

North South University

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POL 101: Introduction to Political Science

Department of Political Science and Sociology (PSS)

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Welcome to POL 101: Introduction to Political Science

You are probably studying BBA, Computer Science, Pharmacy or similar other subjects and wondering why I should 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, a 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 a particular focus on Bangladesh. From this course, you will get an overview of different concepts and theories related to political science such as state and its organs, legitimacy, power, and authority, sovereignty, constitution, political communication and culture, interest groups, and major political systems' functioning. A significant emphasis will be given to developing 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	Marks
Quiz	10
Midterm	30
Attendance, class participation & etiquette	8 (4+4)
Group assignment_	10
Presentation + (Viva voce+ Conjecture)	10 (5+5)
Analyses of critical thinking	2
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)
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		Midterm
	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
Week 10	Session 1	17.	Political culture
	Session 2	18.	International relations: terms and theories
Week 11	Session 1		Review
	Session 2		Presentation + Viva voce
Week 12	Session 1		Presentation + Viva voce
	Session 2		Presentation + Viva voce

Class Etiquette and Course Policies

- **Attendance:** Regular class attendance is essential. The material covered in the classroom will be cumulative, and missing classes will tend to put a student “out of sync”.
- **Electronic devices:** Cell phones are distracting and therefore should be turned off and kept out of sight during lecture.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism and any other academic dishonesty are prohibited, and a substantial amount of marks will be deducted for such acts.
- **Recording (or taking a 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

Amy L. Atchison. (2021). Political Science is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science

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