

North South University

Fall 2020

POL 101: Introduction to Political Science

Department of Political Science and Sociology (PSS)

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Contact Information	Email: hasan.baniamin@northsouth.edu
Office hour	10 minutes after each class (Please Email me if you need to talk outside this time; I will fix a time and will talk with you by the following meet link https://meet.google.com/iuk-mdod-wkg).

Sections' information:

Section 11	ST 9.40 am - 11.10 am	Meet link: https://meet.google.com/iuk-mdod-wkg
Section 12	MW 9.40 am-11.10 am	Meet link- https://meet.google.com/iuk-mdod-wkg
Section 13	MW 11.20 am-12.50 pm	Meet link- https://meet.google.com/iuk-mdod-wkg

Welcome to POL 101: Introduction to Political Science

Probably, you are studying BBA, Computer Science or similar other subjects and wondering why should I have a course on 'Introduction to Political Science'? At the end of your course, you may have this answer.

Course Description

After finishing your study, you may work as a manager, software engineer or an entrepreneur or something else, but you need to know the rules of the game of a society/country to operate there. As an introductory course, POL101 may help to enhance your capacity to understand these factors more systematically. This course will provide you a quick overview of the state mechanisms in general with special focus on Bangladesh. From this course, you will get an overview on different concepts and theories related with political science such as state and its organs, legitimacy, power and authority, sovereignty, constitution, political communication and culture, interest groups and the functioning of major political systems. A significant emphasis will be given to develop your ability to use these concepts and theories to analyze a political system.

Course Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand the basic vocabulary and concepts used by political scientists.
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of power and politics.
- Critically assess different political phenomena.
- Recognize errors of logic and reasoning in an argument.
- Able to know the key debates in political science.

Assessment Plan (subject to adjustment based on UGC's directives)

Criteria	Percentage
Quiz (2 quizzes)	20%
Mid-Term 1	30%
Attendance, class participation & etiquette	10%
Presentation / Viva voce	10%
Final Examination	30%
Total	100

Grading Procedure

Grade	Marks	Grade	Marks
A	93 and above	C +	77-79
A -	90-92	C	73-76
B +	87-89	C -	70-72
B	83-86	D +	67-69
B -	80-82	D	60-66

Please visit the link to know more: <http://www.northsouth.edu/academic/grading-policy.html>

Course Content and Schedule

Week	Session	Lecture	Topics
Week 1	Session 1	0.	Course orientation: a brief overview of the course, expectations and class rules.
	Session 2	1.	Understanding political science and its concepts
Week 2	Session 1	2.	Power and Authority
	Session 2	3.	Political Theories-1
Week 3	Session 1	4.	Political Theories-2
	Session 2	5.	State and nation (Quiz 1)
Week 4	Session 1	6.	Constitutions
	Session 2	7.	Organs of government and separation of power
Week 5	Session 1	8.	Legislature
	Session 2	9.	Executive
Week 6	Session 1	10.	Judiciary
	Session 2	11.	Accountability: Forms and challenges
Week 7	Session 1		Mid Term 1
	Session 2	12.	Political ideology
Week 8	Session 1	13.	Interest groups
	Session 2	14.	Public opinions
Week 9	Session 1	15.	Political economy
	Session 2	16.	Participation and collective action (Quiz 2)
Week 10	Session 1	17.	Political culture
	Session 2	18.	International relations: terms and theories
Week 11	Session 1		Make up Mid
	Session 2		Presentation 1
Week 12	Session 1		Presentation 2
	Session 2		Review

Class Etiquette and Course Policies

- **Attendance:** Regular class attendance is essential. The material covered in the classroom will be cumulative in nature and missing classes will tend to put a student “out of sync”.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism and any other academic dishonesty (ex: cheating in exam.) are prohibited, and a substantial amount of marks will be deducted for such acts.
- **Recording (or taking picture):** Except where prior permission is sought from the instructor and given, no audio or video recording of lectures is allowed. Where permission is sought and granted, such recordings/photographs should only be for the student’s private use.
- **Final examination:** The NSU authority will notify the final examination date.

Suggested Readings

Danziger, J. N., & Smith, C. A. (2016). Understanding the political world: A comparative introduction to political science. Boston: Pearson.

Roskin, M. G., Cord, R. L., Medeiros, J. A., & Jones, W. S. (2016). Political Science: An Introduction (14th Edition). Upper Saddle River: Pearson.

Shively, W. P. (2018). Power & choice: An introduction to political science. McGraw-Hill.

Additional study materials will be advised/given during the classes.