Readings, Chap. 18, pp. 324.-329.*

**Week Fourteen 15 May:** Foreign Policy:

* What is Foreign Policy?
* Determinants of Foreign Policy.
* How and Why Foreign Policies differ?

**Week Fifteen 22 May:** General revision.