

The Politics of Happiness

Course Syllabus

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“Politics is the art of the possible” - *Otto Von Bismarck*.

Course Description:

Political Science is one of the most intriguing and most useful science to our life. This starts with people's role in voting in a democratic society. It means that although, if someone is not really interested in politics, the person gets a right to vote, which allow citizens to involve in politics at certain levels. Therefore, every citizen should understand politics at certain criteria in order to vote right people, who can have a positive impact in a country.

We explore the politics of happiness through a comparative, cross-national approach analysis of political systems, institutional arrangements, elite-mass relations, and public policies as they pertain to the consolidation and promotion of societal and individual happiness, welfare, and well-being. We encounter a representative array of developing and developed countries, considering not only past experience and contemporary systems, but future political opportunities that condition our evolving thinking about happiness and well-being

This course will give you the basic understanding of the many political systems through several countries' various political interests and activities. Ultimately, we will discuss how politics can make people's life happier with right decisions. On the other hand, we will also discuss what factors lead to an unhappy politics.

Course Objectives:

1. Get basic knowledge about how politics work differently around the world
2. Get to know with several countries' different political views.

3. Become familiar with the term 'happiness'

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to have done the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class.

(Homework readings will be provided to students after each class meeting)

Course Schedule

Meeting 1

- Get to know the term 'happiness'
- Introducing the United States Constitution
- Discussing the concept of 'American Dream' and how it relates to happiness

Homework:

- Read "I have a Dream" by Martin Luther King
- Read US Declaration of Independence

Meeting 2

- European Dream
- Discussing experiences of Sweden, Netherlands and Denmark

Homework:

- Read The new land of opportunity by Rifkin.
- Read Netherlands constitution rights, first chapter.

Meeting 3

- Bhutan and the Buddhism
- Bhutan gross national happiness

Homework:

- Read Bhutan Bok Happiness
- Read What does gross national happiness (GNH) mean?

Meeting 4

- Comparison between Lebanon and the Syria
- Discussing issues that lead to an unhappy politics, such as war, immigration and etc.
- Is the religion main problem in the middle east?

Meeting 5

- Today's situation in Mongolia
- Why is Mongolia ranked at the 101th out of 157 countries in the world happiness index report?
- Course reflection

Final Project

In this final project, students will write 3-4-page long paper about how to be politically happy in Mongolia, students can freely use their recent course knowledge and ideas. This assignment is meant to give students an opportunity to share their voice on how to make Mongolia a better place. Students can also include what they would do in 4 years if they were elected as one of the 76 parliament members.