Fall 2019
PS1005 Political Science I

Class Information:

- Time: Wednesdays, 09:10-12:10
- Place: Room 303 Social Sciences Building
- Course Website: https://ceiba.ntu.edu.tw/108119FPS1005

Instructor:

- Name: Hans H. Tung (hanstung@ntu.edu.tw)
- Office Hours: Wednesdays, 13:30-15:30
  Sign up at:
  https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4EAEAC2CAA8-fall15
- Office: Room 745, Social Sciences Building

"Man is by nature a political animal."

~ Aristotle, Politics

As Aristotle famously stated more than two thousand years ago, "politics," despite its conceptual evolution in the history of ideas, has always been an essential part of human lives. For Aristotle, one’s political life, as opposed to other social activities, is the only way through which he or she can fulfill his or her true human nature. In modern civilizations, however, while Aristotle’s teleological understanding of politics might have lost its currency, what is unchanged today is that politics never leaves us and every society still counts on it for achieving all kinds of collective goals. “Political Science,” therefore, is first and foremost an intellectual endeavor to understand and explicate everything taking place in the political arena with which we all inescapably live.
1 Course Design and Objectives

Political Science I is the first part of a one-year course series for introducing undergraduate students to basic concepts and theories political scientists have developed for explaining politics, both domestically and internationally. Pedagogically, this introductory course sets three major objectives for students:

1. Learn *how* political scientists study and explain political phenomena (methodologies)
2. Know *what* kind of concepts and theories political scientists come up with for answering interesting puzzles in our political world (substance)
3. Understand *when* and *where* political scientists apply their analytic frameworks (contexts)

The course not only helps students navigate existing theoretical perspectives on how politics can be analyzed, but also contextualizes them in real-world cases. The ultimate goal is to make students able to think independently and formulate their own views. Please also be aware of the following requirements:

1. Biweekly TA Session (50 minutes/every two weeks): Each student will be further assigned to a group of 20-25 (depending on the enrollment) members led by a teaching assistant (TA). The first TA session is scheduled in Week 3 and held in the third hour of the class meeting (i.e., 11:20-12:10).
2. Active Participation: Each student is expected to complete all the required readings each week and contribute to the collective discussion in both class meetings and TA sessions. Discussion questions will be emailed to all students on Monday each week.

2 Grading

- Mid-Term (30%)
- Final (50%)
- TA Session Participation (15%)
- Class Participation (5%)

3 Textbook (On reserve at the Koo Chen-Fu Memorial Library)

4 Class Schedule and Reading List

Week 1 September 11, 2019 Introduction

Part I: Methodology

Week 2 September 18, 2019 Is Political Science a Science?

Readings:

- PSI: Chapter 1.


Week 3 September 25, 2019 Causality and Social Sciences (TA session)

Readings:


Week 4 October 02, 2019 Theory and Social Sciences

Readings:

- PSI: Chapter 1.

Week 5 October 09, 2019 Empirical Research and Social Sciences (TA session)

Readings:

- PSI: Chapter 1.

Part II: Fundamentals

Week 6 October 16, 2019 Power

Readings:


Week 7 October 23, 2019 Political Ideologies (TA session)

Readings:

- PSI: Chapter 2.

Week 8 October 30, 2019 State

Readings:

- PSI: Chapter 3.

Week 9 November 06, 2019 Midterm

Week 10 November 13, 2019 Political Regimes (TA session)

- PSI: Chapter 5.
Part III: Demand Side

Week 11 November 20, 2019 Political Cultures and Public Opinion

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapters 6-7.

Week 12 November 27, 2019 Political Communications: (Social) Media (TA session)

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapter 8.

Week 13 December 04, 2019 Guest Lecture: Research Scientist, Facebook (Subject to Change)

Topic to be announced.

Week 14 December 11, 2019 Political Participation: Interest Groups and Political Parties (TA session)

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapters 9-10.

Week 15 December 18, 2019 Political Participation: Election

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapter 11.
Week 16 December 25, 2019 Political Participation: Contentious Politics

Readings:


Week 17 January 01, 2020 Holiday

Week 18 January 08, 2020 Final Exam