**Summer 2018: Course Outline**

**Course Teacher:** S. M. Ali Reza, *PhD*

**Course Duration**: 12 weeks

**Class Starts**: May 24, 2018

**Time and Location**:

POL101 (26) RA 9:40 AM- 11:10 AM NAC 405

POL101 (27) RA 11:20 AM- 12:50 PM NAC 413

**Contact**: [reza.namirah@du.ac.bd](mailto:reza.namirah@du.ac.bd),

**Student Consultation Hours:** Thursday and Saturday 9:00 am to 9:30 am & 1:00 pm to 2:30

pm (Room No. 913).

**Course Introduction**

This course presents an overview of the core concepts, theories and approaches of political science, such as state, sovereignty, constitutionality, elections, political culture, democracy, political party, civil society and the functioning of major political systems including Bangladesh. It addresses issues, institutions and structures that correspond to our everyday life and shape our political behavior and perceptions as ‘political animal’. It helps students with a foundation of knowledge and the analytical skills necessary to understand modern politics in historical context.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, and having completed the essential readings and academic exercises, the graduate should be able to:

* Understand the fundamental concepts of political science and their relationships, and how politics functions in a state and how individual think and behave about political and social structure, institutions and process. *[substantive knowledge]*
* Develop ability to think and write critically about functioning politics and political processes in a society. It helps them to construct arguments, questions and hypotheses about political process. *[critical thinking and writing]*
* Engage in active national and global citizenship and begin to develop an ongoing interest in national and global political process. It helps them understanding the importance of engaging in citizenship and a realization of political competence and the values of citizenship and its beneficial consequences. *[citizenship engagement]*

**Course Outline:**

This is a projected outline of the “sessions” throughout the Semester. This might be altered in case of unavoidable situation.

**Week 1: Political Science: An Introduction**

Session 1: Meaning and definition of politics; Why study politics and political science? Nature and Scope of political Science.

Session 2: Classical origins of political science (Plato, Aristotle and Machiavelli); Debate: Politics is a science or not; Relationship of Political Science with other disciplines.

**Week 2: Understanding the State**

Session 1: Definition, elements and different types of state.

Session 2: Theories of the origin of state: Divine theory, force theory and social contact

theory.

**Week 3: The Government and Constitution**

Session 1: Government: The concept, different forms, branches/organs (typologies of

government) and functions

Session 2: QUIZ-1

Constitution: meaning, types, constitution making process and the supremacy of the

constitution (focus on Bangladesh Constitution).

**Week 4: Understanding Sovereignty**

Session 1: Sovereignty: the concept, theories of sovereignty (Austin’s theory), state of

Sovereignty in the 21st century.

Session 2: **Mid Term I**

**Week 5: Political Theories and Ideologies**

Session 1: Political System Model (David Easton, 1953)

Session 2: Liberalism, socialism and nationalism.

**Week 6: Political Systems**

Session 1: System Type 1: Democracy- Definitions, measures, indicators

Session 2: System Type 2: Authoritarianism**,** types of authoritarianism, how they

Survive/ function

**Week 7:**

Session 1: Political parties and party system: Definition, the role and importance of

political parties, Party system: Is the party system fading away?

Session 2: Theory of the separation of powers and checks and balances theory

**Week 8:**

Session 15: Elections and Public Opinion

Session 2: **Mid Term II**

**Week 9:**

Session 1: Political culture

Session 2: Political socialization

**Week 10:**

Session 1:Interest Groups and Pressure Groups

Session 2: Non-state actors- civil society and social movements, violent non-state actors

**Week 11:**

Session 1: Media and politics- mass media, social media, role of media in politics, ethical

journalism

Session 2: Wrap-up class

**Week 12: Presentation of Term paper[[1]](#footnote-2)**

Session 1: Presentation

Session 2: Presentation (Contd…)

**Selected Readings**

The following book by Roskin *et al*. is the common text for all POL101 sections. Students are encouraged to explore further readings having consultation with the concerned faculty.

Roskin, Michael, Robert Cord, James Medeiros and Walter Jones, *Political Science-An Introduction* (New Jersey, Prentice Hall, 2014)

**Other Reference Books**

* Andrew Heywood, Key Concepts in Politics( Mcmillan Press: Basingtoke and London, 2000)
* Barrie Axford et al. Politics: An Introduction( London: Routledge, 2002)
* Clark, William R., Matt Golder, and Sona N. Golder. 2013. Principles of Comparative Politics 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 CQ Press.
* Ellen Grigsby Analyzing Politics: An Introduction to Political Science( Wadsworth: USA, 2012)

**Composition of the Grade**

Class attendance and participation-- 10%

Quizzes (One of two)-- 10%

Mid-terms (two; 20% each)-- 40%

Presentation of Term papers 10%

Final Examination-- 30%

**Student Responsibilities**

* Participation (and not simply presence) is important. It is your job to raise questions and debate their answers, always backed with facts and evidences. If you bring your own question about the topic to class that will gel the topic to your personal experience and help you remember better.
* Make-up quizzes/ exams will not be taken, unless in a case of serious emergency. Make-ups will automatically get a few marks deducted, and can lower grades.
* More than two absences from the class without any acceptable reason(s) will have the potential to lower the grade, and repeated lateness without acceptable reason(s) will also have negative consequences on the grade. Late entrance to class interrupts the class and disturbs other students.
* NSU has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. I respect you all as adults and understand that you will follow the honor code of producing your own written work and referencing (in writing) book and article titles as sources where suitable.
* Mobile and any other connecting devices must be switch off when the class is going on.

**Good Luck!!**

1. All students will be divided into several groups and each of the groups will be writing a paper related to one of the topics selected by the course teacher. Students are expected to critically **discuss another student’s paper**during the presentation sessions. All students are expected to attend these sessions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)