Australian National University

POLS1002: Introduction to Politics

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The first aim of this course is to introduce students to some of the key concepts in the discipline of Political Science: power, influence, authority, legitimacy, coercion, conflict, and democracy. The second aim is to introduce the concepts and institutions of the political process.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the nature and significance of politics and governance;
2. Critically analyse some of the key concepts in political science;
3. Apply concepts and theories used in the study of political science to the analysis of interests, institutions, and behaviour;
4. Demonstrate the capacity to use different research methods used to investigate political phenomena; and
5. Have developed their research, writing, and verbal presentation skills.

COURSE LOGISTICS

Lectures and Tutorials (Compulsory)

- Lectures (by 5pm Mondays, weeks 1 to 12) ○ This course uses a 'flipped' classroom approach where the conveners record a series of mini-lectures, accessible on Wattle's Echo 360 platform at echo360.net.au. Students can watch at their leisure but are expected to come to tutorial having watched the previous week's lecture content.
  - It is a breach of ANU copyright policy to reproduce or disseminate lecture content and/or materials without the University's prior permission. Posting lecture notes or any course materials on public sharing webpages is a violation of this policy. Students can access the policy at anulib.anu.edu.au/research-learn/copyright.

- Tutorials (various times, weeks 2 to 11) ○ Tutorials are face-to-face and cover the content from the previous week (e.g., please come to your Week 2 tutorial having read/watched the Week 1 folder items).
  - Tutorial sign-up opens at 9am on Monday 6 February on My Timetable (timetabling.anu.edu.au/sws2023). Tutorial spaces are on a first come first served basis, so please enrol early. While we cannot guarantee your preferred tutorial time, My Timetable has an inbuilt waitlist and an automatic swap function. The teaching team are unable to move students to different tutorial slots. Any questions about tutorial enrolment should be directed to the CASS Student Office at students.cass@anu.edu.au.

Additional Ways to Interact with the Teaching Team (Optional)

We offer many other options to interact with the teaching team throughout the academic term, outside public holidays and the teaching break. More details are available under *Additional Ways to Interact With the Teaching Team* in the class Wattle site.

- Head tutor office hours (in person, Thursdays 10:45-11:45am of weeks 1 and 2). ○ Daniel will be available in weeks 1 and 2, to support any students needing assistance before tutors commence office hours in week 3.
  - If you are unsure whom to contact during the semester, please direct your query to Daniel, who will it is directed to the right member of the teaching team.
- Tutor office hours (in person, various times, weeks 3 to 12). ○ Starting in week 3, your tutor is your first port of call for most aspects of the course such as clarifying questions from lecture/readings/tutorial, support in preparing for the written assessments/quizzes/ exams, etc.
- Convener office hours (in person, Tuesdays 10 to 11am in weeks 1 to 12). These offer an opportunity for students to:
  - Discuss course content such as lectures, readings, general questions about the written assessments/ quizzes. (We generally encourage students to first discuss questions with their tutor, but are flexible about this during office hours); and to
  - Discuss matters they are uncomfortable broaching with their tutor or the head tutor, for instance in the context of highly sensitive disclosures.
- Convener text chat (via text chat on Wattle, Tuesdays 11am to 12pm am in weeks 1 to 12).

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND POLICIES

Assessment task	Value	Deadline	Estimated date for assessment return	Learning outcomes
Tutorial Participation	10%	Weekly, weeks 3 to 11	N/A	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Online Quizzes	10%	#1: Fri 10 March, 11:59pm #2: Fri 24 March, 11:59pm #3: Fri 28 April, 11:59pm #4: Fri 12 May, 11:59pm #5: Fri 26 May, 11:59pm	#1: Tues 14 March #2: Tues 28 March #3: Tues 2 May #4: Tues 16 May #5: Tues 30 May	1, 3, 5
Exercises	#1: 5% #2: 15% #3: 25%	#1: Tues 14 March, 11:59pm #2: Tues 18 April, 11:59pm #3: Tues 16 May, 11:59pm	#1: Thurs 23 March #2: Tues 2 May #3: Tues 30 May	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Final Examination	35%	TBA	N/A	1, 3, 5

Extensions and penalties

Extensions and late submission of assessment pieces are governed by the Student Assessment (Coursework) Policy and Procedure (see cass.anu.edu.au/current-students/coursework-policy-andguidelines/late-submissions-and-extensions). Late submission without an extension is penalised at the rate of 5% per working day or part thereof. Late submissions are not accepted after 10 working days after deadline or on or after the specified return date.
Extensions for the Exercises must be requested in writing on or before the deadline via the CASS Extension Request link at cass-seo.anu.edu.au/form/assessment-extension-request. *When requesting an extension, please ensure you enter Daniel Casey (daniel.casey@anu.edu.au) in the "Convener/Tutor" field, even if Daniel is not your regular tutor.*
Extensions are not available for quizzes/exams. These are discussed below.

Missed Quizzes
The makeup date for all quizzes is 30 May from 12am-11:59pm on Wattle. Students must take all missed quizzes on that date. Students who do not take a quiz by that date will receive a zero for the quiz they missed. An exam deferral is not needed for the makeup quiz.

Exam Deferrals
Deferrals are governed by the deferred examinations policy (please see Wattle) and apply only to the final exam. Deferrals are only granted in specific circumstances and must be lodged using the link on the deferred examinations page. Questions should be directed to the Examinations Officer at examinations.officer@anu.edu.au, as the tutors/conveners do not have authority to approve or deny deferrals.

Returning assignments and resubmission
Students' written work will be returned via Wattle. Work will be marked in the order received. Students may not resubmit assignments.

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is a core part of the ANU culture as a community of scholars. At its heart, academic integrity is about behaving ethically, committing to honest and responsible scholarly practice, and upholding these values with respect and fairness. It is also crucial to ensuring the quality and value of your education. The ANU expects staff and students to be familiar with this principle and commits to helping all members of our community to understand how to engage in academic work that respects it. To that end:

- Jana will deliver a mini-lesson on this topic, with practical examples and discussion of recent developments early in the semester;
- Tutors will discuss proper citation in tutorials and are available to answer questions on this important component of academic integrity;
- The ANU has a wealth of resources to help students respect academic integrity. These are all on the class website and include:
    - The Academic Integrity Rule 2021, with which students are expected to be familiar.
      Importantly:
      (1) this rule applies to written assessments (Exercises) as well as exams; and
      (2) the uncited use of source material, whether human or machine generated, will be regarded as plagiarism and treated as serious misconduct.
    - The Academic Skills website has a great deal of information. You can even book an appointment to get tailored support and advice!
    - The practice Turnitin site enables students to check their written assessments before submission. Be sure to check the information on how to interpret a report.

There are consequences for violating academic integrity. Please consult the class Wattle site for further information on these and the sources of support available to students who have been advised that their work potentially breaches academic integrity.

Referencing requirements

Written assessments must conform to academic writing standards and referencing. Students are expected to use the APA citation style in this course (see www.anu.edu.au/students/academicskills/ academic-integrity/referencing/apa. Please direct questions about referencing to your tutor or to Academic skills at academicskills@anu.edu.au.

Support for students

The University offers many support services for students. Information on these is available online at Student life, www.anu.edu.au/students/student-life. Please see the class Wattle side for further information, including links to student groups and ANU Counselling.

Feedback

Students will receive feedback in the following forms:

- Tutorials offer immediate feedback on students' ideas and understanding of course materials during tutorials.
- Tutors are available to provide feedback on your exercise plans (but not drafts) prior to the deadlines. If you do seek tutor feedback in advance of a deadline, please leave sufficient time for them to respond and for you to update your work, taking into account that tutors do not work full time and have other obligations beyond POLS 1002.
- Examiners will provide written feedback on quizzes and written assignments via Wattle.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

1. Tutorial Participation (10%)

Date: Weeks 2 to 11 inclusive.

Value: 10%

Details: "Participation" is more than simply being physically present. Participation involves demonstrating an understanding of the readings and lectures—summarising key points, raising questions, discussing applications. Students should read the weekly readings in advance and attempt to identify the following:

- The reading's subject/topic—what is the question, puzzle, or problem examined?
- What is the main thesis?
- What argument(s) does the author make?
- What evidence does the author offer in support of their argument?
- What is/are the author's conclusion(s)?
- Do you find the work compelling? Why/why not?

Participation also involves respecting other students' ideas and giving them the opportunity to participate in conversations, as well as treating all members of the class (including the tutor) in a respectful manner. Marks of 100% are reserved for truly exceptional tutorial participation. A participation mark between 85 and 99 is considered excellent.

Students who have/are suspected to have COVID, or are otherwise ill, should not attend their tutorial. Please follow ANU COVID advice, available at www.anu.edu.au/covid-19-advice. Students may, for whatever reason (including but not limited to COVID), submit a reading response in lieu of tutorial participation. This can be for a maximum of two weeks and does not require a medical or counselling note. The deadline for reading

response submissions is 5pm, 26 May. Please see Wattle for further instructions on the reading response. Students who miss more than two tutorials will need to obtain a medical or counselling note and contact the head tutor, Daniel Casey.

2. Online Quizzes (10%)

Date: Each Wattle quiz lasts 30 minutes and is open from 12am-11:59pm as follows:

- Quiz 1 (Friday 10 March): material from Weeks 1 and 2
- Quiz 2 (Friday 24 March): material from Weeks 3 and 4
- Quiz 3 (Friday 28 April): material from Weeks 5, 6 and 7
- Quiz 4 (Friday 12 May): material from Weeks 8 and 9
- Quiz 5 (Friday 26 May): material from Weeks 10 and 11

Value: 10% of final grade (2% per quiz). Each quiz is pass/fail. Students who answer at least ten questions correctly receive 100% for that quiz; those who do not receive no marks for that quiz. *Details*: Students may complete the quiz at any time during the 24-hour period. Once students start the quiz, they must complete it within 30 minutes. Therefore, it is imperative that students have a stable internet connection when taking quizzes. Quizzes consist of 20 multiple-choice and true/false questions per quiz. Quizzes are designed for students to test and solidify their knowledge of the material. Each quiz will cover all compulsory materials (lectures and readings) covered during the indicated period.

3. Exercises (45% collectively)

- Exercise #1: due 14 March*, 5%, 300 words
  Details: This exercise represents one of the first stages in the process of writing a political science paper: briefly summarising one piece of work (from a list provided by the conveners).
- Exercise 2: due 18 April*, 15%, 500 words
  Details: This exercise builds on Exercise 1 and represents an important next step in political science writing – writing an extended literature review, of the article selected in Exercise 1 as well as a second article from a list provided by the conveners.
- Exercise #3: due 16 May*, 25%, 750 words
  Building on the work done in Exercises 1 and 2, students will provide an analysis of four pieces of work on a topic, drawing from the articles used in Exercises 1 and 2 as well as two additional pieces of work that students source themselves.

** Students are welcome to submit any/all of the exercises before the deadline. There is no penalty for early submissions.*

Detailed instructions and an assessment rubric for each exercise can be found on Wattle. Each exercise is to be uploaded using Turnitin on the course Wattle site. Your submission MUST be titled as follows: "Tutor Name, Topic Number, Your Last Name". You will be required to electronically sign a declaration of authorship as part of the submission of your assignment.

Once you have submitted your exercise, please keep a copy. Please also check the Turnitin document to make sure that your desired document uploaded. Instructions on what to do if it did not upload properly are in the FAQ in Wattle.

4. Final Exam (35%)

Date: To be determined by the Timetabling Office approximately four weeks before the examination period, which runs 1 to 17 June.

Details: The final exam is cumulative (i.e. covers content from Weeks 1-12 inclusive). Further detail and a deferred final exam date will be provided as the semester progresses.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week/Date	Topic	Assessment Item
1 (20 Feb)	Science, Politics, and Political Science	
2 (27 Feb)	Thinking Like a Political Scientist	
3 (6 Mar)	Political Attitudes and Behaviour	Quiz 1 (covers weeks 1 & 2 content): 10 March
4 (13 Mar)	Collective Action and Political Institutions	Exercise 1: 14 March
5 (20 Mar)	Sovereignty, the Nation, and the Interstate System	Quiz 2 (covers weeks 3 & 4 content): 24 March
6 (27 Mar)	Democracy, Autocracy, and Everything in Between	
7 (17 Apr)	Introduction to Comparative Politics: Institutions and Constitutions	Exercise 2: 18 April
8 (24 Apr)	Multilevel Governance and Introduction to Veto Players	Quiz 3 (covers week 5, 6, & 7 content): 28 April
9 (1 May)	The Judiciary 1: Structure	
10 (8 May)	The Judiciary 2: Behaviour	Quiz 4 (covers week 8 & 9 content): 12 May
11 (15 May)	Legislatures, Executives, and Judiciaries	Exercise 3: 16 May
12 (22 May)	Electoral Systems, Political Parties, and Party Systems	Quiz 5 (covers week 10 & 11 content): 26 May
1/6 to 17/6		Final Exam (date TBD)

Student Feedback

ANU is committed to the demonstration of educational excellence and regularly seeks feedback from students. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through Student Experience of Learning Support (SELS) surveys. This feedback is anonymous for students and provides conveners, the Colleges, University Education Committee and Academic Board with opportunities to recognise excellent teaching and opportunities for improvement.

Students are also welcome to provide feedback to tutors/conveners during the semester. Those wishing to do so anonymously may use the anonymous feedback option in Wattle. We also welcome feedback in person (during office hours) or via email.

Respect, Inclusivity, and Equity

Students, tutors, and conveners are expected to be familiar with and to respect the ANU's Code of Conduct, which sets standards for personal and professional behaviour. It requires staff and students to treat all

members of the community with respect, and to refrain from bullying or harassing behaviour. If at any time you are concerned about how you, another student, or any member of the teaching team is being treated, please reach out to the conveners or the head tutor.
The ANU is committed to equity and diversity, and to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment. Please see CASS's Statement on Inclusivity for greater detail on the resources and support networks available, at cass.anu.edu.au/inclusivity . Your conveners have been deeply involved in efforts to promote greater inclusion of women and minorities (of all types) in the academic community for decades. Our goal is to have a reading list that reflects the diversity of political scientists to the greatest extent possible. We strongly encourage (but do not require) students to do the same in compiling their own sources for POLS 1002 and in their other classes.

Access and Inclusion

Access & Inclusion (A&I) supports students within the ANU community whose participation in academic studies is impacted by disabilities, mental health conditions, chronic medical conditions and short term illnesses/conditions. A&I also supports carers, international under 18 students and elite athletes. Further information is available at www.anu.edu.au/students/ contacts/access-inclusion, or by emailing A&I at access.inclusion@anu.edu.au.
We encourage students who anticipate having an Educational Access Plan (EAP) or Special Exam Arrangements (SEAs) to log on to the ANU's *Access* system at anu-access.symplicity.com, which enables students to self-manage their support plans and academic staff to access these directly, as soon as possible.

Other Policies

ANU has other educational policies, procedures, and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University's academic standards, and implement them.
These are available at policies.anu.edu.au

Required Resources

All readings for the class are available on the course's Wattle page at no extra cost to students. A reading list will also be posted on Wattle when the term starts.

Examination material

Details about the material will be outlined during the semester and on the course's Wattle site. It is a breach of ANU copyright policy to distribute any course materials beyond the university, and it is a violation of the ANU Code of Conduct to consult or contribute to the sharing of any quiz/exam material.