



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts-based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community.

POSC 101 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Admin 309; MWF 1:00-1:50

CRN: 20057; Section: 02
Semester: Spring 2019
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Dr. Sally J. Howard
Office: Marsh Hall 329
Office Hours: M:2-3, T/Th:11-12, W:10-11,
F:12-1, and by appointment

Email: sjhoward@concord.edu
Phone: 304-384-5149
Fax: 304-384-6091
Website: <http://www.concord.edu/social-sciences/>

Course Description:

Courses in Political Science are designed to stimulate in students a greater awareness and understanding of political institutions, processes, relationships, and their underlying principles. This survey course is designed to introduce students to the concepts of politics and political science. As such, the course must cover a lot of ground. We will be discussing both the practice of and the theory behind politics, as well as keeping up with current national and international political events.

Course Management System: None
Hardware/Software Needed: None

Text Requirement: *Power and Choice* (15th) by Phillip Shively, and one of the two books described on page 6.

Concord University Educational Goals:

Skills: #6 An ability to apply and to transfer academic and experiential learning appropriately from one context to another.

Knowledge #3 An ability to interpret events and trends within historical contexts.

Attitudes: #3 Respectful attentiveness to differing perspectives and willingness to engage in dialogue across differences in order to seek mutual understanding and equitable conflict resolution.

Attitudes #7 Motivation to pursue lifelong learning and ongoing intellectual growth.

Applicable National Standards: None

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize the ideological origins of government policies
- Explain the origin and importance of state sovereignty
- Identify the principles on which democratic states are founded
- Differentiate between presidential and parliamentary democracies
- Explain the general role that the UN and nuclear weapons play in the international system

Course Requirements:

Key Terms – for 9 of the 10 chapters we will cover, you must turn in *hand written* definitions for 5 of the Key Terms in the back of the chapter. If there are fewer than 5 Key Terms, choose additional terms from the body of the chapter. Your definitions may come from either the chapter or the glossary, and they should be condensed down to your own words (the way you might define the term on a test). These are due *in class* on the day that we begin the chapter.

Current Events – see page 7. Please ask me if you have any questions.

Frontline – these are in-class assignments

Book Report – see pages 5-6.

Tests - there are three regular tests during the semester. Your lowest regular test grade will be dropped. All make-up tests will be during the last regular class period of the semester (Friday, May 3, 2019). **In order to be eligible for a make-up test, you must notify me prior to the test of the reason for your absence on that day.** You should save your graded tests as a study guide for the final exam.

Final Exam – the final exam will be comprehensive. Final Exams must be taken at the designated time.

Policies and Grading:

Though I do not make attendance a part of your grade, you will not do well in this course without attending class regularly. If you miss class, you are responsible for any lecture material you have missed. You must get this from a fellow student - I do not give out my class notes. Because there are no excused vs. unexcused absences, I do not need to know if or why you miss class. The exceptions to this are if you are attending a University sanctioned event (in which case you will be permitted to submit missed work) or if serious circumstances will cause you to miss multiple classes. Please discuss such situations with me (and provide me with a copy of athletic schedules) as soon as possible.

If you have any problems/questions/concerns, you are encouraged to discuss them with me. You may talk to me after class, during my office hours, or anytime my office door is open. In addition, you may email me from your *mycu* account.

Grade Allocation:

Key Terms	40 points
Book Report	50 points
Current Events	50 points
Frontline	20 points
Tests	200 points
Final Exam	140 points
Total:	500 points

Grading Scale:

A = 450 - 500
B = 400 - 449
C = 350 - 399
D = 300 - 349
F = < 300

Course Timeline*

Jan 14	Monday Wednesday Friday	Introduction Politics (no reading) Current Events
Jan 21	Monday Wednesday Friday	No Class (MLK, Jr) Chapter 2 Modern Ideologies and Political Philosophy Current Events
Jan 28	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 2 continued same Current Events
Feb 4	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 3 The Modern State same Current Events
Feb 11	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 4 Policies of the State same Current Events
Feb 18	Monday Wednesday Friday	Test 1 Frontline – In-Class Assignment Current Events
Feb 25	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 5 Economic Policy of the State same Current Events
Mar 4	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 7 Democracies & Authoritarian Systems same Current Events
Mar 11	No Classes	Spring Break
Mar 18	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 10 Elections same Current Events
Mar 25	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 11 Parties same Test 2 (No Current Events Due)

Apr 1	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 14 Parliamentary Government same Current Events
Apr 8	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 15 Presidential Government same Current Events
Apr 15	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 18 Global Politics same Current Events/ Book Reports Due
Apr 22	Monday Wednesday Friday	Chapter 18 continued same Current Events
Apr 29	Monday Wednesday Friday	Test 3 Frontline (In-class Assignment)/Extra Credit Due All Make-Up Tests
May 10	Friday	11:30-1:45 Final Exam

*You are responsible for keeping up with the reading/assignment/exam schedule. If you lose this syllabus and need another copy, please let me know.

BOOK REPORT GUIDELINES

You must read and write a report on one of the selected books (see next page). They are available at the bookstore and on the Internet.

Book reports should be 4-5 typed pages (title page does not count toward page count) double-spaced, 12 point font, and 1" margins. You should clearly address the following:

- 1) Title page with the title of your report, your name, the title, author and publication year of the book. (5 points)
- 2) Discuss whether and why you liked the book. Your reasons should be specific and substantive, *not* limited to whether the book was or was not "interesting." (5 points)
- 3) Discuss two things that you learned about the South African, North Korean or Chinese people. (10 points)
- 4) Discuss two ways that life in South Africa, North Korea or China differs significantly from life in the United States. (10 points)
- 5) Discuss two ways that the book relates to topics we have discussed in class. (10 points)
- 6) Your report should be neat, well-organized and carefully proofread. It should have proper spelling, grammar and capitalization and follow the above guidelines for length and formatting. (10 points)

Papers are due to me in hard copy (in class) and to turnitin.com electronically on Friday, April 19, 2010. Papers late to me without prior permission will be marked down 5 points per day. Papers submitted to me *but not submitted to turnitin.com* will be marked down 2 points per day and will not be graded until submitted.

Turnitin Information:

Class ID: 20052757

Enrollment Password: BookReport (case sensitive)

Note: Both books are non-fiction and should be referred to as "books" or "memoirs," not "novels." Novels are necessarily fictional. Additionally, when referring to the author by a single name, it should be the last name, not the first.

BOOK REPORT OPTIONS

A Thousand Miles to Freedom: My Escape from North Korea, by Eunsun Kim

“Eunsun Kim was born in North Korea, one of the most secretive and oppressive countries in the modern world. As a child Eunsun loved her country...despite her school field trips to public executions, daily self-criticism sessions, and the increasing gnaw of hunger as the country-wide famine escalated.

By the time she was eleven years old, Eunsun's father and grandparents had died of starvation, and Eunsun too was in danger of starving. Finally, her mother decided to escape North Korea with Eunsun and her sister, not knowing that they were embarking on a journey that would take them nine long years to complete. Before finally reaching South Korea and freedom, Eunsun and her family would live homeless, fall into the hands of Chinese human traffickers, survive a North Korean labor camp, and cross the deserts of Mongolia on foot.” (Amazon.com)

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood, by Trevor Noah

“Trevor Noah’s unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents’ indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa’s tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man’s relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life...” (Amazon.com)

CURRENT EVENTS ASSIGNMENTS

Most Fridays (unless otherwise noted) you are to turn in a current event assignment. **Keep up with the syllabus so that you know what days they are due.** Your article should come from a major print newspaper or a major internet news site such as CNN, Fox News, the New York Times, BBC, etc. It must be something you have *read*, not just seen on TV. Your article may be local, national or international, but it ***must be related to politics***. Remember that *not all news stories are political*.

I will only accept assignments *during class on the day that they are due*. Do not email them to me (don't wait until the last minute to try and print them), do not send them with a friend in the class, do not hand them to me in the hall, do not slip them under my door. If, for *whatever* reason, you are not in class that day, then you will not turn in an assignment for that week. Your grade will not suffer if you miss one or two articles, but you are encouraged to turn in as many as you possibly can. Turning in all (or almost all) current event assignments can significantly boost your grade at the end of the semester.

Do not turn in a copy of the article itself. Only turn in your summary and analysis. Your work should be typed and limited to a single page.

All assignments should begin with the following information at the top of the page:

Your name and the date
The address of the website (e.g., www.cnn.com)
The date and title of the article

The assignment should consist of the following:

One paragraph (3-5 sentences) summarizing the article. Don't just copy lines from the article - put it in your own words.

One or two paragraphs (at least 5 sentences) expressing *your opinion* on the issue. Even if you are not well informed on the issue, try to give reasons for you opinion. Don't just say "this policy is a stupid idea," tell me *why* you think it is a stupid idea.

Style matters. Your work should be neat with correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. Spell-check and proofread. Even though you are expressing an opinion, your tone should be professional. Avoid words like "sucks" and "idiot" even if they best express how you feel. Such informality is not appropriate for written work and it is important to learn how to express yourself in a professional manner. Assignments that are too short or poorly written will be marked down.

EXTRA CREDIT

Due **Wednesday April 31, 2019**

12 Points (max)

Read the directions carefully! You will not receive credit if you are not using editorial columns.

Keep a “journal” of **editorial columns from the “Opinions” section** (*not* news articles) of the **New York Times** and/or **Washington Post**. Registration to both online papers is free and you can sign up to have editorials and headlines emailed to you daily. **The editorial columns include a by-line (name of the writer)**. Don’t confuse them with the shorter, unattributed editorials written by the paper’s editorial staff. You are encouraged to use more than one column by the same person but, over the course of the journal, include entries from **at least two individuals**.

Your journal should include **six (6) editorial columns** dealing with national and/or international politics.

For each column:

- 1. Print the column (printer-friendly version) and underline or highlight** what you consider to be the most important points.
- 2. For each column, type your reaction to the columnist’s views (*minimum* ½ page, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced).** Like it? Don’t like it? Agree? Disagree? (Liking and agreeing/disliking and disagreeing are not necessarily the same things.)
- 3. Conclude the assignment with a 2 page summary** on whose work you liked best, least, etc. and why.
- 4. Your journal must be typed and neat. Do not use a folder; just staple everything together – column/reaction/column/reaction, etc.). All directions should be followed.**

Note: Editorial columns are, by definition, from the author’s point of view. While they should be well-reasoned, they are not intended to be “unbiased.” You should not criticize an author for being biased unless you are charging them with not considering certain factual information, etc.

Note: There may be other, small Extra Credit opportunities throughout the semester. The maximum number of Extra Credit points that you may accumulate is twenty (20).

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to: <http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure - No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled - Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay - Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

*Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. You will be notified of changes in class and via email.