

Spring 2025

PS1006 Political Science II

Class Information:

- Time: Wednesdays, 09:10-12:10
- Place: Rm 403, Social Sciences Building
- Course Website: <https://cool.ntu.edu.tw/courses/44467>

Instructor:

- Name: **Hans H. Tung** (hanstung@ntu.edu.tw)
- Office Hours: By appointment.
- Office: Room 745, Social Sciences Building

1 Introduction

As the sequel to *Political Science I* (PS 1005), this course continues to give students a guided tour in the world of political science and help them obtain a bird's-eye view of the field. Theme-wise, we are going to switch gear from the "state-society relationship" to the "political processes within and among states." Specifically, the course is further divided into the following four parts:

1. Comparative Politics: As a major subfield of political science, comparative politics is about understanding variations among and within modern states worldwide and their effects. Some of the variations arise from different forms of states (e.g. democracy versus dictatorship) and governments (e.g. parliamentary versus presidential systems). Others result from different social characteristics (e.g. collective versus individualistic cultures). Still others originate from different ways in which state-society relationships are maintained (e.g. developmental versus predatory states). This first part of the course will lay the foundation for the remaining topics to be explored in the class.

2. Political Economy: Located at the intersection between economics and political science, political economy as a field explores a great variety of issues arising from the interactions between economic and political arenas. First of all, this course will introduce to students the normative foundations laid by (political) economists for assessing the role politics plays in economic activities. Second, we then proceed to investigate the economic effects of political institutions with a special focus on redistributive politics.
3. Dynamics: No institutions stay forever. Through various historical cases such as the American Revolution in the 18th century, the fall of the Berlin Wall in the early 1990s, Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms kicked off in 1978, we know that economic and political institutions are certainly no exception. In this part, the course goes beyond the static analyses offered above and introduces to students the various theoretical perspectives on economic and political transitions in economics and political science.
4. International Context: Politics definitely not only takes place within states, but also among them. Scholars who study the "politics among nations" constantly focus on two broad questions: "how/why do states fight with each other?" (war) and "how/why do states cooperate with each other?" (commerce and trade) In the final part of this course, we are going to study two subfields that answer both questions: international relations and international political economy.

2 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.

3 Grading

- Mid-Term (30%)

- Final (60%)
- Class Participation (10%)

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

PSI Roskin, Michael G., et al. 2016. *Political Science: An Introduction*. (14th Edition). Essex, England: Pearson.

BDM Bueno de Mesquita, Ethan. 2016. *Political Economy for Public Policy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Class Schedule and Reading List

Week 1 February 19, 2025 Introduction

Part I: Comparative Politics

Week 2 February 26 2025 Veto Players and Institutional Analysis

Readings:

- Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. 2nd Ed. Thousand Oaks, Calif. : SAGE/CQ Press. Chapter 15.

Week 3 March 05, 2025 Democracies: Legislatures

Readings:

- **PSI**: Chapter 13.

Week 4 March 12, 2025 Democracies: Executives, Bureaucracies, and Judiciaries

Readings:

- PSI: Chapter 12, 14

Week 5 March 19, 2025 Comparative Politics of Dictatorship

Readings:

- Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. 2nd Ed. Thousand Oaks, Calif. : SAGE/CQ Press. Chapter 10.

Part II: Political Economy

Week 6 March 26, 2025 Introduction: Pareto Optimality and Externalities

Readings:

- PSI: Chapter 15.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Ethan. 2016. *Political Economy for Public Policy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3-4.

Week 7 April 02, 2025 Externalities

Readings:

- BDM: Chapter 4.

Week 8 April 09, 2025 Mid-term Exam

Week 9 April 16, 2025 Guest Talk: Kevin Slaten (Taiwan Office, Freedom House)

Topic to be announced.

Week 10 April 23, 2025 Commitment Problems

Readings:

- BDM: Chapter 6.

Week 11 April 30, 2025 Redistributive Politics

Readings:

- Bonica, Adam, Nolan McCarty, Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 2013. "Why Hasn't Democracy Slowed Rising Inequality?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27(3): 103-124.
- Bénabou, Roland and Efe A. Ok. 2001. "Social Mobility and the Demand for Redistribution: The POUM Hypothesis." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 116: 447-487.

Week 12 May 07, 2025 Natural Resource Curse

Readings:

- Al-Ubaydli, Omar, Kevin McCabe, and Peter Twieg. 2014. "Can More Be Less? An Experimental Test of the Resource Curse." *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 1: 39-58.
- Michael L. Ross. 2015. "What Have We Learned about the Resource Curse?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 18:239-259.

Part III: Dynamics

Week 13 May 14, 2025 Democratic Transition

- Clark, William Roberts, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2013. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. 2nd Ed. Thousand Oaks, Calif. : SAGE/CQ Press. Chapter 8.
- Slater, Dan and Joseph Wong. 2022. *From Development to Democracy: The Transformations of Modern Asia*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 4.

Week 14 May 21, 2025 Autocratization

- Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2015. "The Myth of Democratic Recession." *Journal of Democracy* 26(1): 45-59.
- Lührmann, Anna and Staffan I. Lindberg. 2019. "A Third Wave of Autocratization Is Here: What Is New About It?" *Democratization*. 26: 1095-113.
- Marina Nord, Fabio Angiolillo, Martin Lundstedt, Felix Wiebrecht Staffan I. Lindberg. 2025. "When autocratization is reversed: episodes of U-Turns since 1900." *Democratization* forthcoming.

Part IV: International Context

Week 15 May 28, 2025 International Relations and International Political Economy

- PSI: Chapter 17
- Hiscox, Michael J. 2017. "The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies." In John Ravenhill (Ed.) *Global Political Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 16 June 04, 2025 Final Exam