**North South University**

**Department of Political Science & Sociology (PSS)**

**Fall 2021**

**POL 101: Introduction to Political Science**

**Sec: 7**

Course Instructor: Dr. M Jashim Uddin (MJU)

Lecture hours: ST 02:40 pm – 04:10 pm

Class Room# NAC 211

Office Room # NAC 901

Office hours: ST 10:00 am – 11:00 am

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

(Anytime from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm through email in the weekdays.)

Email: jashim.uddin01@northsouth.edu

**Course Description & Goals:**

If we want to understand politics, the sound bites and talk shows of the modern media provide an incomplete picture. By the end of this course, you will be able to take a more systematic approach to the study of politics. This course is designed to make you familiar with the issues, institutions and structures that shape our everyday life, perception, and behavior as a ‘political animal.’

More than two thousand years ago, Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher, declared man as ‘a political animal’ and described political science as ‘the master science’. Plato, Aristotle’s guru, believed that a ruler should be a philosopher. At different periods since ancient times, particularly western political philosophers contributed to bringing about tremendous changes in people’s mind and thinking process through their innovative political ideas and thoughts for the formation and development of state and government and advancement of the civilization. Like conflict, politics is also an inseparable part of human life. Being a political animal it is essential for one to understand the relationships between and among individual, state and government. What is politics? What is the difference between politics and political science? What is the relationship between politics and government? To what extent does politics influence human relations and the ways in which government and institutions function? Are you interested in politics? If not, are you concerned if others will, and influence the decisions that govern and affect your lives? And what are the benefits of studying political science in real life? These are some questions that may certainly come to one’s mind and this course will critically examine the above and other vital questions.

The key objective of this course is to introduce students to some of the fundamental concepts and institutions of political science, e.g., state, sovereignty, liberty, authority, legitimacy, nationalism, democracy, political party, civil society, and institutions of accountability and oversight mechanisms which underpin them. Through class lectures, assigned readings, group study, class presentations, and constructive debate, the students will explore theory of political science and politics in reality in particular in Bangladesh. To be a good citizen, consciousness about one’s rights as well as duties to society and state, tolerance and respect for the fundamental human rights of others, democratic values, rule of law, and religious and cultural diversity are vital. Without doubt, studying political science can be worthy for a student to learn and realize these issues. As a discipline, political science belongs to liberal arts. And a liberal education is meant to prepare individuals to think freely and wisely about the rights and interest of themselves and others, to be more tolerant of diversity and other’s thought and belief. Political science is deeply related to Ethics; helps people to think not to gain something at the cost of others. The course is designed to strengthen a student’s analytical and writing skill; help a student to be a good leader/decision maker in their professional life of any discipline; and also flourish his/her own judgment to manage/resolve the current/emerging political and security crisis in the world in general and in Bangladesh in particular.

***Learning Assessment & Distribution of Grade***

Students must attend all classes and be prepared in advance to positively contribute to the discussion. More than one absence from the class without acceptable reason(s) will have the potential to lower the grade and the repeated lateness without acceptable reason(s) may also have negative consequences on the grade.

*\*All exam dates (to be announced in the class) are final. There is NO make-up exam.*

***Distribution of Grade:***

Class Attendance & Participation 10%

Individual Assignments 20%

Mid-term exam (time bound) 15%

Quiz 1 10%

Quiz 2 10%

Viva 10%

Final Exam/ Assignment 25%

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Total 100%

***Grading Policy***

Letter Grades Numerical Score

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 60-66

F Failure Below 60

***Class Manners***

* Please switch your mobile phone off during class.
* For any valid reason, if you have to leave early or arrive late, please take the utmost care not to DISTURB/ DISTRACT your fellow students.

***Course Layout***

Session 1: Introduction to the Course and describing Class Rules

Session 2: Why study Politics? What is Political Science? What is its Scope? Is it a Science? Session 3: Some Basic and Critical Concepts: Power, Authority and Legitimacy

Session 4: Origin of State

Session 5: Elements of State (People, territory, Government & Sovereignty)

(Also Formation of study groups and selections of topics for group/individual presentations)

Session 6: Forms of Government or Regime Types; Democracy, Authoritarian and Totalitarian

Session 7: Democracy: Concept, Characteristics/Requirement of democracy, Challenges

Session 8: **Quiz 1 & Midterm**

Session 9: The Constitution and Human Rights

Session 10: Public Opinion, Mass Media and Politics

Session 13: Political Parties: Definition, Functions and Classification

Session 14: Elections (Definition, Significance, Why do people vote?

Session 15: Elections (Who votes whom in the U.S. elections? Elections in Bangladesh)

Session 16: **Quiz 2 &** Political System: Concept, function and cases

Session 17: Accountability: Forms and Mechanism

Session 18:Separation of Power among three Branches of Government Checks and Balances

Session 19: Civil Society in Bangladesh

Session 20: Violent extremism, Countering/Preventing Violent Extremism in Bangladesh

Session 21: Ethnic Conflicts; Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Challenges for Bangladesh

Session 22Significance of Non-Violence in managing violent Conflicts in Politics

Session 23: Course review

Session 24: Group Presentations

***Required Readings***

Michael Roskin, Robert Cord, James Medeiros and Walter Jones, *Political Science— An Introduction* (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2017) 14th Edition.

***Recommendation Readings***

Carlton Clymer Rodee, Totton James Anderson, Carl Quimby Christol and Thomas H. Greenee, *Introduction to Political Science* (London, Tokyo: McGraw-Hill, Inc, 1976).

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

***Wishing you a great Semester!***