Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This survey course explores the nature of politics, political environments and culture, the organization of political activities, and various political systems. Special emphasis is placed upon three levels of politics: the individual, the state, and international community. The political systems and activities of many nations, past and present, will be explored. This course fulfills a general education Social and Behavioral Science requirement. This is an approved Colorado gtPathways course.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This is a survey course exploring the nature of politics, political environments and culture, the organization of political activities, and various political systems. Special emphasis is placed upon three levels of politics: the individual, the state, and the international community. The political systems and activities of many nations, past and present, will be explored.

We will examine issues and debates in the context of the major ideologies, demonstrating the connection between political science and the issues that matter in our lives. Because politics—the political issues of the day—are what draw most people to the study of political science, we will look at key issues and ideas in the political world to capture your interest and to help you think like political scientists. Learning about politics is not a matter of being told the “truth” by a text or a teacher, but rather involves examining conflicting points of view, therefore this course tries to give different perspectives on the topics in the modules and hopes that you will examine them within the framework of the various ideologies introduced in the class.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Analyze perspectives on obtaining and retaining power.
2. Explain the process that nations follow to constitute and transfer authority.
3. Apply various theories supporting governmental institutions as developed worldwide.
4. Explain the functions and operations of political systems.
5. Discuss how differing systems and values compete and come in conflict with one another.
6. Discuss general approaches to the study of politics such as political philosophy, political systems theory and political economy.
7. Describe and discuss the political socialization process.
8. Analyze current critical issues in international relationships.
9. Discuss and explain the origins and principles of liberal democracy, democratic socialism, Marxism, communism and fascism.
10. Discuss the concepts of political development and problems facing developing nations.

**PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE**

Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

Textbook Information is located in the CSU-Global Booklist on the Student Portal.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Due Dates
The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- **Discussion Boards**: The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and peer responses posted by Sunday 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- **Opening Exercises**: Take the Opening Exercise before reading each week’s content to see which areas you will need to focus on. You may take these exercises as many times as you need. The Opening Exercises will not affect your final grade.
- **Mastery Exercises**: Students may access and retake Mastery Exercises through the last day of class until they achieve the scores they desire.
- **Critical Thinking**: Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.

**WEEKLY READING AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS**

**MODULE 1**

Readings
- Chapters 1 & 2 in *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)
Discussion (25 points)
Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Module 2

Readings

- Chapters 3 & 4 in *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Critical Thinking (85 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

**Option #1: Does the End Justify the Means?**
For this assignment, respond to the following and give examples to justify your position:

- Should we accept the doctrine that “the end justifies the means”?
- Should this be unconditional?
- Can this be situational, such as with war vs. peace?
- What consequences might arise from following, or not following, this political axiom?

Requirements:

- Write a formal essay 2-3 pages in length, complete with citations from at least two outside academic sources from the CSU-Global Library to support your findings.
- Cite these on a separate page at the end of the essay and include a title page at the beginning.
- Always follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.

**Option #2: What is the Political Culture of “Alternative Politics?”**
Read the Cohen article, “Solving Problems Informally: The Influence of Israel's Political Culture on the Public Policy Process,” assigned for this week, and respond to the following:

- What is the political culture of “alternative politics”?
- How is “alternative politics” used in the Israeli political process?
- What is your assessment of alternative politics?

Requirements:

- Write a formal essay 2-3 pages in length, complete with citations from at least two outside academic sources from the CSU-Global Library to support your findings.
- Cite these on a separate page at the end of the essay and include a title page at the beginning.
Always follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.

**Portfolio Milestone (10 points)**
By now you should have decided on a country for your Portfolio Project. Indicate your choice in the discussion forum called “Country Reports.” As you read the material in this week’s module, can you identify any philosophers who might have influenced the political environment in your country? Include this information in your post and in your Portfolio Project.

This post is a required component of the final Portfolio Project and worth 10 points this week. Failure to post your country of choice and answers to the other questions in Week 2 will result in a loss of points. See this milestone’s rubric for further details.

**Module 3**

**Readings**
- Chapters 5 & 6 in *The Challenge of Politics, An Introduction to Political Science*
- Tierney, Jr., J. J. (2014). For America "the war to end war" was just the beginning. *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, 21(1), 219-229.

**Opening Exercise (0 points)**

**Discussion (25 points)**

**Mastery Exercise (10 points)**

**Critical Thinking (85 points)**
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

**Option #1: Classical Influence on Current Policies and Politics**
Compare and contrast at least two of the philosophers discussed in the text: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Mill, and/or Marx. Give examples of their philosophy being utilized in politics today. This may either be an active policy or the platforms or speeches of candidates.

Cite at least two credible outside sources to support your writing. As one of these, consider http://www.iep.utm.edu/polphil/. (Consider specifically Sections 3a, 3b, and 3c.) Be certain to add citations for your sources.

**Requirements:**
- Write a formal essay 2-3 pages in length, complete with citations from at least two outside academic sources from the CSU-Global Library to support your findings.
Option #2: Realism vs. Idealism

Compare and contrast realism and idealism, incorporating ideas from philosophers and political figures who promote each viewpoint. Provide examples from current events to illustrate each viewpoint. Which viewpoint best fits your outlook on politics and international relations? Why?

Requirements:
- Write a formal essay 2-3 pages in length, complete with citations from at least two outside academic sources from the CSU-Global Library to support your findings.
- Always follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.

Portfolio Milestone (10 points)

In Week 2 you decided on a country for your Portfolio Project. Now, in Week 3, find a film or URL of a website about your country, which you will review in Week 4. Provide the following information in the Week 3 Portfolio Project Discussion called “Supporting Media”:

- Paste the URL or film title. Make sure to cite your media correctly in APA.
- Explain briefly why you chose this supporting media.
- As you read the material in this week’s module, think about whether or not you can identify any philosophers who might have influenced the political environment in your country. Include this information in your Portfolio Project.

This post is a required component of the final Portfolio Project and worth 10 points this week. Failure to post your media selection and other responses in Week 3 will result in a loss of points. See this milestone’s rubric for further details.

Module 4

Readings
- Chapters 7 & 10 in The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science

Opening Exercise (0 points)
Discussion (25 points)
Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Module 5
Readings

- Chapters 8 & 9 in *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Critical Thinking (100 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

**Option #1: Discuss a Popular or Literary Representation of Your Country Case Study**

Refer to the film or website you identified in Module 2 about the country you have chosen for your Portfolio Project. Respond to the following:

- Summarize the website or the film and describe the important information presented.
- Does this film or website depict the country accurately?
- How does the information you find in the film or website compare to the information you have read in your textbook and discovered through your portfolio research?

Requirements:

- Write a formal essay 2-3 pages in length, complete with citations from at least two outside academic sources from the CSU-Global Library to support your findings.
- Cite these on a separate page at the end of the essay and include a title page at the beginning.
- Always follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.

**Option #2: Discuss a Popular or Literary Representation of Your Country Case Study**

Refer to the film or website you identified in Module 2 about the failed/fragile state that you have chosen for your Portfolio Project. Respond to the following:

- Summarize the website or the film and describe the important information presented.
- Describe the tone of the website or film: is it hopeful about the country’s future, pessimistic, or neutral?
- Does the film or website pass judgment on the country, or does it approach the country objectively?
- Based on what you have learned about your chosen country from other sources, do you think that the film or website gives an accurate portrayal of that country?

Requirements:

- Write a formal essay 2-3 pages in length, complete with citations from at least two outside academic sources from the CSU-Global Library to support your findings.
- Cite these on a separate page at the end of the essay and include a title page at the beginning.
- Always follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.
MODULE 6

Readings

- Chapters 9 (Review) & 11 in *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)
Discussion (25 points)
Mastery Exercise (10 points)
Critical Thinking (100 points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option # 1: National Interests and Nation State Behavior
What is meant by the term “national interest,” and what are the dangers of using national interest as a rationale for nation-state behavior?

Requirements:
- Write a formal essay 2-3 pages in length, complete with citations from at least two outside academic sources from the CSU-Global Library to support your findings.
- Cite these on a separate page at the end of the essay and include a title page at the beginning.
- Always follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.

Option # 2: Globalization
It is said we are now in an age of globalization. First, what does that mean? Second, to the extent that globalization does exist, what are its advantages and disadvantages?

Requirements:
- Write a formal essay 2-3 pages in length, complete with citations from at least two outside academic sources from the CSU-Global Library to support your findings.
- Cite these on a separate page at the end of the essay, and include a title page at the beginning.
- Always follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.

MODULE 7

Readings

- Chapters 12 & 13 in *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*


**Opening Exercise (0 points)**

**Discussion (25 points)**

**Mastery Exercise (10 points)**

**MODULE 8**

**Readings**

• Chapters 14 & 15 in *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*


**Opening Exercise (0 points)**

**Discussion (25 points)**

**Mastery Exercise (10 points)**

**Portfolio Project (330 points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

**Option #1: Investment Analysis**

Imagine that you are an executive with a multinational corporation that wants to open a manufacturing facility in an underdeveloped country. You have been assigned the responsibility of preparing a report on the suitability of a particular country for investment. Your company is concerned with the investment climate in this country, but is equally interested in the political stability, social and cultural environment since it will be making a substantial financial commitment. Your corporation views this not only an opportunity to make a profit, but also as a humanitarian effort to help improve the standard of living in a lesser-developed country.

For your Portfolio Project, select a country in Africa, Asia, or South America and study that country in depth, applying concepts covered throughout the course. Prepare a detailed report for your Board of Directors that includes the following information:

**General Information:**

- Population of the country (see 1 below for more information.)
- Important ethnic or racial groups and divisions
- Per capita gross domestic product (see 2 below for more information.)
- UN Human Development Index rankings (see 2 below for more information.)
● Freedom House scores for political rights and civil liberties (see 3 below for more information.)
● The economic position of your country compared to other countries (wealthy, poor, or middle income)

Classification and Structure of Government:
● Liberal democracy, illiberal democracy, or authoritarian regime?
● Philosophers or thinkers who have influenced the political history and development of the system of government?
● Presidential, parliamentary, or other system?
● Who is the head of government?
● Electoral system: How are legislators selected? How is the executive elected or chosen? How is the bureaucracy staffed?
● What is the highest level of the judiciary? Does judicial review exist?
● Is your country a federal or unitary system? How are policies administered in your country?
● Is there a written constitution? How old is it? Is it considered to be effective? Does it have the support of the people?
● How much control does government exercise over the economy?

Competition, Stability, and Civil Society:
● Number and strength of political parties?
● Major conflicts between parties (liberal, conservative, left-right, or ethnicity, for example)?
● Voting behavior—if your country is a democracy, what is the turnout for elections? Is voting compulsory? (See 4 below for more information.)
● What are the results of the most recent election? When is the next national election?
● Are there any recent political changes?
● Major social movements?

Economic Environment:
● Suitability of the country for foreign investment?
● Government policy toward foreign investment?
● Challenges and potential obstacles?
● Advantages to foreign investment in this country?

Other Questions:
● What are the most important political, economic, environmental, and human rights issues facing your country?
● Is your country in conflict with its neighbors or other countries?
● What are its relations with major global powers—the US, Europe, and China, for example?

Required Resources:
1) Data can be accessed through the World Bank website.
2) Data can be found on the website of the UN Human Development Report.
3) Data is available at Freedomhouse.org.
4) Data on election turnout is available on the website of the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. To calculate turnout, divide the number of voters by the voting age population.
Additional Requirements:
- Write a formal essay 8-10 pages in length, complete with citations from at least 10 credible academic sources other than required course readings to support your findings. The CSU-Global Library is an excellent place to search for scholarly sources.
- In addition, provide a reference list, in alphabetical order by last name of author, in APA format, and include a title page at the beginning.
- Always follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.

Option #2: Fragile State Analysis
For your Portfolio Project, you will evaluate a fragile (formerly called failed) state and develop a plan to help it recover and get back on the right track. This will involve a survey of the country’s history, the source of its problems, information about its people, economy, and culture, and its potential to succeed if given a chance.

The Global Policy Forum website provides information on fragile/failed states in general, as well as specific states.

ForeignPolicy.com provides the 2016 list of most fragile/failed states. You may choose your country for this study from the countries in dark red on the map at the bottom of the opening page.

General Information:
- Population of the country (see 1 below for more information.)
- Important ethnic or racial groups and divisions
- Per capita gross domestic product (see 2 below for more information.)
- UN Human Development Index rankings (see 2 below for more information.)
- Freedom House scores for political rights and civil liberties (see 3 below for more information.)
- The economic position of your country compared to other countries (wealthy, poor, or middle income)

History:
- Provide an overview of the country’s history, focusing on when and why it began to have problems leading to its fragile/failed status.

Classification and Structure of Government:
- Although fragile/failed states lack an effective government, this does not mean that no one is trying to run the country, or parts of the country. Who is trying to govern your chosen country? How are they attempting to do this?
- Are there attempts to hold elections? If so, how are these elections conducted, and what is voter turnout? (See 4 below for more information.) When was the most recent election held, and what were the results?

Competition, Stability, and Civil Society:
- Do political parties exist? If so, what are they, and what role do they play in the country’s problems and/or efforts to provide structure?
- Are there any recent political changes?
Major social movements?
Are their divisions or conflicts based on race, religion, or culture, for example? Has genocide taken place?
Who provides basic services such as utilities, education, and medical care, for example?
What is daily life like for the people?

Economic Environment:
- Major industries
- Natural resources
- Other sources of revenue
- Reliance on foreign aid

Other Questions:
- What are the most important political, economic, environmental, and human rights issues facing your country?
- Is your country in conflict with its neighbors or other countries?
- What are its relations with major global powers—the US, Europe, and China, for example?

Conclude the paper with your assessment of the country’s future. What could be done to help the country become stable and develop an effective government? Include what the people can do to help themselves, as well as the role that other countries and humanitarian aid groups could play.

Required Resources:
1) Data can be accessed through the World Bank website.
2) Data can be found on the website of the UN Human Development Report.
3) Data is available at Freedomhouse.org.
4) Data on election turnout is available on the website of the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Additional Requirements:
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Always follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.
**Course Policies**

**Course Grading**

- 20% Discussion Participation
- 0% Opening Exercises
- 8% Mastery Exercises
- 37% Critical Thinking Assignments
- 35% Final Portfolio Project

**Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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IN-CLASSROOM POLICIES

For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

Academic Integrity
Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing / repurposing your own work (see CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and Internet resources.

Citing Sources with APA Style
All students are expected to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements when citing in APA (based on the APA Style Manual, 6th edition) for all assignments. For details on CSU-Global APA style, please review the APA resources within the CSU-Global Library under the “APA Guide & Resources” link. A link to this document should also be provided within most assignment descriptions in your course.

Disability Services Statement
CSU-Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email ada@CSUGlobal.edu for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Netiquette
Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults, or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.