
INTL 101.02: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

College of Administrative Sciences and Economics

Department of International Relations

Spring 2012

Belgin San-Akca

Koç University

Office: CAS - 152

E-mail: bakca@ku.edu.tr

Phone: 338-1377

Lectures: M/W 11-12:15pm

Location: SOS 103

OH: Tu 2-4pm & by appt.

TA: Aytac Denk

E-mail: adenk@ku.edu.tr

Office: CAS 171A

OH: Th 11-1pm

"Politically speaking, it is insufficient to say that power and violence are not the same. Power and violence are opposites; where the one rules absolutely, the other is absent."

- **Hannah Arendt, On Violence**

Course Description and Objectives

Apathy in politics is not affordable if we care about the future. Political ideas and attitudes both form and are formed by the institutional surrounding within which they exist. In this class, the fundamentals of this interaction between political ideas and attitudes and institutions are examined at the individual, national, and international level. The main objective of this introductory course is to help you develop an improved understanding of the basic concepts of politics and apply the analytical tools to understand, evaluate, and respond to main problems of Political Science, such as democratization, development, internal and international conflict, and institutionalization. By the end of this course, you will be familiar with the principal approaches and topics of political science. In addition, you will be able to evaluate the arguments and evidence surrounding controversial issues in politics critically.

There are no prerequisites for this course. Students from all backgrounds are welcome!

Required Reading

The required textbook for this class is available in the university's bookstore:

- **Heywood, Andrew. 2007. Politics. Palgrave Macmillan.**

There is also a copy of the book in the Reserves section of the library. I expect you come to the class having done the required reading for each lecture. On occasion I may ask the students to read some additional material.

Course Requirements

Your total course grade will be evaluated on the basis of the following elements.

	Grade Weight (%)	Due Date
Midterm Exam	30	March 28, Wednesday
Final Exam	40	TBA (Final Exams' Week)
Class Participation-Attendance and quizzes	30	

There will be two examinations during the semester. The exams will ask you to show both an understanding of the material as well as the ability to apply it. All exams will be based on assigned readings, lectures, in-class material and discussions. You can expect a diverse range of questions, including multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The final examination will be cumulative including all material covered from the beginning of the course.

Class participation/Quizzes: I expect you to actively contribute to class discussions. Mere physical presence in classroom does not count for participation. In other words, having perfect attendance does not automatically mean you get full credit for class participation. A portion of your participation points will come from announced quizzes. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up.** I assess your contributions to class discussions by their intellectual content (including relevance to the subject-matter) and the degree to which you follow general rules of courtesy. It is very likely that there will be disagreements among participants. Such disagreements are expected and in most cases welcomed: such debate will lead to a better understanding of the topic. However, I will not allow students to be discourteous to others during our discussions.

Course Rules & Policies

- (1) **Attendance:** I or the teaching assistant will take attendance in the beginning of each class. You can keep track of your attendance through KUAIS. Missed classes will only be excused on a case-by-case basis and only KU Health Center approved health reports will be accepted.
- (2) Make-up examination for the exams is given only with prior instructor approval obtained with a timely notice and appropriate documentation indicating why a student cannot be in the classroom during the time of test. Only medical reports that are approved by the Koc University Health Center will be accepted. You should notify me or the TA within 24 hours after you miss an exam (if it is not possible to let us know beforehand) for your request about the make-up exam. Note that students get around 30% lower grades in make-up exams in comparison to the regular ones.

Keeping Informed

You are encouraged to read at least one of the newspapers, such as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *La Monde Diplomatique*, and *The Guardian* on a regular basis. The Koc Library has prepared a Subject Guide for International Relations and Law & Political Science.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Session	Date	Topics
1	06.02.2012	Introduction
2	08.02.2012	Politics and Knowledge Reading: Heywood, Chapter 1
3	13.02.2012	Political Ideologies Reading: Heywood, Chapter 3
4	15.02.2012	Political Systems Reading: Heywood, Chapter 2
5	20.02.2012	Democracy Reading: Heywood, Chapter 4
6	22.02.2012	States and Nations 1 Reading: Heywood Chapter 5 & 6
7	27.02.2012	States and Nations 2 Reading: Heywood Chapter 5 & 6
8	29.02.2012	States and Nations 3 Reading: Heywood Chapter 5 & 6
9	05.03.2012	Nations in a Globalized World Reading: Heywood, Chapter 7
10	07.03.2012	Nations and Subnational Politics Reading: Heywood, Chapter 8
11	12.03.2012	Political Economy Reading: Heywood, Chapter 9
12	14.03.2012	Political Culture and Identity Reading: Heywood, Chapter 10
13	19.03.2012	Mass Media and Political Communication Reading: Heywood, Chapter 11
14	21.03.2012	Issues of Political Representation and Participation: Elections Reading: Heywood, Chapter 12
15	26.03.2012	Catch-Up and Review for Midterm
16	28.03.2012	MIDTERM EXAM (Time and Location –TBA)
17	02.04.2012	Issues of Political Representation and Participation: Political Parties and Systems Reading: Heywood, Chapter 13
18	04.04.2012	Issues of Political Representation and Participation: Political Parties and Systems Reading: Heywood, Chapter 13
19	16.04.2012	Issues of Political Representation and Participation: Interest Groups and Social Movements Reading: Heywood, Chapter 14
20	18.04.2012	Machinery of Government: the Legal System Reading: Heywood, Chapter 15
21	23.04.2012	HOLIDAY
22	25.04.2012	Machinery of Government: Assemblies Reading: Heywood, Chapter 16
23	30.04.2012	Machinery of Government: Political Executives Reading: Heywood, Chapter 17
23	02.05.2012	Machinery of Government: Bureaucracies Reading: Heywood, Chapter 18
24	07.05.2012	Machinery of Government: Military and Police Reading: Heywood, Chapter 19
25	09.05.2012	Machinery of Government: Military and Police Reading: Heywood, Chapter 19
26	14.05.2012	Public Policy and Decision Making Reading: Heywood, Chapter 20
27	16.05.2012	Catch-up Day and Review for final exam